

pate your hearty cooperation in promoting such a national object, when the papers upon this subject shall have been brought under your consideration.

19°. Some modification of the law passed last session for the better encouragement of Education, will be laid before you, and no doubt you will gladly endeavor to render more available and better adapted to the wants of the country, certain provisions of a measure which so materially concerns the education of the great body of the people. I count on that important subject receiving the most enlightened consideration at your hands.

20°. In accordance with the act past last session providing for the extension of the railway to Pictou, that work was put under contract, and will be completed with all possible despatch.

21°. Proposals for the construction of railways to the border of New Brunswick and to Annapolis, will also require your consideration.

22°. The grant of last session on account of Saint Peter's Canal, has been expended, and a full report on that work will be laid before you at an early day.

23°. I regret to be obliged to inform you that the crowded state of the Hospital for the Insane has made it impossible to provide adequate accommodation for the care of those who unfortunately need an asylum of that description. I trust the appeal thus made to the sympathy of the Legislature will lead to the extension of an institution so indispensable.

24°. You will be gratified to learn that the traffic on the Provincial railways continues to exhibit a marked and steady improvement over any previous year; and that the increasing sale of the Crown Lands, and extended working of the Coal and Gold Mines, all evidence a high degree of prosperity.

25°. These fortunate circumstances, enhanced as they are by the continuance of peace, will no doubt facilitate your discharge of those public duties for which I have called you together, and must awaken in us all a grateful recognition of the indulgent bounty of that Providence which has bestowed so many blessings on this Province.

26°. I now declare this session opened.

Vacancies reported.

Mr. Speaker announced to the House that during the recess he had received official information that the honorable James W. Johnston, one of the members for the county of Annapolis, had accepted the office of Judge in Equity; and that the honorable James McDonald, one of the members for the eastern division of the county of Pictou, had accepted the office of Financial Secretary; whereby the seats of such members had respectively become vacant; and that he, the Speaker, had thereupon, pursuant to law, required that writs should be issued to supply the vacancies in the representation occasioned by the acceptance of such offices.

Writs presented and returns read.

The honorable the Provincial Secretary then delivered in writs directed to the sheriffs of Annapolis and Pictou, for the election of a representative for each of such counties respectively, with the returns of the sheriffs thereto; and the same being respectively read by the Clerk, it appeared by such returns that William H. Ray, esquire, had been duly elected and returned a member for the county of Annapolis, and that the honorable James McDonald, Financial Secretary, had been duly elected and returned a member for the eastern division of the county of Pictou,

And thereupon,

Members sworn in.

The hon. the Financial Secretary, returned duly elected a member for the eastern division of the county of Pictou, and William H. Ray, esquire, returned duly elected a member for the county of Annapolis, respectively took the oath of allegiance before the honorables Mather B. Almon, John H. Anderson, and Alexander Keith, commissioners duly appointed to administer the same, and took their seats as such members.