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GENTLEMEN :

I have now to address you in compliance with the Rules you have adopted for the regulation of the proceedings of the Council.

You met, for the first time after the formation of the Council, on the 8th of March, 1873, when I thus addressed you :—

“ I have much pleasure in calling you around me to assist me in the administration of the affairs of the North-West Territories. The duties which devolve upon you are of a highly important character. A country of vast extent, which is possessed of abundant resources, is entrusted to your keeping. a country which, though at present but sparsely settled, is destined, I believe, to become the home of thousands of persons, by means of whose industry and energy that which is now almost a wilderness will be quickly transformed into a fruitful land where civilization and the arts of Peace will flourish. It is for us to labor to the utmost of our power, in order to bring about, as speedily as possible, the settlement of the North-West Territories, and the development of their resources, and at the same time to adopt such measures as may be necessary to insure the maintenance of peace and order, and the welfare and happiness of all classes of Her Majesty's subjects, resident in the Territories.”

In again assembling you to meet, in what may prove to be the last, or nearly the last, meeting of the present Council, I have quoted these words for the purpose of congratulating you on the efforts you made to carry into effect the objects which I placed before you at your first meeting. Before proceeding to the ordinary work of the Session, I, therefore, think this a fitting occasion to review the work the Council has accomplished, and to place on record the results of its