

Circumstances having prevented the legislature from revising the common school act last session, that duty devolves upon us now, and I confidently anticipate that in maturing the measures which I shall direct to be laid before you, I shall have your enlightened co-operation.

My attention has been called to the injuries occasioned to the river fisheries of this province, from obstructions to the free passage of fish by the erection of dams and the setting of nets in violation of the law. This subject is of great importance. The salmon fisheries have been gradually decreasing within the last few years, and I shall rejoice if your wisdom and local experience can avert the destruction of a valuable resource, either by an amendment of the law, should it be found defective, or by providing for its more vigorous execution.

The blessings of Divine Providence it behoves the representative of a christian sovereign duly to acknowledge. They are spread around us on every hand. An abundant harvest has crowned the labors of the husbandman; commerce, freed from constraint, has sought new channels; though the fishery, I regret to learn, has not been so productive as usual in some localities.

In the success of every measure calculated to develop the resources and elevate the character of Nova Scotia, I shall ever take a deep interest, and you may rely upon my desire to conduct public affairs in such a manner as will lighten your labors, soothe the asperity incident to public life, and promote the prosperity of all classes throughout this fine country.

Mr. Speaker acquainted the house that having during the recess received official information that a vacancy had taken place in the representation for the township of Windsor, by the death of James D. Fraser, esquire, late representative for that township—he the speaker had, pursuant to law, required that a writ might be issued to supply such vacancy.

Vacancy for township of Windsor reported.

The hon. the provincial secretary then delivered in a writ directed to the sheriff of the county of Hants, for the election of a representative for the township of Windsor, with the return of such sheriff thereto—and the same being respectively read, it appeared by such return that Lewis Morris Wilkins, esquire, had been duly elected and returned as the representative of that township.

Writ for Windsor, and return.

Lewis Morris Wilkins, esquire, returned duly elected as representative for the township of Windsor, took the oath of allegiance in the presence of the honorables Hugh Bell, John Morton, and Edward Kenny, the commissioners appointed to administer the same—and then took his seat as such member.

Mr. L. M. Wilkins sworn in as member for Windsor.

Mr. Annand, pursuant to leave given, presented a bill relative to imprisonment for debt; and the same was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time.

Imprisonment for debt bill.

Mr. S. Campbell then proposed the following address in answer to the speech of his excellency the lieutenant-governor, and moved that the same do pass, viz:

Address in answer to speech moved.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY COLONEL

Address.

SIR JOHN GASPARD LEMARCHANT,

*Knight, and knight commander of the orders of Saint Ferdinand and of Charles the Second of Spain, lieutenant-governor and commander-in-chief in and over her majesty's province of Nova-Scotia, and its dependencies, &c. &c. &c.*

*May it please your excellency:*

1°. We, the representatives of her majesty's loyal subjects, the people of Nova Scotia, thank your excellency for the terms in which we have been invited to resume our legislative labors.