

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES,

AND GENERAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FIRST
PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA,

COMMENCING ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1858.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, FEBRUARY 4TH 1858.

The Third Session of the Twenty-first Parliament for the Province of Nova Scotia, was this day opened with the usual formalities.

At half-past two o'clock His Excellency Sir J. Gaspard LeMarchant came down to the Council Chamber. The Volunteer Artillery Company were stationed upon the Grand Parade, and several Companies of the 62nd Regt. were drawn up at the East front of the Province Building, and lined the Stairs to the Council Chamber. His Excellency was saluted with 21 guns.

Upon being commanded, the members of the Commons attended his Excellency in the Council Chamber, where his Excellency was pleased to deliver the following

SPEECH :

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Her Majesty having been graciously pleased to remove me to another sphere of Executive duty, my official connection with this Province will cease on the arrival of my successor, the Right Honorable the Earl of Mulgrave, who will shortly assume the Government of Nova-Scotia.

The history of the age will be forever marked by the unparalleled atrocities of the mutineers in India, and the heroic bravery of all classes of British residents, military and civil, by whose gallantry and endurance, with the blessing of Almighty God, we have every reason to hope the mutiny will be crushed.

To the people of this Province it must be exceedingly gratifying to find conspicuous among the many who have highly distinguished themselves, one of their own countrymen.

In conformity with a Resolution which passed the Legislature, with reference to the Mines and Minerals, Delegates proceeded to England, and the Articles of Agreement entered into with the

Mining Association, subject to your ratification, will be submitted to you without delay.

You will learn with pleasure that the Railway works have steadily advanced, that nine miles additional on the Trunk Line are now open for traffic, and that the line to Windsor will be ready at an early day.

During the recess the attention of my Government has been directed to the consideration of the great enterprise of an Inter-Colonial Line.—The papers relating thereto will be laid before you for your information.

The alteration made in the tariff at your last Session, has enabled me to meet the large additional demands for interest on the Railway Bonds; but the disturbed condition of Trade which has unhappily prevailed throughout the Commercial world, will naturally tend to diminish our resources for the current year; and the increasing burdens connected with our public works render it imperative for the honor and interest of the Country, that you should exercise great caution and economy in making your annual appropriations.

I deeply deplore the distress that the failure of an important branch of the Fisheries has caused to a portion of the hardy and enterprising Fishermen on our coast; yet from the bountiful harvest with which it has graciously pleased Divine Providence to bless us, we may confidently anticipate that the continued prosperity of the Country will not be seriously impaired.

Your increased liberality in providing for Common School Education, has, I am happy to inform you, given a valuable impulse to that essential element in the welfare of the people,—evidenced by an unprecedented increase in the number of teachers, and in the efforts made by the inhabitants in many districts for their support.

Reports from the Commissioners charged with the examination of the Public Works, and Accounts of the Expenditure connected therewith, are in course of preparation, and will be laid on the Table at an early day.