

Meeting of Provincial Legislature.

YESTERDAY afternoon, at 3 o'clock, the first session of the Twenty-ninth General Assembly was duly opened, by the accustomed ceremonies, by Lieut. Governor Hayland. A salute from St. George's Battery announced His Honor's departure from Government House. Upon his arrival at the Provincial Building, attended by his Aide-de-camp, he was received with a Guard of Honor, composed of one hundred men, rank and file, under command of Major Mahon. His Honor, accompanied by his suite, consisting of the Chief Justice, the officers of Her Majesty's Survey, the Dominion Auditor, the Postmaster and other prominent officials, proceeded immediately to the Council Chamber, and took his seat upon the throne. The Clerk of the Legislative Council received His Honor's commands to summon the House of Assembly to the Bar of the Council Chamber, and they being in attendance, the same official announced that it was His Honor's intention to declare the causes of summoning the Legislature until a President of the Legislative Council and a Speaker of the House of Assembly had been chosen. His Honor then retired, and both Houses proceeded to the election of their presiding officers. In the Upper Branch, the Hon. John Balderston secured the confidence of his fellow Councillors, although an amendment proposing Mr. Kichham was unsuccessfully attempted. In the Lower House, Mr. John Alexander Macdonald was re-elected to the position of Speaker, which, during the last four sessions, he has filled with entire satisfaction to both parties. Upon the House of Assembly again attending in the Council Chamber, the usual formalities of approval of their selection of Speaker were gone through, after which His Honor the Lieutenant Governor delivered the following SPEECH.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly: I have much pleasure in welcoming you to this the first session of a new General Assembly, and in resorting to you, in your legislative capacity, for that public assistance which it is my right to ask and your duty to afford. We have abundant reason to be devoutly thankful to Almighty God for the many blessings vouchsafed to us during the past year.

In visiting our Exhibitions last autumn, I was gratified to observe most pleasing evidence of the steady progress that is being made by our people in agriculture, stock raising and other useful industries. In order to aid the efforts of our farmers my Government imported in September last, some cattle and sheep, of improved breeds, for the use of the Province, and I trust the animals selected may prove of advantage to the Island.

Encouraged by past successes in competitions outside the Province, the people of this Island should energetically prepare to participate in the Dominion Exhibition, to be held this year at Saint John, New Brunswick.

During the recess a Minute of my Executive Council was transmitted to the Canadian Government, relative to the failure of the Dominion of Steam Communication, to be terms of Union which provides for the maintenance by Canada of efficient Steam Communication, winter and summer, between this Island and the mainland. A Minute was also despatched to the same quarter directing the attention of the Dominion Government to their obligation, under the terms of Confederation, to construct and maintain Piers in our harbors and navigable rivers, and asking for a refund of the amount expended by the Government of Prince Edward Island on such services for the general public importance, from 1st July, 1873, to the end of last year. A delegation from my Government recently visited Ottawa and conferred with the Canadian Cabinet on these subjects. They received assurances that the Dominion Government would be desirous to carry out that part of the Dominion Government, and that action in that regard would be taken without delay. The claim respecting Piers was favorably entertained by the Dominion Government, and I have decided to take immediate action, in order to a satisfactory adjustment of the same.

Papers on these subjects will be presented to you.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly: Your attention will be invited to several useful measures calculated to promote the efficiency of the public service, the progress of the Province and the happiness of its people. I commend all such to your consideration, and I rely with confidence on your intelligence in the performance of your important duties, as well as upon your zeal and soliditude for the public welfare.

Upon the return of the House of Assembly to their Chamber, the Speaker read the reports which he had received from the Judge who had tried the controverted Elections in the first district of Queens County, and the second district of Queens County. Mr. Sullivan followed the usual practice of introducing the reports for its first reading before the reporting of the Lieut. Governor's Speech, immediately after which this function was pro-

ceeded with. The rest of the business was the usual routine which characterizes the first day of the session. Messrs. Archibald McNeill and F. W. Hulse, were re-appointed Clerks, Mr. Donald McKenzie, Sergeant-at-Arms. A short debate took place upon the propriety of appointing Reporters. The Government announced their intention of abolishing these positions. Mr. Perry expressed his surprise at such an action, and trusted that the Government would reconsider their determination. The Reporters were valuable officials; without their services the people can have no opportunity of judging of the opinions or actions of their members. He considered it economy in the wrong direction. The people pay the money, and they have a right to know what their representatives are doing. Mr. Yeo followed in the same strain. Mr. Sullivan replied that the Journals were the only official record. The Parliamentary Reporter (so-called) was entirely unofficial, and the members of the House were well aware that it did not give satisfaction. It had been utterly useless as a medium for information to the people, as so few were published that the general public could not see the strength of the Government. The House of Assembly had no right to convey news to the country, as they take care for their own credit, that it is the latest which can be procured. Mr. Sullivan well said that it did not give satisfaction. It had been utterly useless as a medium for information to the people, as so few were published that the general public could not see the strength of the Government. The House of Assembly had no right to convey news to the country, as they take care for their own credit, that it is the latest which can be procured.

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St. Patrick's Day.

The celebration of St. Patrick's Day in Charlottetown this year, surpassed any previous affair of the kind. For many years the festival of Ireland's Patron Saint has been honored by her sons, but we believe it will be generally conceded that never was the observance so creditable as on last Saturday. Members of the Benevolent Irish Society, under whose auspices the proceedings of the day were carried out, were untiring in their exertions to make the celebration a grand success. His Honor the Lieutenant Governor cheerfully complied with the request of the Society to proclaim the day a holiday in the public offices, the Mayor proclaimed it a civic holiday, and the Superintendent of the Railway announced the usual reduction in the fares accorded to similar societies. The morning was fine, and the walking good. Bunting was in profusion, and strings of flags decorated the streets from St. Patrick's Hall to Beer & Goff's, and from Robertson's Clothing Emporium to Farquharson's Store. Precisely at a quarter to ten o'clock the Benevolent Irish Society, headed by Galbraith's Band, marched from St. Patrick's Hall by way of Richmond, Queen and Dorchester Streets, to St. Dunstan's Cathedral. It is not an exaggeration to say that the procession was the largest and most respectable of the Society which ever appeared on the streets of Charlottetown. The handsome green banner floated to the breeze, and the new flag, the handwork of the ladies of St. Joseph's Convent, contributed largely to the appearance of the parade. Arrived at the Cathedral, the procession solemnly entered and filed up the broad aisle, preceded by the Band, which continued playing. The Church was densely crowded. The service here was one of the chief features of the celebration. His Lordship Bishop McIntyre presided on his Throne, during a Solemn High Mass, sung by Rev. G. de Finance, as Celebrant, and the Revs. A. J. McDonald and John Corbett as Deacon and Sub-Deacon. The singing by the choir was excellent. After the first Gospel, the Rev. A. McGilivray ascended the pulpit, and delivered the following eloquent discourse:—

In Christ Jesus through the Gospel I have brought you the glad tidings of peace and good will, and of the Kingdom of God at hand. This is the message which the Lord has sent to you, and which you are to proclaim to all men. The Kingdom of God is not a matter of geography, but of the heart. It is a Kingdom of justice and mercy, of love and truth. It is a Kingdom which is within us, and which we are to bring forth into the world. The Kingdom of God is the Kingdom of our Father in Heaven, and it is our duty to bring forth into the world the fruits of His Kingdom. We are to be as He is, full of love and mercy, full of justice and truth. We are to be as He is, full of peace and good will, full of the Kingdom of God at hand. This is the message which the Lord has sent to you, and which you are to proclaim to all men.

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LOCAL AND OTHER.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF 700 ACRES OF LAND TO THE PROTECTOR OF THE INDIAN RACE. The Hon. the Attorney General has received from the Hon. the Secretary of the Indian Affairs, a certificate of acknowledgment of 700 acres of land to the Protector of the Indian Race. The land is situated in the County of St. John's, and is bounded on the north by the St. John's River, on the east by the St. John's River, on the south by the St. John's River, and on the west by the St. John's River. The land is to be held in fee simple, and is to be conveyed to the Protector of the Indian Race, for the use of the Indian Race. The Hon. the Attorney General has received from the Hon. the Secretary of the Indian Affairs, a certificate of acknowledgment of 700 acres of land to the Protector of the Indian Race. The land is situated in the County of St. John's, and is bounded on the north by the St. John's River, on the east by the St. John's River, on the south by the St. John's River, and on the west by the St. John's River. The land is to be held in fee simple, and is to be conveyed to the Protector of the Indian Race, for the use of the Indian Race.

RECEIVED FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, A CERTIFICATE OF AWARD OF A GOLD MEDAL TO THE REV. F. J. COONEY, FOR HIS SERVICES IN THE CAUSE OF THE INDIAN RACE. The Hon. the Attorney General has received from the Hon. the Secretary of the Indian Affairs, a certificate of award of a gold medal to the Rev. F. J. Cooney, for his services in the cause of the Indian Race. The Hon. the Attorney General has received from the Hon. the Secretary of the Indian Affairs, a certificate of award of a gold medal to the Rev. F. J. Cooney, for his services in the cause of the Indian Race. The Hon. the Attorney General has received from the Hon. the Secretary of the Indian Affairs, a certificate of award of a gold medal to the Rev. F. J. Cooney, for his services in the cause of the Indian Race.

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