

Petitions
presented.

diture; also, praying for certain amendments to the *Upper Canada Common School Act* of last Session; and praying for a law authorizing the Government to guarantee interest on stock to be taken by Municipal Bodies in a Grand Provincial Railroad;

And also, a Petition from the *Quebec School of Medicine*, praying for aid.

Ordered, that the same do lie on the table.

The Honorable Mr. *Ross* presented a Petition from the Mayors of the Cities of *Toronto* and *Kingston*, and from the Mayors and Wardens of the intermediate Counties and Towns; praying for an Act to incorporate the *Kingston and Toronto Junction Railroad Company*.

Ordered, that the same do lie on the table.

His Excellency's
Speech
considered.

The House, according to Order, proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency's Speech from the Throne at the opening of the present Session;

Which being read by the Clerk,

It was moved to Resolve:

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, to thank His Excellency for his gracious Speech from the Throne at the opening of the present Session of the Provincial Parliament.

To assure His Excellency that this House unites most cordially in the satisfaction expressed by His Excellency in the general prosperity of the Province.

That for the abundant crop of last year they feel sincerely grateful to the Almighty, and they are pleased to learn that the Revenues from the Customs and the traffic on the Canals are gradually increasing, and that the Securities of the Province command a high price.

That they rejoice to learn that the effect of recent changes in the Imperial Navigation Law is now beginning to be felt in the more frequent resort of Foreign Shipping to our Sea Ports; and they will give their best consideration to the Immigration Act for the purpose of removing any unnecessary impediments to the extension of this important branch of our Import Trade.

That it is a subject of congratulation that under these favorable circumstances the further improvement of the means of internal communication has recently engaged a large share of public attention.

That in many parts of Western *Canada* capital has been applied extensively and with much advantage by persons interested in the several localities, and by others to the construction of good country roads; and that measures have been taken in both sections of the Province with the view of pressing forward important lines of Railway.

That Parliament having given proof of its disposition to afford to undertakings of this description which are calculated to be beneficial to the Province, such aid as can be properly given to them without impairing the Provincial Credit or encouraging improvident speculation, this House is prepared in any further legislation which it may be thought fit to adopt on this subject to adhere to the principles of this judicious policy.

That this House feels great satisfaction in learning that a considerable increase in correspondence has taken place since the new Postage Law came into operation. This fact furnishes conclusive proof of the advantage accruing to the community from the measure, and warrants the expectation that the receipts of the department will before long recover from the depression consequent on the adoption of greatly reduced rates of postage.

That they are glad to learn that under the operation of the measures which have been recently adopted by the Legislatures of the several *North American* Provinces the inter-colonial trade is assuming proportions of increasing magnitude, and promises to become a considerable branch of our Industry; and that they will not fail to consider with the greatest attention as having an important bearing on this subject, the Despatch which His Excellency has been pleased to promise would be laid before them, in which Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies submits for consideration a proposal for the construction of a Railway between *Halifax* and *Quebec* or *Montreal*.

That they are happy to learn that for the purpose of arranging the details of a scheme of arbitration