

in the first contact, and sixteen seconds in the last; and it is quite possible that in the first instance the Professors may be right, as there is every possibility that the observer may slip a few seconds ere he makes the first discovery.—*Colonist*.

#### GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH.

Quebec, June 13, 1854.

To-day at three o'clock the Governor General, the Earl of Elgin, proceeded in state to the Council Chamber in the buildings.

The members of the Legislative Council being assembled, his Excellency opened the second session of the fourth Parliament of the Province.

#### SPEECH.

*Hon. Gentlemen of the Council, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.*—During the recess the Province has sustained, I regret to say, serious loss by fire in the destruction of the Houses of Parliament, and the buildings which were secured for the temporary occupation of the Legislature—the best arrangements possible have been made for your accommodation.

Her Majesty the Queen having failed in her anxious and protracted endeavours to preserve the blessings of peace, has felt herself called on through regard for an ally, the integrity and independence of whose empire has been recognised as essential to the peace of Europe, to take up arms in conjunction with the Emperor of France for the defence of the Sultan.

The manifestations of the loyalty and sympathy which have been so general throughout the Province at this juncture, will, I am confident, be heartily responded to by the Legislature.

The cordial co-operation on this war is well calculated to call forth the sympathies of a country peopled by the descendants of those two Empires.

Having, during my recent visit to England, been honored by the Queen's command to endeavor to effect the settlement of various important questions bearing upon the interest of the British North American Provinces, which had long been pending between the governments of Great Britain and the United States, I proceeded to Washington, where, after frank discussion with the authorities of the United States, I was enabled to conclude a treaty which now awaits ratification, upon terms which it is my firm conviction will prove in the highest degree advantageous to the colony generally, as well as to the United States.

A measure to give effect to that treaty will be submitted for the United States approbation. I will communicate to you the dispatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

With reference to the addresses to the Queen from the two houses of the Legislature on the subject of the constitution of the Legislative Council, I will commend to your consideration the passing of a law for bringing into early operation the act of the last Session which extends the elective franchise in order that the constitutional expression of opinion may be obtained as speedily as possible under the system of representation recently established on the various important questions on which legislature is required.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly, the public accounts for the past year and the estimates for the present will be submitted to you without

delay, and I rely with confidence on your willingness to make the necessary provisions for the exigencies of the government. The prosperous condition of the revenue may suggest to you the propriety of making such reduction in the tariff as may be compatible with security of the public credit and efficiency in the public services.

During my sojourn in England I was much struck by the proofs which I received from all quarters of the increasing interest of Canadian affairs; and I trust that my acquaintance with the Province, derived from a long residence within it, may have enabled me to render some service in spreading more widely a knowledge of its resources and of the feelings of the inhabitants.

Although a state of warfare has a necessary tendency to restrict operations involving large expenditures of capital, I feel confident that the credit of Canada has attained a position in English opinion which it never before achieved; and that to enable you to retain it, nothing more is required than prudence in your undertakings, and the maintenance of the high character for fidelity to pecuniary engagements which the Province has at all times borne.

#### PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT,

Quebec, June, 23, 1854.

This evening the House met at 3 o'clock amidst great excitement. After the speaker had taken the chair Sir Allan McNab addressed the meeting, asked, if it was the intention of his Excellency as reported to prorogue the House? Mr. Hincks said yes. Sir Allan McNab: In order afterwards to dissolve it? Mr. Hincks, yes. Sir A. McNab, without altering the Franchise bill so as to make it come into immediate operation? Mr. Hincks; of course. Sir A. McNab: I have then to say for myself and friends near me that we are quite ready to give our assistance to pass that bill in order to make it available at the next election. We are also ready to pass the supplies or give anything else to enable the Government to be carried on in the best manner. It is not necessary for me to remark on the proposition without affording the country the means of understanding its reasons; we can only say that we are ready to return a respectful reply to the speech, and if the good sense of the House was to insert in that reply sentiments not in accordance with those of other gentlemen opposite, the latter ought not to have shrunk from the responsibility of presenting it and thus avoid by advising his Excellency, to do what he took to be a breach of the constitution, they then prevented the House from giving its views to the Governor General. I think it necessary to express these sentiments, in order that the truth should be known.

Mr. McKenzie entirely agreed with the learned and gallant Knight. (Loud cries of "hear, hear.") The House has placed on the Statute Book a Bill, to which it had given an unanimous assent, to give a wider expression to the popular opinion of the country; this was not a measure of party or class, but concerned all, and he would just read the preamble to show how necessary and just it was thought. He read as follows:—"Whereas it is the right to extend the election franchise to certain classes of persons who are now excluded