

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to open the Session with the following

### SPEECH:

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;*

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;*

I rejoice that I am enabled, at the commencement of another Session of this Legislature, to congratulate you on the general prosperity of this Island.

You will, I am confident, join with me in an expression of gratitude to Almighty God for the abundant harvest, and the many blessings which have been bestowed on the people of this Province during the past year.

In compliance with the Resolution which you passed last Session, I appointed Delegates to confer with Delegates appointed by the Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, for the purpose of discussing the expediency of a Legislative Union of the Maritime Provinces.

Correspondence on this subject, together with the Report of the Conference of the Delegates, will be laid before you.

From these papers you will learn the origin of a second Conference to consider the wider question of a general Union of the British North American Provinces.

On the invitation of the Governor-General, I nominated Delegates to proceed to Quebec to attend this second Conference.

In appointing Delegates, I deemed it expedient, on both occasions, to select them from each of the political parties in the Legislature.

Copies of the Resolutions adopted at the Quebec Conference will be submitted to you.

Despatches from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department on this important subject will also be laid before you.

From this correspondence you will perceive that Her Majesty's Government have given to these Resolutions their most deliberate consideration, and have expressed their general approval of the proceedings of the Conference.

For this, the most momentous question ever submitted to you, I ask your earnest consideration. I have received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies a communication respecting the Militia Law.

The Colonial Minister has observed, with satisfaction, that a Volunteer Movement has arisen in this Colony which reflects much credit on the loyalty and spirit of its inhabitants. On the other hand, he has remarked that a Law exists among the Statutes of the Island which declares that the Militia shall not be called out, except in case of war, civil commotion, or other sufficient emergency.

You will, I confidently hope, give your careful attention to a measure which will be proposed to you, and which is framed with the view of remedying a state of affairs characterized by Mr. Cardwell as having no parallel in British North America.

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;*

The Public Accounts of the past year will be laid before you. It affords me much satisfaction to observe that the Revenue exceeds that of any previous year, and is considerably in excess of the Expenditure.

The Estimates for the current year will also be laid before you. They have been framed with due regard to economy.

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;*

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;*

The people whom you represent are so thoroughly capable of appreciating the importance of Agriculture, that I would suggest for your consideration the expediency of giving some further encouragement to the promotion of the scientific culture of the Soil and to the improvement of Stock.

In full reliance on your zeal for the welfare of the Colony, I now commit its interests to your care.

The House of Assembly having withdrawn, His Excellency was pleased to retire.