

House attend his Excellency in Council Chamber.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker and the House went up to attend his Excellency in the Council Chamber, and being returned

Mr. Speaker reports.

Mr. Speaker reported that the House had been in attendance on his Excellency in the Council, where his Excellency had been pleased to make a speech to both Houses, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy which he read to the House as follows:

*Honorable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,*

His Excellency's Speech.

I have assembled you at this early period to enable you to devote sufficient time to the public business without injury to your private pursuits.

Our situation is, happily, one of tranquillity, and therefore your deliberations unoccupied by matters of a temporary nature may be directed to such as shall conduce to the permanent advantage of the colony.

The Road Bill passed in your second Session of the last Parliamentary year, though excellent in principle and in much of its detail, nevertheless seems in some degree to fail in its intention from want of a more efficient and concentrated superintendance. You will determine whether any alteration can be beneficially made in that particular.

Another object of moment is the improvement of the Judicature, and this for various reasons becomes daily of greater importance.

It will behove you also to consider what enactments may be requisite in consequence of the Fishery Act having expired.

Under more prosperous Financial circumstances, I should have been induced to draw your attention to the support of general education which, as highly essential to the best interests of society, well merits your protection; especially as it might be fostered here in a spirit of perfect liberality, unfettered by invidious distinctions of any description.

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

My predecessor, when closing the last Session, expressed a hope that he should be able to defray the public charges without having recourse to the issue of Treasury Notes, until he could meet you again in this place; but I found the remaining funds totally inadequate to the existing claims, and was consequently compelled, almost immediately after assuming the Government, to avail myself of that resource. You will, I am confident, feel with me that the sooner these notes are called in the better, and that no subject so imperiously requires your present application, as the establishment of a sound and wholesome system of Finance.

We may be said to have reached a crisis,—but a crisis in which we are cheered by many encouraging considerations connected with the fishery, agricultural produce, and general state of trade. I trust that the difficulties in your way will only operate as incentives to exertion, and that you will fix the Revenue on a scale proportioned to all such demands as shall consist with a strict but rational economy.

I have directed an estimate for the ensuing financial year, and various other documents to be prepared for your information; and you may rest assured that I shall always be anxious to prevent unnecessary expenditure, and to enforce every due provision for that purpose.

*Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen,*

This being the first time of my addressing you, I gladly embrace the opportunity of expressing the great satisfaction I feel in having been appointed to administer the Government of this Island at a time when its independent Legislature is fully established.

The prosperity of Newfoundland is the wish nearest my heart; and my most ardent desire is, that by your united endeavours you may rea-