

Monday, 7th November, 1825.

2nd Session, of the 9th Provincial Parliament, 6th Geo. 4th.

Oath administered to the Speaker.

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM CAMPBELL then took and subscribed the oath prescribed by the Statute of the 31st Geo. 3d. and assumed his seat as speaker accordingly.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor opens the Session.

At 2 o'clock His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor having come to the Legislative Council Chamber, and being seated on the Throne, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod was directed to command the attendance of the Speaker and Members of the Commons' House of Assembly at the bar of this House, and they being come thereto, His Excellency was pleased to address both Houses of the Provincial Parliament in the following words:—

His Excellency's Speech.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.*

I feel much pleasure in being able to congratulate you on the continuance of the general tranquility which has been so propitious to the happiness and prosperity of the British Empire.

In this season of peace, the Councils of the Imperial government have been occupied in measures which can scarcely fail to excite throughout the dominions of the Crown, an emulation of that spirit of industry and enterprise so eminently conspicuous in the Parent state.

We cannot but anticipate a material advancement of our public interests from the change which has recently been made in the commercial system of our Mother country, as it respects her colonies, a change, which has avowedly for its object to constitute them, in fact, integral parts of the Empire, and to give to their ports the character and privileges of ports of the United Kingdom.

The value of these measures proceeding from a policy liberal and generous beyond example, need not be enlarged upon; they have been received in the Colonies with feelings of the deepest gratitude, and it is not too much to say of them, that their tendency is to confer upon us, all the commercial privileges of subjects of the United Kingdom while we are exempt from those burthens by which the fleets and armies are maintained, which protect our trade and defend our soil.

The exceptions which have been admitted in the several enactments to which I have alluded, in order to regulate our intercourse with the United States of America, and to adjust more conveniently the navigation laws of the Empire to the trade upon our inland waters, are additional proofs of the attention of His Majesty's government to the situation and interests of these Colonies.

We are also directly and most deeply concerned, in the act which has been recently passed for admitting the wheat of the North American Provinces into the United Kingdom. In the limited duration of that measure, and in the circumstance of its provisions being confined to the importation of grain, we cannot but perceive proofs of an apprehension on the part of the Imperial Parliament, that this indulgence, which they are evidently desirous of extending to the Colonies, may be injurious to those great domestic interests which it is their care to protect. It is left to us, however, to hope, that this act is the beginning of a system, which experience may prove to be as reconcileable with the general interests of the Empire, as it would be advantageous to these Provinces. If such shall happily be the result of the experiment, we may be assured, that the indulgence will be readily placed upon a more permanent and more beneficial footing.

The good consequences, which it was hoped would follow the permission of a direct importation of Tea from China, have been already in a great degree realised; and it is most satisfactory to find, that there no longer exists a temptation to that illicit trade which has been so deeply prejudicial to the public welfare.

*Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

The public Accounts and estimates shall be laid before you; and I trust that you will make the necessary provision for the public service.

*Honorable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,*

You will direct your attention to such laws as are about to expire; among these is the Act under which the Militia pensions are at present paid, a provision which I am persuaded you will feel it an agreeable duty to renew.

When it is considered how much every description of improvement may be accelerated