

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

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

The entire absence of any organized Local Force for the defence of the Province, has induced me, during the recess, to authorize the formation of Volunteer Companies throughout the Country, and I am happy to inform you that my endeavors have been cordially responded to, not only by the inhabitants of this city, but in many parts of the Province.

Several Companies have already been organized, and others are in the course of formation.

Three thousand stand of Enfield rifles, of the best description, have been placed at my disposal by the Home Government, for the purpose of arming these Volunteers; and I trust that the same feeling which has been so generally evinced in the Mother Country, and also in some of the Colonies of Her Majesty's Empire, will induce you liberally to support the movement, so as to enable me to render this force effective.

I have directed that the correspondence on this subject should be laid before you; and some modification of the Militia Laws will be submitted for your consideration.

The Railways to Truro and Windsor having been finished, the expense of operating and upholding these lines has been placed at the lowest point consistent with the safety and efficiency of the road, and, as far as was practicable, with our present legislation.

By consolidating the Railway and Public Works Departments, further economy may be effected, and your attention will shortly be called to that subject.

The large amount annually required to meet the payment of interest on the Railway Debt, must for some time severely tax your resources, and imperatively demands the most stringent economy in order to preserve intact the public credit.

A proposition to transfer to the Executive the Initiation of Money Votes, will be submitted for your deliberation—that system having been found indispensable in England, and already advantageously adopted in New Brunswick and other Colonies.

Your attention will be called to the propriety of extending the principles of Inter-colonial Free Trade to Manufactured Articles, in addition to those products now interchanged without duty between the British North American Colonies.

A careful investigation has been had into the condition and working of the Savings' Bank, the result of which will be laid before you, and your attention will be invited to some modification of the existing system.

The conflicting clauses of the Decimal Currency Act of last Session demand your early consideration.

It is also desirable that some amendments should be made in the enactments relating to Lunatics, by which the Hospital for the Insane, an Institution already so extensively useful, may be rendered still more widely beneficial.

I fervently trust that your deliberations may contribute to the peace, prosperity, and advancement of this thriving Colony, so deeply indebted to Almighty God for the numerous blessings it now enjoys.

Bill pro forma read.

Mr. Brown presented a Bill to amend Chapter 92 of the Revised Statutes, "Of the preservation of useful Birds and Animals"—which was read a first time.

*Ordered,* That the said Bill be read a second time at a future day.

Speech reported.

The President reported His Excellency's Speech, and the same being read by the Clerk,