

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
OF
NOVA SCOTIA.

1864.

THURSDAY, 4th February, 1864.

In conformity with the Proclamation of His Excellency the Administrator of the Government, the members elect of the House of Assembly met together in the Legislative Chamber, at twelve o'clock, when the usual oaths were administered by the Commissioners appointed for the purpose, viz.: Hon. M. B. Almon, Hon. J. H. Anderson, and Hon. A. Keith.

On the conclusion of these proceedings, the members adjourned, and re-assembled at two o'clock, when a Message was received from the Legislative Council from His Excellency the Administrator of the Government, requesting their attendance. On presenting themselves before His Excellency, they were directed to return to their Chamber and choose a Speaker.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

Hon. **ATTY. GENERAL** proposed that J. C. Wade, Esq. be the Speaker of the House. He alluded to the long service of that honorable gentleman in the Assembly, and his claims on the party that supported the Government.

Hon. **SOL. GENERAL** seconded the nomination with some remarks of a similar purport.

There being no opposition offered, Mr. Wade was unanimously elected Speaker.

The House then presented themselves before His Excellency in the Council Chamber, who approved of their choice as Speaker, and then opened the Session with the following

SPEECH.

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

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

It affords me great pleasure to meet you in Parliament, where, I feel assured, your exertions will be unceasing to maintain the honor and advance the interests of this highly favored Province.

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

The Public Accounts will be submitted for your inspection, without delay.

The Estimates for the ensuing year will be prepared with the utmost regard to economy, consistent with due provision for the public necessities.

You will be glad to find that our Exports during the past year have very much exceeded those of 1862, and that although a material reduction was made in the ad valorem duties, the revenue of 1863 largely exceeds that of the preceding or any former year, leaving a considerable surplus in the Treasury after meeting the demands of the public service.

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

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

I gladly avail myself of this opportunity of congratulating you and the people whom you represent, upon the signal success which has attended the efforts made to place this Province in a creditable condition in connection with the local defence of the country.

The patriotic manner in which the great body of the people have responded to the call upon them for Militia drill, and the remarkable progress made in acquiring a knowledge of Military movements, affords the most conclusive evidence that this Colony fully appreciates the advantages of British connection, and is both willing and able to raise an effective arm in its own defence, in any emergency which may arise.

I have no reason to doubt that you will make such provision for this important branch of the Public Service as will enable your Volunteers and Militia to maintain that prominent position among the British American Provinces, which, in this respect, they now occupy.

The importance of consolidating the influence and advancing the common progress of the three Maritime Provinces, whose interests are so closely identified, has for some time attracted a large share of public attention, and I propose to submit, for your consideration, a proposition, in which the co-operation of the Governments of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island will be invited, with a view to the union of the three Provinces under one Government and Legislature.

The correspondence and negotiations in which the Government have been engaged during the recess, in reference to a proposed survey for the Intercolonial Railway, will be laid before you.

The traffic on our Railway has steadily increased during the past year, and committed as we now are to these public improvements, I