

“I have also directed to be communicated to you various Returns and Reports relative to the Roads and other Public Works, the execution of which, on a systematic plan, would materially tend to the public advantage.

“An urgent appeal having been made to me on behalf of the Inhabitants of Saint John's, Newfoundland, who had suffered from the destruction of that City by fire, I felt impelled to aid the private contributions which were raised for their relief, by an advance from the Public Funds, which I made in full confidence that I only anticipated your desire for the alleviation of the sufferings of our fellow subjects exposed to so severe a calamity.

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

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

“Commissioners having been appointed by Her Majesty's Government to investigate and report on the Boundary in dispute between this Province and Canada, I have to regret that their labours have been in some degree retarded, owing to the lamented death of one of the Officers engaged on this service. I have no reason however to anticipate any further delay in the settlement of the question, and in the meantime the Jurisdiction of the Province in the Disputed Territory has been maintained.

“An examination of the Country by the same scientific Officers, with the object of ascertaining the best direction for a Trunk Line of Railway, to connect the Provinces, has been in progress, and will be resumed when the season becomes again favourable, another Officer having been appointed to the Survey.

“In order to effect a rapid communication of intelligence through the Provinces, the establishment of a Line of Electro Magnetic Telegraph, from Halifax to Quebec, has been proposed by the Governor General, in a Despatch which will be laid before you.

“Availing myself of the encouragement held out in the last Session, I have directed the prosecution of some special inquiries in reference to those important undertakings—the Reports, when received, will be communicated to you.

“I congratulate you on the prospects which at this time appear to be opening to the Province. With improved means of intercourse, so fertile a region cannot long remain imperfectly settled and reclaimed; and the time we may hope is approaching, when the labours of the early settlers and their descendants, aided by British enterprise and capital, will be applied in developing its vast and varied resources. That undertakings of this nature, conducted in a righteous spirit, will be eminently successful, I can entertain no doubt; and that they may prosper under your auspices, and become the means of diffusing the blessings which have elsewhere followed in their train, must be the aspiration of all who regard the welfare of their Country, and desire to extend and perpetuate the glory of her Institutions.”

Which being ended,

The House of Assembly withdrew, and His Excellency was pleased to retire.

The Honorable the President reported His Excellency's Speech.

ORDERED, That a Committee be appointed to draft an Address to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in answer to his Speech at the opening of the Session.

ORDERED,