

THE
PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER,
SESSION, 1864.

Meeting of the Legislature.

On Wednesday, March 16th, His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Dundas came down to the Council Chamber at 3 o'clock, when he was pleased to open the second Session of the Twenty-second General Assembly of this Island with the following

SPEECH :

Mr President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council ;

Mr Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :

Your Address of congratulation to your Sovereign on the Marriage of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has been laid before the Queen, and Her Majesty was much gratified by the expressions which it contained of loyalty and attachment to her Throne and Person.

You, I am confident, warmly participate in the joy to which the Birth of a Prince has given rise throughout Her Majesty's Dominions.

I am desired by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to inform you that Her Majesty has not been able to comply with the prayer conveyed in the Address which you adopted during last Session, on the subject of the Report of the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the Differences between Landlords and their Tenants.

It is the wish of the Secretary of State, that in communicating this Decision to you, I should invite your attention to Suggestions made by His Grace, in a Despatch, which will be laid before you.

His Grace, in this Despatch proposed that the Local Government should be authorized to issue, annually, a certain amount of Debentures, and to apply these Debentures in assisting to buy up Landlords' rights, with their consent.

His Grace further proposed that Sales should not be compulsory on the Landlords, but that a fixed rate of Commutation should be indicated, by authority, as the Government price.—That this assessed rate of purchase, viewed as receiving a certain moral support from the Government, should regulate the amount of assistance to be given in each case from the public funds.

As the Terms of Commutation proposed by His Grace were in some respects less favorable to the Tenantry than those which had already been offered by the Pro-

prietors, and as it seemed likely that little practical good would result from their adoption, in consequence of His Grace stating that they would not be compulsory on the Landlords, it was deemed expedient that Delegates should be sent to England to ascertain the views of Her Majesty's Government, and to facilitate a Settlement of the Question.

The Report of the Delegates will be laid before you.

After mature consideration of this Report and of the whole Question of a Settlement, I trust your best efforts will be directed to maturing such Measures as may not only conduce to the amelioration of the condition of the Tenantry, but also receive the sanction of the Imperial Government, and the concurrence of the Proprietors.

The Administrator of the Government of Nova Scotia has addressed Communications to me on the Subject of a proposed Union of the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, under one Government and Legislature.

I have directed that these Communications be laid before you.

A Bill to prevent the fraudulent Marking of Merchandize will be proposed to you. You will also be asked to take under your Consideration a Suggestion made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies respecting the Establishment of a Maritime Court of Enquiry into the causes of Wrecks.

Mr Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :

The Estimates for the current Year will be laid before you. They have been framed with due regard to economy.

The Accounts for the past year will also be submitted to you. I observe, with great satisfaction, that the Revenue of the past Year far exceeds that of any previous year, and leaves a large surplus over the Expenditure.

Mr President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council ;

Mr Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :

I rejoice to be able to congratulate you on the general prosperity of this Colony during the past year.

The Labors of our agricultural population were blessed with an abundant Harvest.

An unprecedented demand increased materially the value of our staple Produce ; and the quantity which left our shores exceeded the Exports of any previous year.

I now commit to you the Business of the Session ;