

THE PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER. SESSION 1869.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

WEDNESDAY, March 3rd, 1869.

The third Session of the present Parliament was opened this day. The Council Chamber was more than usually crowded with Ladies and Gentlemen. The Prince of Wales, Irish and Prince Edward Volunteers, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Beer, formed a guard of honor at the Colonial Building. The 1st and 2nd Artillery, in charge of Major Morris, occupied Rotchford Square, and fired the eustomary salute. Under an escort of Captain Holman and Captain Wood's Mounted Rifles, Sir Robert Hodgson came down to the Council Chamber at 3 o'clock, and, having commanded the attendance of the House of Assembly, 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:

In the absence of the Lieutenant Governor, the duty of Administering the Government having by Her Majesty's appointment, devolved upon me, it affords me great satisfaction to meet you on this occasion,

Your Address to Her Majesty adopted in the last Session, on the subject of the payment, by the Colony, of the Lieutenant Governor's Salary, was duly forwarded, but as yet no answer has been received to it.

The money appropriated by you, in your last Session, to assist destitute Settlers in the purchase of seed grain, under the grave apprehension that without some such assistance, much land would remain untilled, was judiciously expended and, no doubt, under God's blessing, has been the means of averting much destitution.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The Accounts of the past year and the Estimates for the present year will be laid before you. The Estimates have been prepared with the view of combining a due regard to economy with the efficiency of the several branches of the Public Service.

The Revenue for 1868 evidences a steady increase in the trade of the Colony, although the expenditure is in excess of the Receipts, caused, in a great measure, by the purchase of Lands and the advances for seed grain, which have as yet been only partially repaid.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

A period of Eight years having elapsed since the last census was taken, I now call your attention to the necessity of adopting measures to renew it.

A measure will be laid before you providing for the appointment of a Board of Works, to take the charge and supervision of the Roads, Bridges, Wharves and Public Buildings of the Colony. By means of such a Board it is believed that the efficiency of the Public Works Service will be much increased and economy greatly promoted. The present system has been found inadequate to the public wants, and unsatisfactory in its results.

In connection with this subject, your attention will be called to the propriety of appropriating a sum of money, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Works, for the purpose of making permanent improvements in the Highways.

Intersected as this Colony is in so many parts by navigable waters, the want of Railroad Communications may, to a certain extent, be remedied by a judicious encouragement of Steam Navigation. I invite your attention to this subject, and feel confident it will receive from you that consideration which its importance demands.

The rapid increase of business in every department of the Public service demands increased accommodation. The present General Post Office is quite inadequate to the requirements of the service.

The Supreme Court Room in the Colonial Building, is not sufficient for the purpose, and serious inconvenience has been felt from this.

Additional space is required for the Customs and other Public Departments. The Records and Public Securities in the office of the Registrar of Deeds and those in the Prothonotary's, Treasurer's and Probate Offices, are not sufficiently protected from accidents by fire.

Impressed with the Conviction that no time should be lost in a matter of so much public importance, a measure will be submitted to you to provide for the erection of a Building in Charlottetown, which shall be adapted to meet the different exigencies alluded to, and I recommend this matter to your serious consideration.

Representations have been made to me on the necessity of appointing an additional Judge in the Supreme Court. Papers on this subject will be laid before you, to which I invite your attention.

Telegraphic Communication between this Colony and the Continent has been suspended since August last, in consequence of the breaking of the submarine Cable. Steps have been taken to secure the laying down of a new one; and also the extension of inland Telegra-