

Who being come,—

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to open the Session with the following

S P E E C H :

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

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

The period being arrived at which the business of the Legislature is usually resumed, I have called you together, and have much satisfaction in again meeting you, in Assembly, to deliberate on the affairs of this Colony.

Nearly six years have elapsed since a Census of Prince Edward Island was taken. I would, therefore, direct your attention to the propriety of, this year, renewing that Census; more especially as the Imperial Government, having determined on taking one of Great Britain in April next, considers it desirable, that in all the Colonies a similar course should be simultaneously adopted. A Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State, and Documents on this subject, shall be laid before you.

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

The Accounts of the past year, and the Estimates for the present, shall be duly submitted to you. All Financial arrangements connected with the public service have been framed with a due regard to economy.

The unusual Expences of the past year, which were incurred, principally, by the purchase of the Estates of two non-resident Proprietors, are not altogether met by the Revenue.

I would direct your most serious attention to the fact, that the Revenue, as regards the Imposts on Spirits, has, in some measure, decreased in the face of increased duties.

It is to be feared that a system of Smuggling extensively prevails,—an illicit Traffic as destructive to public morality as it is injurious to your finances.

The Land Commission, which your Address to Her Majesty procured, has, as you are aware, investigated with the utmost care and diligence those questions submitted to it. The award of the Commissioners will, I am assured by them, be made as early in the ensuing Summer as practicable. That a decision so important, and so anxiously looked for by you, should have been delayed, is a subject of regret both to the Commissioners and to myself. Such delay was, however, unavoidable. It has arisen as much from the laborious and responsible character of the task which the Commissioners undertook, as from frequent interruptions,—your own Referee having, in his high official position, other onerous duties to discharge.