

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :*

I have called you together at as early a period as I conceived would be convenient for you to enter upon the consideration of the public business of the country.

During the year which has just closed, we have witnessed, in foreign countries, a succession of startling events : the downfall of ancient dynasties—the violent disruption of the relations of established society, and sanguinary civil conflicts—and have learned, by contrast, to prize more highly the blessings of rational liberty, union, peace, and industrial developement, secured to the Empire, of which Nova-Scotia forms a part, by the mild sway of a Sovereign whose prerogatives in their exercise express the national will, and derive their strength from the People's affections.

It becomes my pleasing duty to inform you that, with two exceptions, all the Acts passed during the last Session have received the Royal assent. To a reconsideration of those two I shall invite your attention, so soon as the usages of Parliament permit me to lay before you the views of Her Majesty's Government, as expressed by the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

During the recess, the Engineers employed by Her Majesty's Government in the exploration of a line for an inter-Colonial Railway from the Atlantic to Quebec, have finished their labors. Copies of their Report, with the accompanying Plans and Sections, will be promptly laid before you. An equitable adjustment of the expences of the Survey, having been satisfactorily arranged, the proportion for which the faith of Nova Scotia was pledged has been paid.

You will be gratified to learn that this Report fully establishes the practicability, while it variously illustrates the importance of the proposed enterprise, in the speedy accomplishment of which there is every reason to hope the resources of these northern Provinces may be combined, liberally aided by the co-operation, and skilfully guided by the influence, of the Imperial Government. I shall lose no time in submitting to you Despatches of a very important character, in which the views of Her Majesty's Ministers, and of the Governments of Canada and New Brunswick, in relation to this great work, are fully explained.

Deeply sensible of the influence which this National Highway must exercise upon the destinies and future prosperity of this portion of the Empire, I trust I shall be enabled, before the close of the Session, to invite your grave consideration to some measure within the compass of our means, and in which the wisdom and prudence of both branches of the Legislature will be ready to concur.

It affords me pleasure to state, that the Survey, which I was authorised to direct, under the grant of last Session, has fully established the practicability of Railroad communication between Halifax and Windsor. To connect with the capital of Nova Scotia, that singular Estuary, around the shores of which, and upon the banks of the numerous Rivers that empty into it, our richest lands, and most thriving Agricultural Communities are situated, is an enterprise apparently full of promise. The Report and plans prepared by the Engineer, now undergoing a careful revision and inspection, will shortly be laid before you, I trust in sufficient time to enable you to give to them a careful consideration, and, if deemed judicious, to adopt such measures as may ensure a successful completion of the work.

I have to regret that the Electric Telegraph, to extend from the Capital to the northern frontier of Nova Scotia, contemplated to be built by the Act of last Session, has not yet been erected. Early in the season effective measures were adopted by me to obtain accurate information, relative to the most approved models and the cost of construction. The necessary arrangements for continuing the lines to Canada, on the one hand, and to the United States, by the southern shores of New Brunswick on