

chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both Houses of the Provincial Parliament, of which Mr Speaker said he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy, which he read to the House, and it is as followeth:—

Speaker reports His Excellency's Speech.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,—and  
Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

I have deemed it right to assemble you at the earliest period which the circumstances of the Province, and the duties imposed upon me by the Imperial Act for the Union of the *Canadas*, under which this Legislature is constituted, have admitted; and it is with sincere satisfaction that I now meet you to deliberate on the great and important interests committed to our charge.

Speech at opening of Session.

A subject of Her Majesty, an inhabitant of this Province, has been forcibly detained in the neighbouring States, charged with a pretended crime. No time was lost by the Executive of this Province in remonstrating against this proceeding, and provision was made for ensuring to the individual the means of defence, pending the further action of Her Majesty's Government. The Queen's Representative at Washington has since been instructed to demand his release. Of the result of that demand I am not yet apprised, but I have the Queen's commands to assure Her faithful subjects in *Canada* of Her Majesty's fixed determination to protect them with the whole weight of Her power.

Arrangements were completed during the course of last summer by which, under the directions of the Treasury, the rates of Postage between all parts of this Colony and the United Kingdom were greatly reduced; and a more speedy and regular conveyance of letters between different parts of this Province has since been established, by arrangements made by the Deputy Post Master General, under my directions. A Commission has been appointed by me to enquire into and report upon the whole Post Office system of British North America, and I confidently anticipate that the result of its labours will be the establishment of a plan securing improvements in the internal communication, by Post, within the Colony, equal to those which we have already obtained in the communication with the Mother Country.

Many subjects of deep importance to the future welfare of the Province demand your early attention, upon some of which I have directed Bills to be prepared, which will be submitted for your consideration.

Amongst them, first in importance at the present juncture of affairs, is the adoption of measures for developing the resources of the Province, by well considered and extensive public works. The rapid settlement of the Country—the value of every man's property within it—the advancement of his future fortunes, are deeply affected by this question.

The improvement of the navigation from the shores of *Lake Erie* and *Lake Huron* to the ocean—the establishment of new internal communications in the Inland Districts, are works requiring a great outlay, but promising commensurate returns. To undertake them successfully, large funds will undoubtedly be required, and the financial condition of the Province, as it stands at present, would seem to forbid the attempt. But I have the satisfaction of informing you that I have received authority from Her Majesty's Government to state, that they are prepared to call upon the Imperial Parliament to afford their assistance towards these important undertakings. In the full belief that peace and tranquillity will be happily re-established in this Province, under the constitution settled by Parliament, and that nothing but a relief from its most pressing difficulties is wanting to its rapid advancement to prosperity, they will propose to Parliament, by affording the guarantee of the Imperial Treasury, for a loan to