

can only express my sincere desire that every means may be adopted for this purpose; and I well know that Her Majesty's subjects in New Brunswick will consider no sacrifice too great to attain so important an object.

"You will, I am sure, agree with me in the opinion that the Rifle Association which has been recently organized, will be of great service in stimulating the military ardour and keeping alive the loyal zeal of the Volunteers and Militia. It is my pleasing duty to inform you that this Association has met with marked success.

*"Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

"I have given directions that the Accounts of the Provincial Income, and Expenditure, for the past year, should be laid before you. You will be gratified to find that the Revenue was considerably in excess of the Expenditure, notwithstanding the large sum required for defensive purposes, in consequence of the threatened attack of lawless desperadoes on the Frontier. Estimates also for the current year have been prepared and will be submitted to you.

*"Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,*

*"Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

"Towards the close of the year 1865 the Lieutenant Governor, in conjunction with the Governments of the other British North American Provinces, appointed a Commission to make enquiries with a view to opening new channels of Trade with the West Indies and South America. The Report of this Commission will be laid before you.

"A large increase of Trade with these Countries will afford a wider scope for the enterprise of our Merchants, and must be productive of general advantage.

"In leaving you to your Legislative duties, I must assure you of my confident belief that your deliberations will tend to the welfare of New Brunswick; and you will readily join with me in grateful thanks to Almighty God, for the peace and prosperity which have fallen to your lot, and in a heartfelt prayer, that the changes which will shortly be made in your position, as an integral portion of the British Empire, may result, as well in the development of the vast natural resources of the Province, as in the increased honor and renown of the Mother Country."

A Commission having issued under the Great Seal, bearing date the nineteenth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty six, appointing William J. Ritchie, Neville Parker, Lemuel A. Wilmot, John C. Allen, and John W. Weldon, Esquires, Justices of the Supreme Court, Commissioners for the duly qualifying the Members of the Assembly, and it being produced;

The Honorable Lemuel A. Wilmot, one of the Commissioners named in the said Commission, attended, and at the Clerk's Table administered the oath to the Honorable Charles Connell, who thereupon subscribed his name to the Roll and took his Seat.

On motion of Dr. Dow,

*Resolved,* That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration the Contingencies of this House.

*Ordered,* That Dr. Dow, Mr. Sutton, Mr. Chandler, Mr. Quinton, and Mr. Babbit, do compose the said Committee.

Dr. Dow, from the Committee appointed at the last Session, to make arrangements during the recess for Reporting and Publishing the Debates of this House, submitted their Report; and he having read the same, handed it in at the Clerk's Table, where it was again read, and is as followeth:—