

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Council ; and
Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :*

H. A. directed to
choose Speaker.

I have it in command from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to inform you that His Excellency will declare the causes of his calling this General Assembly as soon as the House of Assembly have chosen a Speaker. It is therefore the pleasure of the Lieutenant-Governor that the Gentlemen of the House of Assembly do repair to the place where they usually sit, and there proceed to the choice of a Speaker, and present the person so chosen for His Excellency's approbation.

The House of Assembly then retired, and, after a short time, having returned, the Honorable James B. Uniacke, Her Majesty's Attorney General for the Province, and Member for the County of Richmond, addressed His Excellency as follows :

May it please Your Excellency :

Speaker presented.

The House of Assembly, agreeably to Your Excellency's command, have proceeded to the choice of a Speaker, and have elected William Young, Esquire, Member for the County of Inverness, to that office ; and, by their direction, I beg leave to present him for the approbation of Your Excellency.

To which His Excellency was pleased to say :

Accepted

I approve of the Speaker whom the House of Assembly have chosen.

Then the Speaker of the Assembly said—

May it please Your Excellency :

Speaker claims pri-
vileges.

Your Excellency's ready approval of the choice with which I have been honored by the House, having constituted me in due form the Speaker of the House of Assembly, it has now become my duty, in the name of the Representatives of Her Majesty's loyal subjects the people of this Province, respectfully to demand all their accustomed rights and privileges—that they may have freedom of speech in their debates—that they may be free from arrest during their attendance on Parliament—and that I, as their Speaker, may have free access to Your Excellency's person.

To which His Excellency replied, I grant the usual privileges.

Granted.

Then His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with the following Speech :

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

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

Speech.

Public attention has for some time past been directed to the importance of establishing Railway Communication between the southern sea-board of Nova Scotia and the St. Lawrence, with a Branch Line to connect the Main Trunk with the Railway systems of the United States.

The negotiations, which I deemed it my duty to open last year, with the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, resulted in a generous offer from Her Majesty's Government to recommend to Parliament to guarantee, or advance the funds required to construct both these Lines, upon certain conditions, the adjustment of which, during the past summer, rendered communications with the Governments of the neighbouring Provinces indispensable.

The Legislature of Canada has made provision for their portion of the Line from Halifax to Quebec, and for its extension, through the territory of that Province, to the western frontier.

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