

No. 14.

SIR H. MURRAY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
(Received July 3, 1896.)

NEWFOUND-
LAND.
MINERAL
RESOURCES.

Government House, St. John's,

June 17, 1896.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose to you herewith six copies of the speech with which I opened the Fifth Session of the Seventeenth General Assembly of this Colony on the 11th instant.

I have, &c.

H. MURRAY,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 14.

OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Legislative Council, June 11, 1896.

His Excellency the Governor Sir Herbert Harley Murray, K.C.B., opened the Fifth Session of the Seventeenth General Assembly on Thursday, 11th instant, at 2 o'clock, p.m., with the following

SPEECH :

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :

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

In addressing you for the first time as the representative of our Most Gracious Sovereign the Queen, I desire to express the gratification I feel in being associated with you for the promotion of the prosperity and advancement of this Colony.

In reviewing the events of the year that has nearly elapsed since the close of your last session, I would first call your attention to the satisfactory condition of our financial affairs.

The policy of retrenchment in the public expenditure, which was adopted by the Legislature last year, has been faithfully carried out by my Government, and, I am pleased to observe, without in any way affecting the efficiency of the Public Service.

The honest and conscientious fulfilment of this trust has resulted in the restoration of the credit of the Colony abroad, and in increased thrift and enterprise on the part of the people of this Colony.

The interest due to holders of our Colonial Bonds has been and will be promptly met, and after all obligations in connexion with the Public Service for the present quarter have been provided for, there will be a considerable balance to the credit of the Treasury. The change that has taken place in the condition of