

THE CARLETON SENTINEL.



Published and Edited

Vol. VII.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1855.

By James McLaughlan.

No. 23

Provincial Parliament.

[From the Royal Gazette Extra.]

Legislative Council Chamber.

FREDERICTON, THURSDAY, 1st Feb. 1855.

This being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at Two o'clock His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor came in the usual state to the Council Chamber, and being seated on the Throne, commanded the attendance of the House of Assembly, who being come, 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,

Your Joint Address of congratulation to Her Majesty on the success achieved by Her Majesty's Arms, and those of Her Allies at the Alma, has been laid before the Throne; and I have much pleasure in signifying to you, in accordance with the instructions I have received, the gratification which Her Majesty has derived from this loyal and dutiful Address.

I have given directions that there should be laid before you, a copy of the Proclamation which, by the advice of my Council, I issued on the 11th of November, for the admission into this Province, duty free, but under Bonds, of the articles specified in the Schedule of the Act for giving effect on the part of the Province of New Brunswick, to a certain Treaty between Her Majesty and the United States of America.

A simultaneous concession of a similar character was made by the Government of the United States with respect to the corresponding articles the production of this Province. The whole of the provisions of the Act were thus practically brought into operation without delay, and the Trade of this Province with the United States, was at once relieved from the uncertainty, which is necessarily attendant on a prospective alteration of Duties.

Considerable inconvenience has for some time been experienced in this Province from the insufficiency of the supply of Copper Coin.

I am happy to be able to announce to you, that this deficiency no longer exists. The Copper money, of the value of three thousands pounds currency, which has been prepared for the use of this Province, under the directions of Her Majesty's Government, has been received, and this Coin now forms, under Her Majesty's Proclamation to that effect, a part of the legal currency of New Brunswick.

I invite your attention, during your present Session, to the Laws which regulate the election of Members of the House of Assembly.

The number of instances, in which the validity of the return made by the Sheriff has been impugned and a scrutiny demanded, cannot fail to have attracted the notice of the Legislature. I recommend such a revision of the Law as will prevent a recurrence of the serious evils and difficulties now experienced.

The subject of Education is of vast importance to the moral and social well-being of the people of this Province; and I am sure that you will approach the consideration of it with that care which the magnitude of the interests involved demands.

The Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into King's College will be laid before you.

The course of the past year was marked by events so momentous in their character, and which have exercised so wide and baneful an influence on the Trade and Commerce of the world, that we might, with reason, have expected a far more severe check to the prosperity of this Province, than any which it has hitherto experienced. But although many circumstances have combined to decrease materially the value of the principal article of export from this Province, and to cause depression in some branches of Trade, we have been exempt from any violent crisis of commercial embarrassment and distress.

The future prosperity of New Brunswick greatly depends on the continued and improved culture of the soil, and the importance of Agriculture is not diminished by the increase of commercial activity in the Province.

The Fisheries have been successful; new markets have been opened to their produce; and we have reason to hope that this branch of industry may hereafter flourish with increased vigour.

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

I have given directions, that the Accounts both of Revenue and Expenditure for the past year should be laid before you.

You will bear in mind that the Loan Duty was remitted at the commencement of the year 1854, and that many of the productions of the United States, and some other articles of very general consumption, without reference to the country from which they may be imported, have been since freed from Duty.

But you will observe with satisfaction that notwithstanding the remission of these Duties, and although the prevalence of Cholera disturbed for some months during the Summer, Trade and Industry throughout the Province, the Public Revenue for the year 1854 is larger than that which was received in the preceding twelve months, and far exceeds the amount collected in any previous year.

I congratulate you on this proof of the increased commerce of the Province.

The Act of Assembly, under which the Provincial Customs' Duties are levied, will expire in the course of the present year, and this subject demands your immediate attention. In such circumstances it is of great importance that you should have before you early and full information with respect both to the amount which you might reasonably expect to derive from the continuance or imposition of any particular Duty, and of the amount which will probably be required to defray the public expense of the Province.

Estimates of this nature have been prepared, and will be laid before you, but it is impossible to expect that these estimates can have that practical value, which would attach to them, were the Executive Government subject to any special responsibility with respect to the appropriation of the Public Revenues, or the mode in which these Revenues are to be raised.

This is a subject worthy of your consideration.

You must, I fear, be prepared to expect during the present year, a considerable reduction in the proceeds of any Customs Duties on articles of Import; but I am confident that you will uphold the credit and maintain the character of the Province, by a scrupulous regard to all existing engagements, and by making ample provision for the requirements of the Public service, while you exercise a careful economy in your appropriations of the Public Revenue.

A Freshet of unusual violence occurred in the course of last Autumn, and I regret to say, that it caused considerable damage to many Roads

and Bridges in different parts of the Province. With the concurrence of my Council, I immediately made the necessary arrangements for the temporary repair or reconstruction of those works, the partial or complete destruction of which had interrupted existing lines of communication of considerable importance. I do not doubt that you will readily sanction the expense which has been incurred for this purpose.

But although the damage occasioned by this Freshet was unusual in its extent, the Bridges are frequently subjected to injury by events of a similar character. Moreover, the cost of the repairs, or reconstruction of Bridges, consequent on the ordinary wear and tear of these works, amounts annually to a considerable sum. It is therefore in my judgment, well worthy of your consideration, whether it would not be true economy for the future to incur some additional expenditure in the first erection of Bridges, by the careful selection of the best form of construction, and of the most durable materials, with the view of decreasing the expense of the ordinary repairs of the Bridges, when built, and rendering them less liable to accidental injury.

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

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

The insufficiency of the existing system of Audit has, during the recess, engaged my attention and that of my Council, and arrangements are now in progress, which will, I trust, secure an adequate and efficient examination and supervision of the Public Accounts of the Province.

I recommend you to consider, whether the present system of management of Roads and Bridges throughout the Province, is not susceptible of improvement. You may probably be able to devise means whereby increased efficiency may be given to this important department of the public service.

The number of Immigrants who have annually settled here, has hitherto been comparatively small. But the vast extent of productive land still unoccupied, and the great, but imperfectly developed natural resources, both Mineral and Agricultural, of the Province, offer to Immigrants the prospect of profitable employment for labour and capital, and, at the same time, render an additional supply of both, important to the present and future prosperity of the Province.

I recommend you to consider whether means may not be adopted for the further promotion, under proper safeguards, of Immigration.

I am well aware that the inhabitants of New Brunswick yield to none of Her Majesty's subjects, in the ardour of their aspirations for the success of Her Majesty's Arms, in admiration of the brilliant valour of the Allied Armies, and in sympathy with those, whom successive victories, achieved for the public good, have overwhelmed with private sorrow and domestic distress: And, while we join in the expression of an earnest hope, that the labours which you are now about to commence, will, under Providence, contribute to promote the happiness and prosperity of this Province, we shall unite in a heartfelt prayer that the Almighty may bless with success the Military and Naval Forces of the British Empire, and in due time crown that success with an honorable, sure, and lasting Peace.

Does my son William, that's in the army, get plenty to eat?" said an old lady to a recruiting sergeant the other day. "He sees plenty," was the laconic reply. "Bless his heart, then, I know he'll have it if he can see it; he always would at home."

PROPOSED ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO SPEECH.

To His Excellency the Honorable JOHN HENRY MANNERS SUTTON, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of New Brunswick, &c., &c., &c.

The Humble Address of the House of Assembly.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

1. We, the Commons of New Brunswick, thank Your Excellency for your Speech delivered at the opening of the Session of the Legislature.

2. We are pleased to learn that Our Most Gracious Sovereign was satisfied with the Joint Address of the Legislative Council and Assembly congratulating Her on the glorious victory of the Alma.

3. We shall be happy to receive a copy of the Proclamation issued by Your Excellency for the admission into this Province, duty free, but under Bonds, of the Articles specified in the Schedule of the Act for giving effect on the part of this Province to a certain Treaty made between Her Majesty and the United States of America; and we are glad to learn that a simultaneous concession of a similar character having been made by the Government of the United States, the provisions of the Act were practically brought into immediate operation, and the Trade of the Province thereby relieved from that uncertainty which is always detrimental to Commerce.

4. We are glad to learn that the inconvenience arising from an insufficient supply of Copper Coin no longer exists.

5. Our best attention and consideration shall be given to the Laws regulating the election of Members of the Assembly: being well assured that the serious evils and difficulties resulting from the present law demand a careful revision of the whole electoral system.

6. The subject of Education, involving consequences so important to present and future generations, claims and shall receive from us the most grave and deliberate consideration.

7. To the Report of the Commission appointed to inquire into the state of King's College we will give our best attention.

8. It is a subject of heartfelt thankfulness to Divine Providence, that in a year marked by such extraordinary and exciting events so deeply affecting Trade and Commerce throughout the world, and materially depreciating the value of our principal articles of export, we have been thus far exempt from any violent Commercial crisis.

9. In a country like New Brunswick Agriculture must ever form a source of wealth, and too much importance cannot be attached to the successful cultivation of the soil.

10. We trust that the opening of new markets will stimulate our Fishermen to increased exertion, and be productive of advantage to that valuable source of our Provincial prosperity.

11. We thank Your Excellency for having directed the Accounts of the Revenue and Expenditure of the past year to be laid before us. We are pleased to find that notwithstanding the remission of the Loan duty, the subsequent remission of other duties, and the injury inflicted upon Trade by the Cholera, the Revenue of the past year is greater than the preceding, and is far in excess of any previous year—a gratifying evidence of our increased Trade.

12. The Revenue Law which this year expires shall receive our immediate attention. We feel the importance of having early and full information on so important a subject, and shall give the estimates to be laid before us every consideration.