

## OPENING OF THE CANADIAN LEGISLATURE.

MONTREAL, 2nd June, 1847.

This day at three o'clock, P. M., His Excellency the Governor General proceeded in state to the Chamber of the Legislative Council, in the Parliament Building. The Members of the Legislative Council being assembled, His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the Legislative Assembly, and that House being present, His Excellency opened the third Session of the Second Parliament of the Province of Canada with the following Speech from the Throne:—

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,*

It gives me sincere gratification to meet you, that we may deliberate on the important interests committed to our charge.

The representations which have proceeded from this and the neighbouring Provinces on the subject of the Post Office, have engaged the anxious consideration of the Imperial Government. I am enabled to inform you that Her Majesty's Ministers are prepared to surrender to the Provincial Authorities the control of that Department, as soon as by concert between the several Legislatures, arrangements shall be matured for securing to British North America the advantages of an efficient and uniform Post Office System.

By a Statute passed during the last Session of the Imperial Parliament, the Colonial Legislatures are empowered to repeal differential duties heretofore imposed in the Colonies in favour of British produce. It is probable that by exercising this power you may be enabled to benefit the consumer without injury to the Revenue. I commend the subject to your consideration, and I shall lay before you certain communications relating to it, which I have received from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, and from the Lieutenant Governors of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Measures will be submitted to you for extending more generally, Warehousing facilities to inland ports, and for effecting other improvements in our commercial system, all of which will, I am sure, engage your attention.

In pursuance of an address presented by the House of Assembly during the course of last Session, inquiries have been instituted with the view of ascertaining the practicability and probable cost of the construction of a Railway between Quebec and Halifax. A survey of the proposed line has been undertaken by the Imperial Government, and is still in progress.

I shall submit for your information a Despatch from the Secretary of State, describing the course which Her Majesty's Government propose to take in order to remedy the inconvenience which the Provinces of British North America appear to have sustained from the operation of the Imperial Statute for the protection of Copyright.

In view of the large Immigration which may be expected to take place this year, measures have been adopted for providing additional accommodation and medical attendance for the sick; and for increasing the means of forwarding the destitute to places where their labour may be required. An increased grant has been made by the Imperial Parliament in aid of this service. Although it is to be feared that there may be much want and suffering among certain classes of Immigrants who arrive this season, I have reason to believe that they will be accompanied by a greater number than usual of persons possessed of a capital, who are likely to prove an acquisition to the Province.

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,*

I have directed the accounts of Revenue and Expenditure of the past year, with the estimates for the current year, to be laid before you.

I observe with satisfaction that there is an increase in the Revenue derived from Public Works.

I rely on your making such provision for the maintenance of the establishments and credit of the Province, as may be necessary to support the high character for probity and good faith which Canada has at all times maintained.

*Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen,*

We have reason to bless Providence for our exemption from the calamity of famine with which another part of the Empire has been so sorely afflicted, and I congratulate you on the liberality which the Inhabitants of this Colony, of all classes and origins, have evinced in contributing to the relief of their suffering fellow subjects.

I cannot refrain from adverting to the fact that among those whose generosity has been so conspicuous on this trying occasion, are our Indian Brethren.

The occurrences of the past year, though in some measure exceptional, indicate that there is a growing demand in Europe for the produce of this Continent, and render it highly important, that the inhabitants of Canada should improve to the utmost, its natural advantages, and those which attach to it, as an integral part of an Empire, abounding in wealth and population.

I feel confident that you will duly appreciate the responsibility which rests on Parliament at this conjuncture, and that you will endeavour, by wise Legislation, to afford all practicable extension and development to the trade and productive capabilities of the Province, and to give its institutions that hold on the affections of the people which is the foundation of public and private credit, and the best security for social progress.

In all measures calculated to effect these important objects, I am prepared heartily to co-operate with you, and I am authorized to renew the assurance of the earnest desire of our Gracious Queen, to promote the prosperity of Canada and the happiness of its people.

His Excellency then rose, and, escorted as before, returned, under a salute of nineteen guns. The weather was extremely propitious, and a large crowd of spectators cordially cheered His Excellency on his arrival and departure from the Parliament House.

From the Head Quarters, June 9.

## YORK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

We have much pleasure in giving publicity to the following official account of the proceedings had at the re-organization of the York County Agricultural Society, and add a short synopsis of the remarks made at the meeting, which are not embodied in Mr. Beckwith's comprehensive report. We cannot help thinking that this Society is organized in such a manner as will give general satisfaction to the Agriculturalists throughout the Province; for although there was some difference of opinion respecting the mode in which the prizes should be distributed, we should imagine from the reasons adduced that the system of non-exclusion from competition among the members was the one most likely to advance the interests of Agriculture, and secure to the people of York the advantages arising from an improved breed of Stock, and the most approved system of cultivating their ground.

Pursuant to notice, an Agricultural Meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, on Thursday last, when Mr. J. A. Beckwith addressed the meeting to the following effect:—

GENTLEMEN,—The York County Agricultural Society, which was organized in 1841, during the two years wherein it was in successful operation, distributed over £250 in premiums, in the purchase of Seed, Agricultural Implements and Stock, and contributed materially to develop the Agricultural resources of the County, and exhibit evidences of its capabilities; as instances of which I may state the facts of prizes having been given to C. Bartlett, for oats weighing 56 lbs per bushel; to Wm. Davidson, for raising 500 bushels of potatoes to the acre; and to Thomas Gill, for raising 400 bushels of carrots, and 600 bushels of turnips per acre.

My official avocations for the last few years have directed my attention to the quiet and unobtrusive career of usefulness, pursued by the several Agricultural Societies scattered over the Province, whilst I observed with feelings of regret, that the York Society had paused in her onward course. On conversing with several of the leading members, I found that the spirit was not extinct, but that some little exertion was required to arouse it to renewed action; and feeling that the emergencies of the times required all who felt an interest in the welfare of the County to be up and doing, and finding that I would be well supported in my proposed movement, I took it upon me, although an humble member of the community, to prepare and publish the notice which has led to the present meeting.

With those few preliminary remarks, I beg to propose that the meeting may be properly organized by the appointment of a Chairman and Secretary, and I therefore move that the Hon. Mr. Baillie take the Chair.

Whereupon Mr. Baillie was appointed Chairman to the meeting, and Mr. Beckwith, Secretary; and the following Resolutions were passed unanimously:—

On motion of Major M'Lean,

Whereas it is the opinion of this Meeting, that Agriculture is the basis upon which the prosperity of all countries must be founded, and that nothing tends so much to develop the capabilities of the soil, and to introduce and to keep up a proper system of Farming, and an improved description of stock, implements of husbandry, and seed in rural districts, as Agricultural Societies, therefore Resolved, that it is highly desirable that the York County Agricultural Society be forthwith re-organized.

On motion of Col. Hayne,

Resolved, That those members who joined the Society in the years 1841 and 1842 be considered as still belonging to it, and that the local Vice-Presidents and Committees (to be thereafter named) be requested to collect the current year's subscriptions of the present members, and to solicit further subscriptions and donations in their respective neighborhoods, transmitting their receipts to the Treasurer on or before the 20th day of July next.

The following Rules and Regulations were then proposed:—

1st. An annual subscription of five shillings shall constitute a member; or a donation of three pounds, a member for life; that the present year's subscription be required to be paid on or before the first of July next, and future subscriptions in the month of January, in each and every year.

2d. The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Board, consisting of a President, a Secretary and Treasurer, nine Vice-Presidents, being one for each Parish in the County, and a Committee of twenty seven members, being three for each Parish, exclusive of the Vice-President, to be elected annually by the members of the Society at the annual meeting; and that at any meeting of the board for the despatch of business, nine members at least must be present.

3d. That annual meetings shall take place at Fredericton, on the Thursday after the first Tuesday in January, and that any member wishing either to alter an established rule, or to propose a new one,