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By Authority.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER, FREDERICTON, FEBRUARY 12, 1857.

This being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at Four 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

S P E E C H:

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

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

" IT affords me much satisfaction to meet you on your re-assembling for the discharge of your legislative duties.

" I have given directions that there should be laid before you the Reports which have been received by the Government respecting the existing state of the various Constituencies in the Province. A condition of affairs in which large numbers of those to whom it was the intention of the Legislature to entrust the Franchise, cannot legally exercise that privilege, will not, I am sure, be permitted by you to continue.

" I rejoice to be able to announce to you that considerable progress has been made in the Railway Works in course of construction; and a gratifying proof has been afforded of the confidence which is reposed by the Capitalists of the Mother Country, both in the good faith and in the Resources of the Province, by the ready sale, at a premium, of the Debentures issued to defray the cost of these Works. Documents fully explaining the present condition of the Railway Works, and the proceedings of the Government in connection with them, will be laid before you; and a measure will be submitted to you, having for its object the diminution of the cost of superintending the expenditure on Railways, without impairing the efficiency of that superintendence.

" The attention of the Government has been directed to the insufficiency of the existing means of conveyance both of Passengers and Goods between the various Ports on the Northern and Eastern Shores of this Province and Prince Edward's Island. You will, I am confident, recognize the advantage which the Province would derive from increased facilities of Commercial intercourse with that Colony. The Government of Prince Edward's Island are prepared to co-operate in making such arrangements as would afford to the People of both Colonies the advantages of a