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By Authority.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER, FREDERICTON, 12th FEBRUARY, 1861.

This being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at Three 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 Honcrable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, " Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

66 THE past year has been marked by an event of a most gratifying character, unprecedented in the annals of New Brunswick.

"The recent visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, afforded to the people of the Province the opportunity of testifying to the Heir to the Crown, their loyalty to their Queen.

"You will, I am sure, recollect with satisfaction and pride that, even in the most populous localities, where dense masses were congregated together, the people were no less orderly than enthusiastic: And I feel great pleasure in being able to assure you, that His Royal Highness recognised and warmly appreciated the unanimous and eager display of their affectionate devotion to Her Majesty's Person, Her Family, and Her Throne.

"I am happy in believing that the general condition of the Province is such as to call for the expression of satisfaction and thankfulness. Our Commerce is healthy: Agriculture has prospered: The Fisheries have been productive: Increased attention has been successfully directed to the Minerals of the Province: And renewed activity in the Ship Yards is a gratifying proof of the revival of an important Branch of our Industry.

"You will, I am confident, share the satisfaction which I feel at the progress which has been made in the establishment of an organized and drilled local Military Force for the defence of the Province. The soldier-like appearance of the Militia Force, serving without pay, and uniformed at their own expense, called out by me during the visit of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, was highly satisfactory; creditable to the Force and to the Province.

"I have given directions that the Report of the Adjutant General of Militia shall be laid before you.

"In the course of the past year, the Railway from Saint John to Shediac was opened for Traffic. The superior character of the work, and the regularity and safety with which the Trains have been run will, it is hoped, ensure public confidence.

"Accounts will be laid before you, shewing the expenditure on these works, and the Revenue derived from the traffic thereon. You will observe with satisfaction that the earnings of the Road have exceeded the estimate.