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Official Notifications appearing in this Paper, duly authenticated, are to be received as such by the persons whom they may concern.



BY AUTHORITY.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,

FREDERICTON, 12th February, 1862.

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,

“ YOU are already aware of the great calamity which has befallen the Royal Family and the Nation. I feel confident that all hearts in this loyal Province have shared the grief which has been so deeply felt and so loudly expressed throughout the Empire on the occasion of the death of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort: and whilst in common with all classes of Her Majesty's Subjects you deplore the irreparable loss which the Queen has sustained, a sentiment of a yet more personal nature will lead you to mourn the bereavement of the young Princes who have so lately visited this Province.

“ You will have learnt with satisfaction that the Government of the United States has acquiesced in the just demands of Great Britain for the surrender of certain individuals forcibly taken from under the protection of the British Flag. You will gratefully appreciate the promptitude and energy with which Troops were dispatched from England for the defence of this Province at a time when it appeared likely to become the scene of active hostilities.

“ It is with the liveliest pleasure that I have witnessed the manner in which Her Majesty's Forces have been welcomed by all classes of the population. The readiness which has been shewn to contribute to their comfort and convenience demands my warmest acknowledgments; nor can I omit to notice in a special manner the loyal and generous spirit manifested by the Corporation and Citizens of Saint John, in providing accommodation for the Troops on their landing; although I entertain no doubt that similar exertions and sacrifices would have been as cheerfully made in other parts of the Province had a similar need for them existed. The services thus willingly rendered are I know fully appreciated by the Major General Commanding Her Majesty's Forces in this Province, and by the Troops under his orders.

“ I desire to call your attention to the present condition of the Provincial Militia. Some years have passed since

that Force has been embodied or enrolled, and a confident belief has prevailed that the peace of this Province would not again be disturbed by Foreign aggression. Recent events have shewn that such expectations cannot rashly be indulged with security; and whilst large bodies of men are under arms in the neighbouring States, it is inexpedient to permit this Province to remain in a wholly defenceless condition. Two distinguished Officers have been dispatched from England to assist me in the re-organization of the Militia Force. I have directed the Report, which in conformity with my desire they have prepared, to be communicated to you, and I entertain no doubt that its recommendations will receive your most attentive consideration.

“ The condition of the Province is on the whole satisfactory—the Harvest was abundant—the Fisheries have been productive—and the export of Lumber has exceeded that of the previous year. I regret, however to add, that the Civil War in the United States has most injuriously affected the general Commercial Interests of the Province; nor can I venture to entertain a hope that the depression under which they now labour can be materially alleviated, whilst the causes which have produced it continue to exist.

“ You will learn with satisfaction that the Imperial Government has agreed to sanction any well considered arrangement for facilitating the Commercial Interchange between the different Provinces of British North America. I have no doubt this liberal concession will be thankfully received, and that the measures which may be found necessary to secure to New Brunswick the full advantages to be derived therefrom, will accordingly be adopted by you. I am of opinion that such measures, if wisely framed and judiciously carried into execution, will be attended with great and lasting benefit to the Province. I have directed the Correspondence which has passed on this subject to be laid before you.

“ It was deemed expedient, after conference with the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia, to dispatch a Member of my Executive Council to England to co-operate with Delegates from these Provinces in urging upon the Imperial Government the consideration of proposals for the completion of an Inter-Colonial Railway. I regard the proposal made as one, the adoption of which is likely to be attended with the utmost advantage to British North America, and to prove of no small utility to the Empire at large. When the Correspondence still pending on this subject is terminated, the whole of the papers will immediately be laid before you.

“ I have directed Papers to be laid before you from which you will perceive that the new Copper Coinage for this Province has been completed, and will shortly be put in circulation. The Silver Coinage is so in a forward state, and will, I hope, be available for use at a very early period.

“ The returns of the Census taken in the last year are now almost completed. You will be gratified to learn that the increase in the Population of the Province considerably exceeds previous anticipations. During the past year there has been a considerable increase in the number of Immigrants. The disturbed condition of the United States has induced a very large number of persons from that country alone to settle in this Province. A Commissioner was appointed last