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FREDERICTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1871.

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By Authority.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,

FREDERICTON, 16th FEBRUARY, 1871.

THIS being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at Three o'clock His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor came 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,

" I have great pleasure in again meeting you in Legislative Session.

" I congratulate you upon the prosperous condition of the Province, as exhibited in the rapid growth of our manufacturing interests, the extension of our commerce, the expansion of our mercantile marine, the increased demand for our agricultural products, and the remunerative prices received therefor.

" The Provincial Exhibition of the past year afforded the most conclusive evidence of the fertility of our soil, both as regards cereals and root crops, the quality of which has never been surpassed at any previous Exhibition, notwithstanding the unusual drought which prevailed over the greater portion of the Province.

" The Land Subsidy authorized by the Legislature of this Province at the last Session, towards the construction of the proposed Railway from Fredericton and Woodstock to the Riviere du Loup, has been supplemented by the Legislature of Quebec in a like liberal spirit, so that there is every probability that this highly important commercial line of Railway will soon be in course of construction.

" The efficient protection of our valuable Fisheries during the past year affords a satisfactory guarantee that our unquestionable legal rights thereto will be preserved to us, and never parted with, unless for an adequate consideration.

" The negotiations with the Federal Government for the adjustment of certain claims referred to at the opening of the last Session, have not yet been brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

" An Immigration Convention was held at Ottawa in September last, at which a Member of my Government attended, on behalf of the Province. A Report of the proceedings will be laid before you.

" You will be pleased to learn, that under recent Legislation, the settlement of the Public Lands is proceeding favorably.