



By Authority.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,

Fredericton, 17th May, 1871.

At six o'clock this day His Excellency the Honorable Lemuel Allan Wilmot, D. C. L., Lieutenant Governor of the Province of New Brunswick, 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 close 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,

"I thank you for the diligence with which you have discharged the important duties of legislation during the present Session, and it affords me much pleasure to be able, now, to release you from further attendance.

"The result of the deliberations of the High Commission at Washington, so far as our Dominion and Provincial interests are involved, is calculated to excite alarm and dissatisfaction; but we cannot for a moment suppose that the Dominion Parliament will give its consent to those parts of the Treaty which dispose of our invaluable Fishery rights for the veriest mockery of an equivalent, when we should have received in return therefor, at the least, the free admission into the United States Markets of our Ships, Coal, and Lumber.

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

"I thank you for the Supplies which you have so liberally granted for the Public Service; and I assure you that a strict regard to economy will be had in their expenditure.

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

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

"It is with great satisfaction that I have given my assent to the Bill relating to Common Schools, and most sincerely do I congratulate you upon the provision therein made for the education of our Youth. Many measures of great importance have been enacted by the Legislature of this Province, but the Session now brought to a close will ever be remembered as that which inaugurated a system of "Free Schools;" a measure as far transcending all others in Provincial and National importance, as the cultivation and developement of the intellect surpasses in value and importance all other sources of national wealth and power.

"You have prepared the way for the poor child of the poorest man to receive as *his right*, that elementary instruction which will fit him for an intelligent discharge of his duties as a citizen of a great and growing Dominion. You have now proclaimed the opening of the School-house doors and a free education to 20,000 schoolless children, who would otherwise have grown up in comparative ignorance.

"In the name and on the behalf of those 20,000 children I thank you: In the name and on the behalf of hundreds of poor parents whose children will now be taught at the expense of the property of the country, I thank you: