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FREDERICTON, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1871.

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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*

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,

FREDERICTON, WEDNESDAY, 5th APRIL, 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

### S P E E C H :

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

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

" The formation of a new Government during the late Session rendered a prorogation advisable, and I meet you now with the assurance that the public business will be at once proceeded with, and brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

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

" Detailed Accounts of the Income and Expenditure of the past year will be laid before you, together with Estimates for the current year.

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

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

" A measure relating to Common Schools will be brought before you, and I feel assured you will give it that consideration which its importance demands. Other Provinces of the Dominion are far in advance of us as regards this matter, and the time has come when the question of Free Schools must be met and disposed of by the Legislature.

" The Dominion Government has been strongly urged during the past year to come to a settlement of the outstanding claims of this Province, but no adjustment has yet been concluded.

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

" A measure for regulating the mode of procedure in certain Actions in the Supreme Court, together with other measures affecting the management of Provincial affairs, will be submitted for your consideration.

" 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 a reasonable probability that this highly important commercial line of Railway will soon be in course of construction.

" I am satisfied that you will bring to the discharge of your duties an earnest desire for the welfare of the Province; and I do most sincerely hope that the results of your deliberations may be found to be promotive of its best interests."