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By Authority.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,

FREDERICTON, 27th FEBRUARY, 1873.

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,

" I have much pleasure in again meeting you in General Assembly, and shall be ready at all times to co-operate with you in such Legislative measures as may best subserve the Public interests.

" Upwards of five years have elapsed since the Union of the Provinces; and while many of the benefits which it was hoped would result from such Union have been abundantly realized, it is clear that some of the provisions of the 'British North America Act,' which were necessarily of an experimental character, have been found to operate adversely to the interests of this Province.

" Shortly after the Union, it was deemed expedient by the Dominion Government to open the settlement under the Union Act to satisfy the demands of an adjoining Province; and it is obvious that the financial principles upon which the original compact was based have proved insufficient in their application to the younger Provinces, in order to secure their admission to the Dominion.

" It was in the interests of the Dominion generally, to allay discontent, to insure harmony, and to consolidate the power of British North America, that the People of this Province heretofore submitted to the sacrifice which such a course imposed.

" The experience of the past five years has proved, what no political sagacity could have foreseen, that this Province, while occupying financially a position of inferiority, has borne and is now bearing, in proportion to its population, the greatest share of the Public burdens of Canada—its rate *per capita* of taxation for Dominion purposes being greater than in any other Province of Canada; while on the other hand, the public property transferred by this Province to the Dominion, has been found more directly remunerative than that contributed by any other Province.

" Under the working of the Union, it has become apparent that the Provinces of United Canada, which prior to the Confederation were by no means clear of financial embarrassment, have in their separate Provincial condition under the Act of Union, come into possession of resources producing a large annual surplus—in one instance actually embarrassing from its large amount,—while this Province, which, prior to Confederation, was possessed of a Revenue in every respect equal to its local requirements, is now in a condition of comparative financial depletion.

" I have again brought this vitally important matter to the attention of the Dominion Government, to whom further communication on the subject has been addressed; a copy whereof will be laid before you.

" While I deeply regret that it is not in my power to inform you that the reasonable expectations which I expressed at the opening of the last Session have been realized, I still believe that the Dominion Government, after due consideration, will be well disposed to render us full justice; and we may reasonably assure ourselves that the Representatives of this Province, in the