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By Authority.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,

FREDERICTON, 18th FEBRUARY, 1875.

THIS being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at three o'clock His Honor 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 Honor 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 period of the year has now arrived when it has been usual to summon you for the performance of your Legislative duties. I have much satisfaction in again meeting you, and recurring to you for your advice and assistance.

“ I am happy to be able to congratulate you on the condition of the Province.

“ The Harvest of the past Season was, by the blessing of Providence, most abundant, and considering the Commercial depression that has existed throughout a considerable portion of our Continent during the past year, the state of our Trade and Commerce may, as a whole, be considered satisfactory.

“ The appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, involving the question of the constitutionality of the Common Schools Acts, was heard and determined in July last, and a decision rendered affirming the constitutionality of those Acts.

“ During the past year the unsettled claims of the Province upon the Dominion have been again brought to the attention of the Privy Council at Ottawa by a Delegation appointed by me for that purpose, and I have every reason to believe that just consideration will be given to them, and a final settlement had at an early day.

“ In compliance with a request from the Dominion Government, I appointed a Delegate to proceed to Ottawa to attend a Conference of Delegates from the various Provinces on the subject of Immigration. The arrangements made, with the subsequent action of my Government thereon will be submitted to you, and I trust that the united action of the several Provinces of the Dominion in furtherance of this object, will greatly conduce to the increased settlement of the country.

“ The operation of the Free Grants Act has so far fully justified the very liberal provisions thereby made for actual settlers.

“ The Agricultural interests of the Province are of paramount importance, and it is highly desirable that the management of the annual Grants made to foster and encourage this productive industry should be rendered as efficient as possible; with that object, a measure will be submitted for your consideration.