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FREDERICTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1877.

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By Authority.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,

FREDERICTON, FEBRUARY 8, 1877.

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,

" It is with great satisfaction I again meet you in General Assembly, that I may have your valuable assistance in the preparation and passage of such Measures as may be deemed necessary for the public interest.

" It has pleased Divine Providence to bless our Province with an abundant Harvest during the past year. The blessing thus granted has counteracted, to a very considerable extent, the unhappy consequences that must otherwise have resulted from the continued depression in our Trade and Commerce, and demands our grateful acknowledgment.

" During the course of the Summer, I visited various localities in the Province, where I had not previously been since my appointment as Lieutenant Governor. Everywhere I found a loyal, and to all appearance, a prosperous Population; and from whom I received, as the Representative of their Sovereign, a cordial and hearty welcome.

" In accordance with a Resolution passed by the House of Assembly during the last Session of the Legislature, I sent a Delegation from my Government to Ottawa, to confer with the Dominion Government respecting the continuance to the Province of the Special Subsidy of Sixty Three Thousand Dollars per annum; and the settlement of the equitable liabilities of the Dominion to the Province upon unadjusted claims was likewise urged by the same Delegation. I trust that the just expectations of New Brunswick in regard to these demands may be realized at an early day.

" Acting under another Resolution of the House of Assembly, I made application to the Privy Council of the Dominion with the view of obtaining the opinion of the Judges of the Supreme Court with regard to the powers of the Legislature of this Province in the withholding of Licenses to sell Spirituous Liquors. The correspondence upon this subject will be laid before you.

" As Provincial Exhibitions are calculated to inspire confidence in our Agricultural resources, and stimulate the various Manufactures and Industries of the Province, I would invite your attention to the desirability of holding such an Exhibition during the current year.

" The Municipal Incorporations already established in some of the Counties having been found to work satisfactorily, and largely to conduce to more efficient administration of local affairs, I would ask you to consider whether the system might not with advantage be extended to other Counties of the Province.