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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, August 28, 1877.

THIS being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at half-past two 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,

"I regret the circumstances which have rendered it necessary to summon you so soon to the resumption of Legislative duties.

"By the disastrous fire which occurred in the City of Saint John on the twentieth of June, the larger and more important part of the City was in a few hours laid in ashes, a number of lives lost, millions of property destroyed, and about thirteen thousand people deprived of their homes.

"To the sad sufferers by bereavement and in property; to those whose homes have been broken up, and whose means of living has been impaired; to all who in mind, body or estate have been affected by this calamity, I would, on my own and your behalf, tender my warmest sympathy.

"I avail myself of this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude, in which I know you will join, to the inhabitants of other Provinces of the Dominion, to our fellow countrymen in the United Kingdom, and to the citizens of the United States, for their prompt and generous aid in our distress; and we would render thanks to Him who has made of one flesh all the Nations of the Earth, that he has put it into the hearts of His people to succour those who are in want.

"I have also to regret that during the present Summer the flourishing Towns of Woodstock and Saint Stephen have likewise suffered severely from the same cause.

"The Corporation of the City of Saint John having determined upon seeking further powers to deal with the present emergency, Bills will be laid before you to amend the law for the better prevention of conflagrations in the City of Saint John; to regulate the construction of buildings, and to provide for the due inspection thereof; to provide for rebuilding and replacing public property destroyed by the fire; to widen and extend certain public streets; to authorize the Board of Assessors of Taxes to grant relief in cases where taxable property has been destroyed, and to provide for deficiency in assessments; and to regulate the storage of petroleum and other inflammable articles within the limits of the City and the Town of Portland.

"Great as the calamity has been, I nevertheless have faith in the future of the afflicted City. Its inhabitants are of the most enterprising of the Dominion; evidence of this is shewn by the extensive preparations already made for its reconstruction; and I am convinced that at no distant day it will be rebuilt of less destructive material, presenting a more imposing appearance, its trade and commerce in no way impaired, and its people chastened by their misfortunes, and strengthened by the exhibition of Christian charity which these misfortunes have called forth.

"The circumstances to which I have referred seemed to render it desirable that the Provincial Exhibition of Agriculture and Manufactures, which had been arranged to be held in Fredericton in the month of October, should be deferred for another year.

"I now leave you to the discharge of your Legislative duties, having the fullest confidence in your desire to promote the public good."