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Official Notifications appearing in this Paper, duly authenticated, are to be received as such by all whom they may concern.

By Authority.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,

FREDERICTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1881.

THIS being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at three o'clock His Honor The Honorable ROBERT DUNCAN WILMOT, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of New Brunswick, 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 have convened you at this time for the consideration of the affairs of the Province, with full confidence that your labors will be resumed with a spirit devoted to the public welfare.

" You will join me in the expression of gratitude to Almighty God for the many blessings bestowed on the people of this Province during the past year. The Harvest of the season has been abundant; and, although our Trade and Manufactures have exhibited to some degree the effects of the depression to which the Commerce of the World has been more or less subjected during the same period, I have reason to believe they have received no permanent check, and that the progress of the Province in general prosperity has again commenced, and will now be relieved from those retarding influences which have been for some time so seriously felt.

" You will be gratified to learn that the Act passed by you during the last Session, relating to Agriculture, has proved highly acceptable to the Farming Interest of the Province, and that the Board established under that Act has entered upon its responsible labors under very favorable circumstances, and possessing the generous confidence of the Agriculturists of the Province.

" During the past year, the Province was favored in the visit of the English Agricultural Delegates. My Government felt it a duty to extend to them all assistance possible in furtherance of the object of their mission, and to enable them to become personally acquainted with many of our rich Farming Districts. I am happy to say, the effort in this behalf was cordially and promptly supported wherever the Delegates went, and by all classes of the people. I regret the limited time at the disposal of the Delegates rendered it impossible for them to accept the invitation of my Government, and of the local Authorities, to visit other sections of the Province. You will be glad to know that very favorable impressions of the Province were formed by the Delegates, which I think will not fail to lead in many respects to very beneficial results.

" The Exhibition of 1880 will be long remembered as one of the most successful hitherto held in this Province. The fine Agricultural, Horticultural and Stock Exhibits evidenced the great and increasing care, industry, and intelligence of our Farmers and Stock Raisers; while the remarkable displays of Mechanical and Manufacturing products were the subjects of unanimous and unqualified admiration, and were eminently fitted to inspire our people with the fullest confidence in the future of our Mechanics and Manufacturers. All other Departments of the Exhibition were also characterized by great excellence.

" I view with great pleasure the increasing interest manifested in the Export Trade of Cattle and Sheep to the Markets of Great Britain, and I am sure you will be pleased if a cheaper and more expeditious mode of transportation than exists at present shall be established by a Line of Steamers from this Province to a Port in Great Britain, which seems indispensable to the permanency and success of the Trade. It will be a matter of congratulation