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By Authority.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,

FREDERICTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1883.

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,

" It is with pleasure that I again meet you, the Legislature of New Brunswick, convened for the dispatch of business.

" I am gratified with the favorable circumstances under which you now assemble, and congratulate you on the incseasing prosperity of the Province. Again the industry of our farming population has been blessed with reasonable reward, and the success of our people engaged in other pursuits appears to have been generally satisfactory. These blessings call for devout thanks to the Giver of all good.

" You will be asked to make suitable provisions for the holding of a Provincial Exhibition, during the present year, in the City of Saint John. Negotiations have taken place and arrangements made with a view of giving the Exhibition the additional character of a Dominion Exposition, and of affording an opportunity to our people to suitably celebrate the centennial anniversary of the landing in the Province of the Loyalists.

" I am glad to inform you that the provisions of the Act passed during the last Session of the Legislature in aid of the construction of Railways in the Province, are being taken advantage of, and some of the Lines thereby subsidized are now being constructed, while others are undergoing surveys and explorations.

" You will be pleased to learn that the "Stock Farm" is meeting with reasonable success, and that the Sales in October last were very satisfactory.

" The importance of having more thorough and minute information relative to the resources and capabilities of our Province, for intending Settlers, has for some time engaged the attention of my Government. Arrangements have been made to procure the publication and dissemination of such information.

" A Delegation of my Government lately proceeded to Ottawa to urge upon the Ministry the final settlement of what is known as the Eastern Extension claim. I deeply regret that the justice of this claim has not met with more speedy recognition. The Delegates urged for a prompt and definite answer, and I have reason to believe that a final reply will be given in the early days of this Session, which reply will be communicated to you when received.

" The unsatisfactory state of our Gaols, and more especially that of the City and County of Saint John, under the present mode of carrying into execution the sentences for imprisonment under two years, has been repeatedly under consideration. The Government fully appreciate the great necessity of having the existing evils arising out of the overcrowded condition of the Gaols, remedied without delay, but have nevertheless been reluctant to assume any responsibility which they believe under the laws does not devolve upon them. It has been their desire that the true interpretation of the "British North America Act," fixing the responsibility for the maintaining of Prisoners sentenced to imprisonment under two years under the Criminal Laws of Canada should be determined by the Supreme Court