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[Page 73

By Authority.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,

FREDERICTON, THURSDAY, February 28, 1884.

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 affords me pleasure to meet you on again assembling for the discharge of your Legislative duties.

“ The past year has witnessed the departure from Canada, to the very general regret of all classes, of our late esteemed Governor General, the Marquis of Lorne. In the appointment by Her Majesty of a gentleman of the distinguished reputation and high qualities of the Marquis of Lansdowne as his successor, I think we have a guarantee that the office will be filled worthily and to the advantage of the Dominion.

“ While the period since you were last convened has been a fairly prosperous one as respects many of the pursuits in which our people are engaged, I regret it has not been marked by any considerable prosperity in the great lumber business of the Province. It is to be earnestly hoped that an industry which affords employment to so much of the capital and labor of the country, and upon the healthy condition of which so large a portion of our Provincial Revenue depends, may speedily recover from its depression.

“ It is a source of very great satisfaction to me to be able to congratulate you upon the signal success which attended the Dominion and Centennial Exhibition. It was a fitting memorial in many respects of the growth and development of the Province in the first century of its history; and in entering upon a second Centennial period, it may be felt with confidence that the evidences of substantial progress in the past which were apparent at Saint John in October last, will not be without a stimulating effect in the future, upon the energy and patriotism of our people.

“ The attention of my Government has been called to the proposed International Forestry Exhibition to be holden in Edinburgh during the present year, and intended to be illustrative of the Forest products of the World. I have deemed the occasion a fitting one on which to make more widely known the variety and extent of the Forest resources of this Province; and while public attention is being thus attracted to New Brunswick through the medium of a display of its forest wealth, I have thought it expedient to seize the opportunity to disseminate information as to our splendid agricultural capabilities, in the hope of attracting hither, if possible, some share of the tide of emigration which is constantly flowing from the old world. I am sure the moderate proposals I shall make to you with a view of promoting these objects, will receive the consideration they merit.

“ The possibility of a permanent and substantial falling off at an early day, in at least one of the chief sources of our Provincial Revenue, of which indications are not wanting at the present moment; and the necessity of maintaining the equilibrium between income and expenditure, will impel my Government to ask your assent to certain measures of an economical character. I am confident I can rely upon your ready acquiescence in any thing tending to restrict the expenses incident to Government within the limits dictated by prudence and the needs of the Public Service.