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By Authority.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,

FREDERICTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY, 25, 1886.

THIS being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at three o'clock His Honor the Honorable SIR SAMUEL LEONARD TILLEY, C.B., K.C.M.G., 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 very sincere pleasure to again meet you as Lieutenant Governor, and to convene you for the discharge of your important Legislative functions.

" The interest which ordinarily attaches to the assembling of the Legislature will, on the present occasion, be much enhanced by recalling the fact that we are at this moment entering upon the second century of our Provincial Legislative history. It is worthy of recollection that one hundred years ago in January last, the first Session of the first Legislature of New Brunswick was convened.

" When my predecessor prorogued you in April last, the Dominion was threatened with a serious insurrection among a portion of its population in the North Western Territories, which unhappily resulted in the loss of much valuable life and property before it was entirely subdued. While sincerely deploring the occasion which called for the employment of the Military forces of Canada against a section of our own people, we have reason to be proud of the readiness with which our young men from all parts of the Dominion responded to the call into active service, and the steadiness and bravery displayed by them in action.

" In consequence of the neighbouring Province of Quebec being visited by a severe epidemic of Smallpox, my Government deemed it necessary to take prompt measures against the spread of the disease to this Province. Acting in concert with the Government of Nova Scotia and the State Board of Health of the State of Maine, Medical Officers, invested with such powers as existing Laws permitted, were placed on the Quebec boundary to vaccinate passengers and disinfect luggage coming from infected districts into New Brunswick. These precautionary steps were attended with such success that in but few localities in the Province did the disease appear, and in none of them I am happy to say did it assume very serious proportions. The experience acquired in being called upon thus suddenly to cope with a grave peril to the public health, has suggested to my Government the necessity of revising the laws relating to that subject, and a comprehensive measure has been prepared and will be submitted to you, placing these laws upon a more efficient basis. A statement of the expenses in suppressing the disease where it actually broke out and in preventing its spread over the Province will be laid before you, and I shall ask you to make provision for their payment.

" I am pleased to be able to congratulate you upon the character of the crops generally throughout the Province, and the fair measure of prosperity enjoyed by those who devote themselves with intelligence and industry to Agricultural pursuits. Should the farmers of the Province obtain access to the markets of the neighbouring States as the result of the proposals now under consideration by Congress in that country, we may anticipate, judging from the experience of the past, that such an arrangement will be found mutually advantageous to the people of both countries.