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By Authority.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,

FREDERICTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1889.

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,

" I have much pleasure in convening you for the third Session of the present term of the General Assembly, having the fullest confidence that your Parliamentary labours will be resumed in a spirit which will attest your zeal for the public interest.

" I am happy to be able to congratulate you upon the fairly prosperous condition of the business of the country generally. Although there was a partial failure of crops last season in some localities, yet the increase in the earnings of vessel property of all kinds, the enhanced value of our wood products, and the remunerative returns of our coast fisheries, have created a feeling of general hopefulness and contentment among our people.

" The important Act relating to Agriculture passed at your last Session has been brought into operation, and from the ready acceptance which its provisions have met with in many Sections of the Province, I am encouraged to anticipate from its working very beneficial results.

" Availing myself of your generous appropriation for that purpose, I authorized a considerable importation of pure bred Fillies and Sheep from the mother country, which were disposed of for breeding purposes, at public auction shortly after their arrival in the Province. The very great interest taken in the sale, and the prices realized, confirmed the expectations I had formed that the enterprise would meet with general approval.

" Bills consolidating and amending the Law relating to Elections to the General Assembly, and to extend the Electoral Franchise, will be submitted for your consideration.

" The Commissioners of the Public Hospital, Saint John, are urging upon my Government that legislation in some form should be promoted which will, to a greater extent than now obtains, relieve the Institution from charges in respect of patients sent from other Counties. I shall ask your attention to this important subject.

" My Government is becoming yearly more impressed with the conviction that a prudent policy respecting the protection of our Timber Lands from ravages by fire, requires that the same precautions be taken in this Province as have been deemed expedient elsewhere. I shall lay before you some suggestions upon the subject, to which I invite your careful consideration.

" I regret to have to inform you that the recent Act providing for the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages has not as yet proved successful in its operation, and you will be asked to consider whether additional provisions should not be made to secure the important and desirable results contemplated by this enactment.