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By Authority.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,

FREDERICTON, THURSDAY, March 13, 1890.

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 meeting you in Legislature convened for the despatch of public business.

" It affords me great satisfaction to be able to congratulate you upon the continued prosperous condition of business generally throughout the Province. The leading pursuits in which our people are engaged, I am happy to say, have been carried on profitably during the past year, and even in the great Lumber industry, notwithstanding prices have again declined in Europe, there has been, during the present season, more than usual activity in lumbering operations.

" I have some reason to hope that His Excellency the Governor General will be able to make a visit to the Maritime Provinces during the present year, and thereby become personally acquainted with this important portion of the Dominion. Should my expectations in this regard be realized, I am well assured that, as the representative of our Gracious Sovereign, as well as on account of His Excellency's many estimable personal qualities, he will receive a loyal and hearty welcome from the people of the Province.

" The subject of the rate of Stumpage imposed on the Licensees of the Crown operating on its Lumber Lands has been much discussed between my Government and the Licensees, and frequent attempts have been made by negotiation during the past year to arrive at an understanding which would afford some relief to this important industry, and at the same time would not necessitate a reduction in the usual grants for necessary public services. You will be fully informed of the nature of these negotiations, and I shall ask you to consider the propriety of appointing a Special Commission to investigate and report upon the whole question of Stumpage dues upon the Timber Lands of the Crown.

" I regret to have to inform you that during the recess the controversy over the right of property of the Provincial Government in the Fisheries in non-navigable waters upon ungranted Crown Lands has been re-opened by the General Government. Communications between my Government and that of the Dominion have taken place upon this subject, and I have given directions that the same shall be laid before you.

" The claim of the Province upon the Liquidators of the Maritime Bank to be paid in preference to other simple contract creditors, by virtue of the Prerogative of the Crown, has been decided by the Supreme Court of Canada substantially in accordance with the contention of my Government, and, unless the case is carried by the Bank on appeal to the Privy Council, I have reason to believe the claim will be paid at an early day.