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FREDERICTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1903.

[PAGE 111]

By Authority.

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER.

FREDERICTON, THURSDAY, March 26, 1903.

THIS being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at three o'clock His Honor The Honorable JABEZ BUNTING SNOWBALL, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick, came to the Assembly Chamber, and being seated on the Throne, was pleased to open the Session with the following

SPEECH:

It affords me much pleasure to welcome you on again assembling for the discharge of your legislative duties since the recent General Elections, and to extend a hearty greeting to those of you who are for the first time assuming the important functions of legislators.

The prosperity of the Province and the Dominion generally for the past year is most gratifying, and we have good reason for thanksgiving for the many blessings which our people are enjoying.

The successful progress in Agriculture which has been made in all sections bears striking testimony to the wisdom of the liberal expenditures which the Legislature has from time to time authorized for the encouragement of this most important industry; while the mineral development which is taking place justifies the hope that before very long a considerable revenue will be derived from this source, while the general prosperity will be greatly promoted thereby.

The ceremonies connected with the Coronation of our beloved Sovereign created the deepest interest throughout the Empire. The illness of His Majesty, which prevented its taking place at the time appointed, evoked expressions of profound sympathy, not only among his own subjects, but throughout the civilized world, and the people of New Brunswick shared to the fullest extent in the grief which was caused by his illness, and in the universal rejoicing over his full restoration to health.

During the recess my Government has been unremitting in its efforts to arrive at a settlement of the questions connected with the fisheries which are pending between the Provincial and Dominion Governments. I regret to say that these important matters have not yet been brought to a conclusion, but I have reason to hope that before very long a solution will be arrived at which will be satisfactory to the Province.

My Government has also pressed the claim of the Province to receive a fair proportion of the Halifax Award, which was paid by the United States for the privilege of participating in the fisheries along our coasts, being of the opinion that under the recent Decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the proprietary rights and privileges in respect to which compensation was paid by the United States were vested in the Crown in right of the Provinces. My Advisers have, therefore, jointly with the Governments of Quebec and Prince Edward Island, asked the Dominion Government to agree to the statement of a Case to be submitted to the Supreme Court, in order to determine the right of the Province to its proportion of the Award, with interest. While the terms of the Reference have not yet been agreed upon, I am hopeful that ere long a Case will be