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By Authority.

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER,

FREDERICTON, THURSDAY, February 8, 1906.

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:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

I have thought it well to summon you for the despatch of business at an earlier and I trust a more convenient season than has been customary during the past few years. I again welcome you to the discharge of your Parliamentary duties, which I am sure you will perform with a single eye to the public welfare.

Since I took my leave of you at the close of the last Session, this Province has been honoured by the presence of His Serene Highness, Prince Louis of Battenburg, who received a most sincere welcome, which was accorded him not more by reason of his alliance with the Royal family, to whom the people of New Brunswick deem it a privilege to do honour, than by reason of his own personal merits and the high position which he has attained in the service of the Empire. The reception accorded to His Serene Highness was, I have reason to believe, most gratifying to our distinguished visitor, and I am sure that he and his party carried away with them the hearty good will of all who had the pleasure of meeting them during their brief sojourn in New Brunswick.

Canada has recently been called upon to mourn the loss of one of her most distinguished statesmen, the Honourable Raymond Prefontaine. The great honour paid to his memory both by the Government of France, in whose capital his death occurred, and by the British Government deeply touched the hearts of the people of this Province and of the whole Dominion.

The encouragement which the Legislature has given to the improvement of dairying, has continued to produce good results, and although the development of this important interest in some sections of the Province has not been as rapid as might not unreasonably have been hoped for, yet it has been such as to strengthen the belief that this Province is exceptionally well adapted for this branch of agriculture, and the Government will, with your approval, continue its policy in this respect, in the confident hope that New Brunswick will before many years attain to the front rank as a producer and exporter of dairy products.