



ROYAL GAZETTE EXTRA.

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By Authority.

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER,

FREDERICTON, THURSDAY, February 13, 1896.

THIS being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at three o'clock His Honor the Honorable JOHN JAMES FRASER, 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:

It is my pleasing duty to welcome you upon assembling in session as a new Parliament, and to extend my cordial greetings to those of you who for the first time are entering upon your responsible functions as legislators.

Owing to a recent Act readjusting the representation in the Assembly, I am happy to be now enabled to meet a Legislature more truly representative of the various sections of the Province than any which has hitherto assembled.

It is a matter of sincere congratulation to the people of this Province, and of the Dominion at large, that the year just closed has been a period of contentment and average prosperity. For the favorable conditions under which we live, the blessings of continued peace and exemption from the ills under which so many other countries have suffered, we have reason to be devoutly thankful to the Giver of all good things.

You have learned with sorrow of the sad bereavement which has lately cast its shadow over the Royal household. The death of Prince Henry of Battenberg, while in the active military service of his adopted country, has, I am well assured, elicited from all hearts profound sympathy for the widowed Princess and our beloved Queen.

The threatened disturbance of the friendly relations which have existed without any serious breach, during living memory, between the governments of Great Britain and the United States, is to us a matter of profound concern. In common with Canadians of all classes and parties, I sincerely trust that this menace to civilization and the world's progress may be averted, and that we may ever remain upon terms of amity with our kinsmen and neighbors of the great republic. If, unhappily, trouble should arise, I believe there is no portion of the Empire which would more heartily and loyally than this Province maintain and defend connection with the Mother land.