



ROYAL GAZETTE EXTRA.

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By Authority.

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER.

FREDERICTON, THURSDAY, February 4, 1897.

THIS being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at half-past two o'clock His Honor the Honorable ABNER REID McCLELAN, 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 affords me very great pleasure to meet you in Parliament assembled for the discharge of your important Legislative duties for the first time since I have entered upon the trust reposed in me as the Representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty in this Province.

The lamented death of my immediate predecessor in a foreign land whither he had gone seeking the restoration of his health, was deeply felt by the whole people of his native Province, to whose interests he had devoted so much of his life, and I am confident you will join with me in paying a just tribute of respect to his memory.

I am happy to be able to congratulate you upon the fairly prosperous condition of the business of the Province. Providence has given to our Farmers average crops, and wherever farming has been pursued upon correct principles, results have been satisfactory. I am happy to be able to assure you that throughout the Province generally there is a gradual improvement of methods in Agriculture, and I trust the day is not far distant when our Farmers will take their proper position among their brother-workers in the different Provinces of the Dominion. The rapid development of the Dairy Industry in the Province within the past few years, and the many recent changes and improvements in Agricultural methods with which it is of the utmost importance that our Farmers should keep fully abreast in order to hold their proper position in the Dominion, has led my Government to consider carefully the state of the Laws with regard to Agriculture with a view to bringing them up more fully to the requirements of the times. Measures will be submitted for your consideration which it is hoped will still further stimulate this most important industry.

Our lumbermen, who compose so large a class of our population, have also had a prosperous year, and are looking to the future more hopefully than for some time past. The policy of my Government in conserving as far as possible the forest lands of the Province has had an excellent effect upon the lumber business, and this will be felt more and more as years elapse and our timber lands become more valuable.

The Reign of our Most Gracious Sovereign, Queen Victoria, has exceeded in length that of any of her predecessors who have occupied the throne of England, or of Great Britain and Ireland. Her Reign represents an era in the history of the Empire marked by great development in arts and manufactures, in political liberty, in the improved moral and social condition of the whole people, in Christian benevolence, and in the vast extension of the Empire and its increase in material wealth and power. In connection with these is the power for good which has always marked the public and private life of