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By Authority.

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER.

FREDERICTON, THURSDAY, February 15, 1900.

THIS being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at three 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:

M. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

In welcoming you to the discharge of your Legislative duties, I am pleased to be able to congratulate you upon the year of progress and advancement which we have enjoyed since you last met. The satisfactory results which have attended the labors of our people engaged in all branches of industry, and the expansion of trade, unprecedented in the history of our country, afford ground for profound thankfulness and give confidence that the causes which have contributed to this period of prosperity are solidly based.

The unhappy circumstance of the conflict in which our Empire is engaged in South Africa, while deeply deplored by all, has demonstrated in a manner most marked and significant the essential unity of the Empire and the fervent loyalty of the entire citizenship of Canada. In the eagerness displayed by our young men volunteering for active service and in the disappointment of those compelled to remain at home can be read the strongest and most complete proofs of the ever-growing and deepening attachment of Canada to the Motherland and the awakening of our people to the fullest and highest appreciation of the duties of enlarged patriotism and of their unselfish devotion thereto. While the Provincial Legislatures are excluded from any jurisdiction or authority over the marshalling and management of our soldiery, yet the presence amongst us of those who are bearing the burden of anxiety incident to the presence of loved relatives in the face of the enemy makes it incumbent upon us to see that such burden is not aggravated by the financial loss occasioned them by the absence of our Provincial volunteers, and to that end you will be asked to concur in a grant in aid of the Provincial fund which the liberality and loyalty of our citizens have already raised, and your assent will also be asked to a measure legalizing the grants made by municipal bodies towards that laudable and patriotic object.

The subject of technical education, involving instruction in agriculture, horticulture, mining and the mechanical arts, has during the recess engaged the attention of my Government. The desirability of a school with