

DEBATES OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, OF THE PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

J. MARCH,
T. P. DIXON, } REPORTERS.

Second Session of 1866.

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PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FREDERICTON, JUNE 21st, 1866.

This being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at 9 A. M. the clerk called the House together and announced that His Excellency having dissolved the late House, and warrants having been issued for a new election, the following members had been returned as representatives of the people in the House of Assembly, viz:—

For ALBERT COUNTY—Messrs. A. R. McClellan and J. Lewis.

CARLETON COUNTY—Messrs. C. Connell, and W. Lindsay.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY—Messrs. J. McAdam, J. G. Stevens, J. Chandler, and F. Hibbard.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY—Messrs. R. Young, and J. Meahan.

KING'S COUNTY—Messrs. W. P. Flewelling, John Flewelling, and G. Ryan.

KENT COUNTY—Messrs. W. S. Caie, and Owen McInerney.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY—Messrs. J. M. Johnson, Edward Williston, George Kerr, and R. Sutton.

QUEEN'S COUNTY—Messrs. J. Ferris, and R. T. Babbitt.

RESTIGOUCHE COUNTY—Messrs. J. McMillan, and A. C. DesBrisay.

SAINT JOHN COUNTY—Messrs. C. Skinner, J. H. Gray, J. Quinton, and R. D. Wilmet.

SAINT JOHN CITY—Messrs. S. L. Tilley, and A. R. Wetmore.

SUNBURY COUNTY—Messrs. W. E. Perley, and J. Glasier.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY—Messrs. A. J. Smith, E. Botsford, A. McQueen, and A. Landry.

VICTORIA COUNTY—Messrs. B. Beveridge, and Vital Herbert.

YORK COUNTY—Messrs. H. Dow, C. Fisher, J. A. Beckwith, and A. Thompson.

Under a Commission appointed by His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, the oaths were administered to those members present by His Honor Mr. Justice Wilmet.

At 10 o'clock His Excellency having come down to the Legislative Council Chamber commanded the attendance of the House of Assembly, when he stated that he was not pleased to tell them why

they had been called together until they had elected a Speaker. Having done this he would meet them again at 4 o'clock.

The House then returned to the Lower Chamber, when on motion of the Hon. S. L. Tilley they separated till 12 o'clock, then to meet and appoint a Speaker.

At 12 o'clock the House again met and on nomination of the Hon. J. M. Johnson seconded by Mr. Ferris, the Hon. J. H. Gray was chosen to fill the Speaker's chair by acclamation.

At 4 o'clock P. M. His Excellency being seated on the throne in the Legislative Council Chamber, and having commanded the attendance of the House of Assembly, opened the Session with the following

SPEECH:

"Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

"Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

"The Address of the Legislative Council to Her Majesty the Queen, on the subject of the Union of the British North American Provinces, agreed to during the late Session, was duly transmitted by me to England to be laid at the Foot of the Throne, and I am commanded to inform you that Her Majesty has been pleased to receive the same very graciously.

"The adoption and the reception by me for transmission to Her Majesty of this Address, led to events which rendered it in my opinion expedient to dissolve the then existing General Assembly. I have now much satisfaction in resorting to your assistance and co-operation at the earliest possible moment; although I regret that it should be necessary to call you together at a period of the year which must, I fear, render your assembling a matter of much personal inconvenience to some of you.

"Her Majesty's Government have already expressed their strong and deliberate opinion, that the union of the British North American Provinces under one Government is an object much to be desired. The Legislatures of Canada and of Nova Scotia have formed the same judgment; and you will now shortly be invited to express your concurrence with or dissent from the view taken of this great question by those Provinces.

"You will have learnt with satisfaction that the mad attempt of a band of Fenian conspirators to invade the neighboring Province of Canada has met with signal and merited failure. You will have rejoiced to perceive that the people of the British American Provinces are in every quarter alike firmly resolved to resist and to repel any attack on Her Majesty's authority and dominion; and you will, I am confident, deeply lament the loss of those

brave men who have fallen in the discharge of that sacred duty.

"Information having reached me, which left no room for doubt, that an invasion of this Province by a considerable band of armed and well-organized marauders was seriously contemplated, I lost no time in taking such measures, in conjunction with Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope and Major General Doyle, as appeared to me necessary to meet the emergency. These measures, I rejoice to say, were perfectly successful, and the contemplated attack, which was at one time imminent, was abandoned as an hopeless enterprise.

"You will, I doubt not, concur with me in the expression of gratitude for the promptitude with which the aid of Her Majesty's Naval and Military Forces was rendered on that occasion, and the magnitude of the scale on which it was afforded. Whilst, however, all immediate danger of an attack on the Frontier of New Brunswick appears to have been terminated, it is requisite that a strict vigilance should still be exercised with regard to those who may endeavour to revive such projects, or seek to excite dissatisfaction within the Province. It will be for you to consider whether, under such circumstances, precautions similar to those which have been adopted by the Imperial Parliament and by that of Canada should for a limited period receive your sanction.

"It appeared to me expedient, while the Frontier was menaced with invasion, to call into active service a considerable force of the Provincial Militia. I have to express my entire satisfaction with their conduct whilst under arms, and I rejoice to be enabled to believe that the efforts which, for the last five years, I have unregimentally made to effect improvements in the condition and efficiency of that Force have not proved wholly useless.

"It will be for you to consider whether the termination of the provisions of the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States of America, will render necessary any considerable alteration or modification of the Revenue Laws of this Province.

"I trust that an arrangement may ere long be again concluded which will secure, both to the United States and the British Provinces, the mutual benefits which are likely to ensue from free commercial intercourse between the two countries on a just and satisfactory basis.

"Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

"The employment for a considerable period of an armed force upon the frontier has rendered necessary an unusual expenditure for military service; but I am happy to be able to inform you, that there is every prospect that the expenditure of the year will, notwithstanding this unlooked for outlay, be covered by the Revenue received.

"The Accounts of the past and Estimates of the Expenditure for the current year will immediately be laid before you.