

FRIDAY, 7th APRIL, 1865.

House meets. The House met pursuant to adjournment.

PRESENT :

The Hon'ble. LAURENCE O'BRIEN, *President*,

Members present.

Honorables MESSRS. MORRIS,

STABB,

PINSENT,

KENT,

TESSIER,

CLIFT,

FRASER,

O'DWYER.

Minutes read. The Minutes of Thursday last were read.

His Excellency arrives at the Council Chamber.

At 2 of the Clock, P. M., His Excellency the Governor, having arrived at the Council Chamber, and being seated on the Throne, the Hon. the President of the Council directed the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the Commons House of Assembly, and acquaint the Speaker and Members thereof that it is His Excellency's will and pleasure that they do forthwith attend at the Bar of this House; and they being come thereto, His Excellency was pleased to give his assent to the following Bills:—

Bills assented to,

An Act to indemnify His Excellency the Governor of Newfoundland, for certain sums of Money advanced by him from the Colonial Treasury for the Service of the Colony.

An Act to make provision for Wives and Children deserted by their Husbands and Parents, and for Aged Persons deserted by their Children.

An Act to provide for the retirement of the present Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland.

An Act for granting to Her Majesty a sum of Money for defraying the expense of the Civil Government of this Colony, for the year ending the 31st day of December, 1865, and for other purposes.

An Act to regulate the Inland Posts of this Colony.

Bills assented
to, (continued.)

An Act to regulate the Office and Duties of Coroners.

An Act to make provision for the recovery of Penalties becoming due upon the forfeiture of certain Recognizances.

An Act to continue an Act passed in the 27th year of the Reign of Her present Majesty, entitled "An Act for establishing the Standard weight of Grain and Pulse, and to regulate the sale of Bread, Coals, other articles."

An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain Duties on Goods, Wares, and Merchandise, imported into this Colony and its Dependencies.

An Act to enable Courts of Law to give relief against adverse Claims made upon persons having no interest in the subject of such Claims.

An Act to continue an Act passed in the 24th and 25th years of the Reign of Her present Majesty, entitled "An Act to provide for the Organization of a Volunteer Force for the protection of Newfoundland."

An Act to provide for the erection of Bridges across Colinet and Rocky Rivers, on the main line of Road from St. John's to Placentia.

An Act to provide for the Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, in this Colony and its Dependencies.

An Act for the erection of a Light-house in the District of Burgeo and LaPoile, on the coast of this Island.

An Act to continue the Punishment of Banishment in certain cases.

An Act to regulate the making and repairing of Roads, Streets and Bridges, within this Colony.

Bills assented
to, (continued)

An Act to make further provision against the destruction of Sheep and Cattle, and injuries to the Person, by Dogs.

An Act to amend an Act passed in the 27th year of the Reign of Her present Majesty, entitled "An Act to improve and simplify the Practice on the Common Law Side of the Supreme and Central Circuit Courts, and to consolidate the Laws respecting the same."

An Act to Consolidate part of the Floating Debt of the Colony.

An Act for Granting to Her Majesty a sum of Money for the making and repairing of Roads, Streets and Bridges in this Colony."

An Act to provide for the Contingent Expenses of the Legislature.

After which His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following gracious

SPEECH.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Council :

Speech.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honorable House of Assembly :

The period has arrived at which I may with propriety relieve you from further Legislative occupation, and enable you to return to your personal duties and business, which, in their diligent fulfilment, are not less important than your Sessional labor to the general welfare of the community of which you are members.

I have been acquainted with the Resolution passed by the Honorable House of Assembly on the subject of the proposed Confederation of the British North American Colonies, to the effect that for the reasons set forth, the House deems it desirable to submit the question to the consideration of the people before the decision of

the Legislature is taken upon it; and that for this purpose final determination upon this important subject should be deferred until the next meeting of the Legislative bodies.

Speech (continued.)

Under other circumstances I might perhaps have viewed with regret any delay in dealing with a subject on which Her Majesty's Imperial Government have exhibited so warm and generous an interest. But as it is almost certain that some of the other Colonies concerned in the proposed arrangement will not, during the Session of the present year, declare any definite judgment on that arrangement, and its immediate success when put into operation will much depend upon the true spirit and intention of the suggested Confederation being comprehended and appreciated by the people whom it is designed to serve, I am not now disposed to dissent from the view which you have taken of the matter, or the course you have adopted.

Her Majesty's Government would not desire to force any important modification of the local constitution upon the acceptance of the people of the Colony, against temperate and deliberate declaration of unwillingness to receive it; and it is desirable that the community should fully understand the advantages of that to which their assent is sought. But the Nation has a right to expect the Colonies to accept, and does look to them to assume, their legitimate portion of those charges and responsibilities which are the inevitable concomitants of self-government and free political institutions; and Her Majesty's Ministers justly regard with favour a project of Union which will mutually and materially strengthen each for sustaining the burden which must be borne by all.

I observe with much satisfaction the several important and valuable measures which you have adopted during the present Session. In some of them you have built solid foundations for future improvement in different departments of public affairs; and in others you have provided for immediate local re-

Speech (continued)

quirements, such as the proposed Light-House at Burgeo and the Bridges over the Rocky River in Placentia Bay, which are in themselves elements of progress. By the Act for the Registration of Births and Deaths you will have, I hope, established the means of procuring statistical data of which the Colony has hitherto been utterly destitute, respecting the population and their sanitary and social condition, and of which the value will not perhaps be appreciated fully until the knowledge is acquired which can only be obtained from them.

I trust at no distant period the wisdom will be obvious of the amendments which you have made in the previous system with regard to the repair and maintenance of highways, by transferring to the Board of Works the superintendence and control of expenditure on the main postal routes. And by making permanent the legal provisions which are necessary for this branch of the public service, you have left only to be furnished annually the grant of money necessary to carry them out, which may simply form an item in the Bill of Supply.

The amendments and continuance of the Volunteer Organization Act, and the encouragement which you have bestowed upon the establishment of local Protective Forces by the grant on account of Clothing to the existing Corps, will, I have no doubt, effect much towards the development of that patriotic spirit and self-reliant tone of feeling which commands respect for communities. You may depend upon my cordial solicitude, in my office as Commander-in-Chief, to use the powers and the means which you have placed at my disposal for the credit of the Colony, and in the manner best calculated to effect the improvement of the Corps.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honorable House of Assembly :

I readily acknowledge the enlightened liberality

with which you have granted not only the usual amounts for the ordinary public service, but, in accordance with the suggestions contained in my Speech when opening the present Session, have placed grants at the disposal of the Executive authority for the encouragement of the Bank Fisheries, the introduction of the culture of Flax, and for the compilation of the Local Laws. Guided by the counsel of my Constitutional advisers, you may rely upon my sedulous care being bestowed to ensure the judicious application of the funds so entrusted to the local Government.

Speech, (continued)

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Council :

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honorable House of Assembly :

In compliance with an Address which I have received on the subject of the Salmon Fisheries, attention shall be given to enquiry respecting the best mode of proceeding for their protection, with the view of submitting a measure at the next Session of the Legislature, embodying the provisions which may appear necessary.

Although the result of the Seal Fishery is not yet fully known, the success enjoyed by some vessels which have already returned justifies the belief that the community may be congratulated upon at least a fairly profitable season in this branch of our local industry.

The mildness of the Winter and the apparent promise of a fine and early Spring, would seem to encourage hope for an equally successful Cod Fishery ; and on separating now, I trust that I may be permitted to cherish the cheerful anticipation that when I again have the pleasure of meeting the Council and Assembly in Session, it will be under circumstances more propitious than those which ushered in the present year.

House proro-
gued.

The Hon. the President of the Council then said : It is His Excellency the Governor's will and pleasure that this General Assembly be prorogued until Monday, the first day of May next, then and here to be holden ; and this General Assembly stands prorogued accordingly.
