

4399
6

JOURNALS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF THE

PROVINCE OF CANADA.



HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONORABLE SIR EDMUND WALKER HEAD
BARONET, GOVERNOR GENERAL, &c., &c., &c.

BEING THE FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

1858.

VOLUME XVI.

the Consolidated Revenue Fund, to which I humbly invite Your Excellency's assent.

To the said Bill the Clerk of this House, by His Excellency's command, did thereupon say :

"His Excellency the Governor General thanks Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to this Bill in Her Majesty's name."

Then His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to deliver the following Speech :

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council ;
Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly :*

I congratulate you on having closed the business of this lengthened Session, and I am happy to find that the subjects which I recommended to your consideration have received attention at your hands.

The Act abolishing imprisonment for Debt in certain cases, and preventing preferential assignments in *Upper Canada*, will, so far as it goes, tend to assimilate the Laws of the two sections of the Province, and must, I think, be beneficial in its operation.

The Jury Laws, and the Municipal Law of *Upper Canada*, have, in like manner, been dealt with by you, and measures have been adopted for diminishing the cost, and facilitating the administration of Criminal Justice in *Lower Canada*.

In my speech, at the opening of the present Session, I adverted to the expediency of providing for the registration and protection of persons qualified to vote at the election of members of the Legislature. I rejoice to find that a Bill on this important subject has been passed by you.

I trust that the Act relating the Fisheries will succeed in encouraging this branch of industry.

Our steam communication with *Europe* has continued to work successfully, and I have little doubt that you have done well in providing for a regular mail service by steam during the season, to *Gaspé* and the Lower Provinces. The appropriation for establishing a postal line to the *Red River*, will open a continuous mail route, under the control of the Canadian Government, from that settlement to *Nova Scotia*.

Another link in our Railways has been completed by the opening of the *Buffalo* and *Lake Huron* Line. Everything which tends to increase the commerce of the Lakes is, in my opinion, of great importance.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly :

I am glad to find that our Customs' Tariff has undergone your revision, I hope

without undue pressure on the people, it may suffice to maintain the public credit, and may work advantageously for the commerce and productive industry of the country. It is also a source of pleasure to me to find that a measure relaxing, in some degree, the restriction on the interest of money, so much desired by the commercial community, has been favorably considered by you.

I thank you for the supplies which you have granted to Her Majesty, and I assure you that I will not fail to use all due vigilance and economy in the regulation of the several departments, and the administration of the funds entrusted to me.

Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen :

I regret that I cannot speak of the commercial crisis which has pressed on the country as something which has entirely passed away. The recovery from such difficulties must be gradual; but I earnestly pray that the complete restoration of our prosperity may not be long delayed.

I will not fail to forward to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen your address relating to the territory of the *Hudson's Bay* Company, as well as that which solicits Her consideration for the scheme of the Inter-colonial Railway.

I propose, in the course of the recess, to communicate with Her Majesty's Government, and with the Governments of our sister Colonies, on another matter of very great importance. I am desirous of inviting them to discuss with us the principles on which a bond of a federal character uniting the Provinces of British North America may perhaps hereafter be practicable.

I now release you from your labours by proroguing the present Parliament.

Then the Speaker of this House said:—

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :

and

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly :

It is His Excellency the Governor General's will and pleasure that this Provincial Parliament be prorogued until Saturday, the twenty-fifth day of September next, to be here held, and this Provincial Parliament is accordingly prorogued until Saturday, the twenty-fifth day of September next.