

The assumption by the Province of the Post Office Department we trust will be productive of all the convenience and good which were anticipated, and that the falling off in the amount of receipts consequent on a reduction of Postage, will be amply compensated by the increased facilities for correspondence, and the moral and commercial advantages arising therefrom.

We cordially respond to the good feeling expressed by Your Excellency in respect to the advantages that must arise from the extension of the Lines of Electric Telegraph throughout this Province, and hail it as one of the most useful results of private enterprise.

The interruptions to the improvements of the River Saint John during last Summer, by the unusual height of water, is a source of regret, but we trust the present year may prove more favourable for the prosecution of those works.

The Report of the Civil Engineers on the scheme for cutting through Grimross Neck, will receive due consideration when laid before us.

The formation of Fishery Societies, and the steps taken by the Executive in pursuance of the Act of last Session, we are pleased to learn, are likely to prove beneficial to so important a branch of industry.

We are happy to find that the Returns of the Census are in active preparation, and that we are likely to have them during the present Session; we sincerely trust that the result may prove satisfactory.

The improvement of the Revenue during the past year is a source of gratification, and we view it as a proof of the healthy state of the Commercial operations, and general business of the Province.

The flourishing state of the Provincial Finances is also a source of gratification, and we are glad to learn that the Provincial Debt is progressively decreasing.

The expediency of consolidating and amending the Laws for the collection and introduction of the Revenue, will receive attention, and we are glad to find a Bill is to be introduced for that purpose.

We feel with Your Excellency that we have strong reasons to be thankful to a gracious Providence, for the condition of affairs during the past year, and that it is our duty to do all in our power, by legislation or otherwise, in aid of the efforts of the people. It is with no small degree of pride that, while we enjoy true freedom under the British Crown, we remember that this Province is part and parcel of that great Empire which has so nobly stood amid the storms of Europe, and has this year especially, exhibited to the world, the grand and imposing spectacle of peaceful industry, and good fellowship with all mankind.

We are sensibly alive to the necessity, while legislating for the Province at large, of divesting our minds of local feeling, and that individual interest should always be subservient to the public good, and trust that such will be the principles upon which we shall ever discharge our public duties as the Representatives of the People.

WILLIAM CRANE, *Speaker*.

And being returned—

The Honorable Mr. Speaker reported, that His Excellency had been pleased to make the following Reply thereto:—

*“ Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

*“ I must express my satisfaction at the sentiments conveyed in the Address which you have just delivered.*

*“ I thank you for it, and I rely with perfect confidence on the assurance which it affords me of your loyalty and your zeal for the Public Service.”*

Mr. Beardsley, by leave, presented a Petition from Benjamin P. Griffith, of the Parish of Woodstock, in the County of Carleton, praying for a reconsideration of the matters contained