

persons now holding office who will be affected by it are the Ministers who recommend it. A very serious question of principle is no doubt involved in the proposal to depart in any degree from the terms of the arrangement entered into with the Crown by the Provincial Parliament in 1846. Of this, however, the Council evince their sense by the mode in which they submit for the consideration of Her Majesty's Imperial Government a measure affecting the Civil List, which the proceedings adopted last session in Parliament and the temper of the country have in their judgment rendered necessary.

10. It is not my province to anticipate the view which your Lordship may take of the recommendations thus brought under your notice. I am confident that Her Majesty's Government will entertain with reluctance any scheme for disturbing the settlement effected under the present Civil List Act which may seem to them calculated to diminish the guarantee that now exists for the efficiency and integrity of persons called to fill offices of high trust and responsibility in Canada. At the same time I cannot conceal from your Lordship my apprehension that evil may arise if it should be made to appear that a higher scale of salaries than public opinion approves is maintained in the province by the authority of the Crown, or if persons who have factious or disloyal objects in view are enabled, by raising the issue of a simulated conflict of imperial and colonial jurisdiction, to withdraw attention from these plain and patent facts, that the British Government can have no selfish interest in keeping up the emoluments of offices to which it has ceased to nominate; and that security against aggression from without, and the advantage of representation in foreign countries, are enjoyed by the inhabitants of Canada, under the protection of England, in connexion with low taxation and self-government, to an extent which it would be difficult to parallel in the history of any other people.

11. It may be proper, before closing this despatch, that I should say a few words on that portion of the Minute of Council in which reference is made to the Governor-General's salary, and to the discussion which took place on this subject in the Parliamentary Committee. I concur with the Council in thinking that the fixity of this salary is of more importance than its amount. The practice of the United States is confirmatory of this opinion, for the salary attached to the office of President in the year 1789, when the population of the Union was comparatively small, has never since been altered; and it is an article of the Constitution, that it shall suffer neither increase nor diminution during the incumbency of any individual President.

12. The office of Governor-General is held for a limited period, determinable at any moment at the pleasure of the Crown. It confers no claim to pension, or, except accidentally, to further employment. It imposes, moreover, on the recipient a heavy charge for fees and outfit before any title to salary accrues. It is therefore an office which can be prudently assumed only by a person who has the resource of private fortune or military half-pay to fall back upon.

13. The income attaching to it is fixed rather with the view of enabling the holder of the office to perform certain duties which entail expense, than as a reward for service. Any amount of difference of opinion may obviously exist as to the extent to which provision for this description of duty ought to be made. I apprehend, therefore, that if it is to be an open question, the discussions upon it are likely to be interminable. I shall only observe on this head, that the changes which have recently taken place in the system of Government in this colony tend, in my opinion, rather to increase than to diminish the call for it. If the Governor-General adheres faithfully to the principles of Constitutional Government in the direction of public affairs, it becomes all the more necessary that his residence should be open to leading persons of different parties, and that he should be able, by visiting distant parts of the province, and taking a lead in works of public utility and benevolence which are not of a party character, to manifest personal sympathy with all sections of the community.

14. Having said thus much on a topic on which I might have hoped