

thank your Excellency for the gracious Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present Session of the Legislature.

We agree with your Excellency that the successful laying of the Atlantic Telegraph Cables between Europe and America has added another great work to the achievements of modern science. We are mindful of the many advantages which the Colonies must derive from the accomplishment of the enterprise, while we entertain a belief that before long more full and perceptible benefits will be felt and appreciated by those engaged in Commercial undertakings as well as the people generally.

We regret with your Excellency that the circumstances of this Colony for the past year do not afford matter of gratulation; and we ascribe this to the causes adverted to by your Excellency, and which have produced much destitution among the labouring and operative classes. Such a calamity must of necessity be a subject of concern and anxiety to the Government; and we are gratified to find that provision commensurate with the means of the Colony has been made with a view to lessen in some degree this lamentable evil.

The potato blight is not a new visitation, and we concur with your Excellency that those engaged in agricultural pursuits in this country, where other crops may be successfully cultivated, should not rely upon the potato as a staple article of food.

We agree with your Excellency that new enterprizes would afford a remedy for the periodical pauperism of so large a portion of our people, and that employments auxiliary to the fisheries should be encouraged and fostered by every available means.

We are glad to find that the funds granted by the Legislature for Agricultural purposes have afforded means to secure the introduction of a good breed of Sheep into various Districts of the Island, and we trust that this measure may be attended with beneficial results. We would further express the hope that the provisions of the Act for the destruction of dogs may be vigorously carried into effect.

We agree with your Excellency that the prosecution of our Herring Fishery would be attended with greater advantages to all