

from the corruption which, according to the statement of the Receiver General, has attended the administration of these services by the Government, are more serious than any evils that can result from those services being transferred unreservedly to the hands of a private individual or corporation; and that, in fact, they consider that it is beyond the means and capacity of the Colony to provide for the honest and efficient maintenance of these services, and that they must therefore be got rid of at whatever cost.

9. That they have acted thus in what they believe to be the best interests of the Colony I have no reason to doubt, but whether or not it is the case, as they allege, that the intolerable burden of the public debt, and the position in which the Colony was left by the contract of 1893, rendered this sacrifice inevitable, the fact that the Colony, after more than forty years of self-government, should have to resort to such a step is greatly to be regretted.

10. I have to request that in communicating this despatch to your Ministers you will inform them that it is my wish that it may be published in the "Gazette."

I have, &c.,
J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 27.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR H. H. MURRAY.

SIR, Downing Street, March 30, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 6th March,* forwarding a Memorial from the Newfoundland agents of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company protesting against the Railway Contract Act.

I shall be glad if you will inform the Memorialists that I have carefully considered their representations, but that I am unable to comply with their prayer, and that the rights of the Company appear to be sufficiently safe-guarded by the Supplementary Act which has been passed.

I have, &c.,
J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 28.

GOVERNOR SIR H. H. MURRAY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received March 31, 1898.)

SIR, Government House, St. John's, March 16, 1898.

I ENCLOSE herewith for your information a copy of the "Evening Herald"—the Government organ—containing the speech† of Mr. Morine, the Receiver-General, on the financial prospects of the Colony for the year ending 30th June, 1899.

It may be that the principal point of interest in it is the complacency with which it is assumed that the grant by the Imperial Government of a sum (estimated, I believe, at £1,000,000) sufficient to reduce the annual interest payable on the Colonial Debt from about \$600,000 to \$400,000 will be the easy and certain sequence of an application for a Royal Commission.

I have, &c.,
H. MURRAY, Governor.

No. 29.

GOVERNOR SIR H. H. MURRAY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received April 11, 1898.)

SIR, Government House, St. John's, March 26, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 16th instant,‡ I enclose herewith for your information a copy of the resolutions which were last night adopted by the House of Assembly on the subject of a Royal Commission to enquire into the condition of the Colony. I also enclose a copy of the Government organ, giving a brief account of the proceedings in the House of Assembly on the introduction of the resolutions. As will be seen, the motion was unanimously adopted by all parties in the House, and it will be as unanimously passed by the Legislative Council. It will be borne in mind that when

"Evening Herald" of 14th March 1898.

Resolutions of House of Assembly, 25/3/98. "Daily News," March 26, 1898.

* No. 24.

† Not printed.

‡ No. 28.