

You are aware that the Education Bill, which was described at a public meeting by one of your learned judges "as the wisest, the noblest, and the best that ever graced your statute book," came into operation last spring. At that time there were of existing schools about 110; the number contemplated by the Act was 200, all of which have been applied for and recorded in terms of its provisions, and many more are earnestly desired. The Government has secured the services of Mr. Stark, an efficient inspector, thoroughly qualified for the task, and who is also prepared to carry out the views of the Royal Agricultural Society during his visits to the different districts of the country. He comes from the Normal Seminary, in the city of Glasgow, most strongly recommended by Mr. Stow, the philanthropic individual by whose exertions that seminary has attained its eminence, being known in distant quarters of the globe, where the system introduced by him is spreading its beneficial influence. Mr. Stow takes a lively interest in your Christian and benevolent exertions in the cause of education, and has urged on me to call your attention to the importance of perfecting your good work, by the establishment of a small Normal School, under the direction of the inspector, where your teachers would be taught to practise an uniform system of training, which has proved so successful wherever it has been tried. If this can be accomplished (and I believe it can at a moderate expense), this colony, small in extent, will become great in the estimation of all who value the blessings which society must derive from an improved method of training the hearts and minds of the rising generation.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :

The oaths appointed by law have been administered to you to-day, in virtue of a commission issued by me in the same form which has been used on all similar occasions, narrating that the high sheriffs have returned all of you duly elected and qualified to serve in the Assembly. I observe, however, that the high sheriff for Queen's County has returned one of the Members for that county, "duly elected, subject to the determination of the House of Assembly on the scrutiny, and of the facts set forth in respect thereof." This is an unusual return, and as such I notice it; its legality is a matter entirely for you to decide.

I am happy to say that the financial state of the colony is very satisfactory. On the 31st January 1850, the balance of the debt against the colony was 28,579 *l.* 11 *s.* 0½ *d.* On the 31st January last (1854), it was only 3,028 *l.* 11 *s.* 6 *d.*, a reduction of 25,550 *l.* 19 *s.* 6½ *d.* in four years. In 1849, the revenue was 18,615 *l.*; in 1850, 22,768 *l.*; in 1851, 22,500 *l.*; in 1852, 31,283 *l.*, and last year, notwithstanding the reduction of the duty on tea, it was 35,345 *l.*, including about 2,800 *l.*, assessment imposed by the Education Act. An increase of revenue is a sure indication of the progressive state of the colony, always bearing in mind that Providence has been bountiful in our harvests and other blessings, for which we cannot be too thankful.

The estimates will be submitted for your consideration. I hope they will meet with your approval, and I doubt not you will provide supplies for the public service.

Last year memorials, numerously signed by individuals engaged in the export of juniper knees, were presented to me, complaining of a proposed, almost prohibitory duty on their export. I am sure it will be your inclination to avoid class legislation, and impose no higher duties on any particular article than are required for the welfare, support and credit of the province.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :

In Prince Edward Island unsettled questions have too often occasioned many difficulties. I hope I now allude to the last, the fishery reserves; a subject which has occupied much of the attention of the Government. The late Assembly presented an address to me relative to these reserves. As similar questions, affecting Crown rights, had arisen in some parts of the United Kingdom, it was considered advisable to forward a copy of the Assembly's address to Her Majesty's Government,

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