

**JOURNAL**  
OF THE  
**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**  
OF  
**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.**

Fourth Session of the Sixteenth General Assembly.

**TUESDAY, February 17, 1846.**

**T**HE House having, by several Proclamations, been prorogued until this day, then to meet for the despatch of business:

And being met—

A Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, by Henry Palmer, Esquire, Usher of the Black Rod:

Mr. Speaker,

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor commands the immediate attendance of this Honorable House in the Council Chamber.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker and the House went up to attend His Excellency in the Council Chamber—and being returned,

Mr. Speaker reported, that when the House did attend His Excellency this day in the Council Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Legislature, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy, which was read by the Clerk, and is as followeth :

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;*

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

Although some apprehension has been created, in consequence of the partial destruction of the Potato crop, upon which the great mass of the community

so much depend for sustenance, yet, Providence having blessed this Island with abundant crops of other descriptions, I have not felt it necessary to call for your services in your Legislative capacity until the present period. I will, however, take this opportunity of observing, that it appears to me very advisable to invest the Executive with general power to prevent the exportation of Agricultural produce in cases of threatened scarcity, which can only be now done by an Act of the Legislature; it might therefore be necessary, not only to assemble you at an extremely inconvenient period, but most injurious consequences might occur to the Colony before you could meet to avert them.

I recommend to your notice the Criminal Law of this Colony, as it applies to the crime of Burglary, which, under any circumstances, can only be punished by death. I think it very essential that this Law should be assimilated to that of Great Britain, by which, sentence of death, instead of being passed, may, in certain cases, be recorded. I also recommend the revision of the Law passed in the last Session for the better prevention of Smuggling.

I must again call your attention to the state of the Laws relating to the Roads and Bridges; it is obvious that the former must from necessity be, for a great portion of the year, in an extremely bad condition, while the Statute Labor can only be applied at one particular period.

I have also to repeat the observations I have formerly made respecting the method of paying for services performed upon the Roads and Bridges; numerous personal applications have been made to me during the past year of inability to obtain payment