

The railway bills, passed during the last session, have received the queen's assent. Correspondence in reference to the general subject shall be laid before you without delay.

The sum granted for the importation of stock has been carefully expended ; the animals imported, sold at prices that indicate the interest which has been already awakened among the agriculturalists of the province for the possession of those superior breeds of cattle, so highly prized in the mother country. The results of this experiment having more than realized the anticipations of those most favorable to the trial, I confidently anticipate that by an enlarged provision you will enable me to place improved breeds in the central townships of every county in the province.

The exhibition which took place during the past summer was highly creditable to the agricultural classes, and shewed the excellence that might be attained in the various productions of the soil. With your co-operation and aid I look forward with confidence to see Nova Scotia making rapid strides in the advancement of her husbandry—profiting by the experience and emulating the examples of Great Britain and of the United States, where agriculture is regarded as forming the basis of national wealth and prosperity.

To the vice admiral commanding on this station our grateful acknowledgments are especially due for his ready acceptance of the offer made to him by the government, to take under his immediate charge the entire equipment and direction of the provincial vessels employed in the protection of the shore fisheries. The reports, when laid before you, will shew that this duty has been performed by that distinguished officer with the same energy and zeal that have ever characterised his services, and which have elicited through their representatives the thanks of the people of Nova Scotia.

*Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the house of assembly :*

The public accounts, with the estimate for the current year, shall be immediately submitted for your inspection ; and you will be gratified to perceive that the revenue, as compared with that of 1852, has steadily increased.

*Mr. President and honorable gentlemen of the legislative council :*

*Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the house of assembly :*

Serious inconvenience has resulted from defects in the law which regulates the selection of jurors, or from the mode in which it has been carried out. To provide for a more certain and speedy administration of justice, should be our first care. A measure embracing this object will be submitted for your consideration.

The reports of the supervisors of the great roads shall be laid before you ; and should you decide that the system adopted last session has so far worked well, I shall be happy to give my assent to any measure for its extension.

The protection of the rivers I still regard as a subject of great importance, involving the very existence of the salmon and gaspereaux fisheries ; and I must rely upon your local experience to aid the officers appointed under the act of last session, by such improvements of the law as may appear to be politic and necessary.

Some further provision should be made for the safe investment, under the guarantee of the government, of the earnings of the industrious classes. Wages having been high throughout the year, larger sums have been weekly presented at the savings' bank than the cashier was authorised to receive.

Great interest is taken in an exhibition which it is proposed to organize of the productions of provincial skill and industry in the autumn of the current year. I am informed that very large contributions will be made for such an object by public spirited individuals throughout the province. The liberality of the legislature should encourage the enterprise, and you may be assured that it shall have my countenance and aid.

A measure will be submitted for reducing the cost of marriage licenses, and making provision for issuing them in the several counties, by which the inconvenience and delays that result from the present system will be avoided.

That you will address yourselves to the consideration and despatch of the public business with due earnestness and zeal, I am well assured ; and you may rely upon my very sincere desire