

"Many causes have combined to impede the advancement of this Colony, to repress its energies, and to prevent its arriving at that state of prosperity which, under more favourable circumstances, might have been confidently anticipated. Among the most prominent of those causes, we beg leave humbly to represent to your Majesty, was the unhappy system adopted of granting the whole of the Lands in this Island, in Lots of Twenty Thousand acres each, to individuals resident elsewhere; which system has continued to impoverish the Colony, by abstracting those resources for rent which would otherwise have been expended in its improvement. This unfortunate disposition of the Lands has also had a direct tendency to drive from our shores Emigrants possessing capital and agricultural experience, who have preferred settling in the less fertile neighbouring Colonies, where they could obtain grants of Crown Lands on payment of trifling fees: the consequence has been, that the greater number of our Settlers commenced as Leaseholders under the large Proprietors, and are at this day sinking under the pressure of accumulated rents which they are unable to pay.

"The stagnation in the Timber Trade and Ship-building, which for a series of years engrossed the attention of this among others of your Majesty's North American Colonies, has increased the difficulties with which we were before contending, as, relying on a steady demand, considerable debts were contracted to the Merchants of the Mother Country for British Manufactures, which the depression in those branches of Commercial enterprise has deprived us of the means of discharging.

"Large sums of money are annually expended in our sister Colonies, by your Majesty's Government, in the construction of Fortifications, Canals, and other National works, and from their being extensive Military and Naval Stations; whilst this your Majesty's Colony is wholly dependent upon the limited returns made by the exportation of its surplus produce for a circulating medium; so that the abstracting from the Colony of even the accruing Quit Rent cannot fail to effect its total ruin.

"We also beg leave humbly to represent to your Majesty, that the former partial enforcement of the Quit Rent, during the administration of the late Lieut. Governor, was attended with the most disastrous consequences to the Colony, without, in the smallest degree, benefiting your Majesty's Treasury; as was distinctly proved at the Bar of the House of Assembly, in One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty-five, by the late Acting Receiver General, the costs of collection absorbing nearly the whole of the sum received. In many instances (extraordinary as the fact may appear), expences have been incurred, equal in amount to eighty times the sums claimed.

"We humbly submit to your Majesty, that we have no Episcopal Church in Charlotte-Town; that we have only one dilapidated Jail throughout the Colony; that we are without a Government House; that there are no Public Buildings of any description in the County Towns of King's and Prince Counties; that we have not an Hospital or House of Industry in the whole Colony; and that our whole Revenue on an average of the last twenty years has not exceeded Two Thousand Pounds sterling per annum; a sum so limited as to be inadequate to meet the cost of making Roads and Bridges, and defray the contingent expences of the Local Government.

"We therefore humbly implore your Majesty, to remit to your loyal and affectionate subjects the Quit Rent now in arrear from this Colony; and to command that in future the growing Quit Rent may be applied to the erecting of Public Buildings, and to other local purposes; a boon which would be most gratefully acknowledged, and which would, if possible, rivet our affections more firmly to your Illustrious House."

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*"To His Excellency Colonel JOHN READY, Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over His Majesty's Island Prince Edward and its Dependencies, Chancellor and Vice Admiral of the same, &c. &c. &c.*

*"May it please your Excellency,*

"We His Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects the Members of His Majesty's Council and House of Representatives, in General Assembly convened, having unanimously adopted an humble address to his Majesty, praying to be relieved from the arrears of Quit Rent now due by this Colony, and that the accruing Quit Rent may be applied to purposes of internal improvement, respectfully beg leave to request, that your Excellency will be pleased to transmit the same in such way and manner as your Excellency may deem most meet and proper.

"From your Excellency's intimate acquaintance with the resources of the Colony, and from your anxious solicitude to promote its welfare, we are induced to hope that your Excellency's kind offices will be exerted in recommending the subject matter of the Address to the favourable consideration of His Majesty."

Adjourned until 12 o'clock to-morrow.