

AYLMER, Governor-in-Chief.

THE Governor-in-Chief having, in his Message of the 23d instant, communicated to the House of Assembly the commands of His Majesty, received through the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, regarding the question of Finance which has for so long a period engaged their attention, thinks it necessary to enumerate in detail the several branches of revenue which it is deemed expedient to exempt from the operation of the proposed arrangement.

This further communication appears to his Excellency to be the more desirable as it will remove all grounds for future discussion when the adjustment of the main question shall have taken place, and as it will enable the House of Assembly to enter upon the consideration of this important topic with a full and precise understanding of the views of His Majesty's Government; these views are now exhibited by the Governor-in-Chief to the House of Assembly in that spirit of frankness and good faith which characterizes the instructions he has received, and which cannot fail to improve the confidence of the House of Assembly in the good intentions of His Majesty's Government.

The Revenues to which the Governor-in-Chief alludes are the Casual and Territorial Revenues of the Crown, and are classed under the following heads; viz.—

1. Rents Jesuits' Estates.
2. Rent of the King's Posts.
3. Forges of St. Maurice.
4. Rent of King's Wharf.
5. Droit de Quint.
6. Lods et Ventes.
7. Land Fund.
8. Timber Fund.

If the funds derived from these sources operated in any degree as a tax upon the people, or tended, either in their nature or in the mode of their collection, to impede or impair the prosperity of the Province, His Majesty's Government would have hesitated in proposing to retain them at the disposal of the Crown. They stand, however, upon a perfectly different ground from taxes, properly so called. They are enjoyed by the Crown, by virtue of the Royal prerogative, and are neither more nor less than the proceeds of landed property, which legally and constitutionally belongs to the Sovereign on the Throne; and as long as they are applied, not to undue purposes of mere patronage, but to objects which are closely connected with the public interests of the Province, it is not easy to conceive upon what grounds of abstract propriety, or of constitutional jealousy, the application of them according to His Majesty's commands, under responsible advice, can be impugned.

Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec, }  
25 Feb. 1831.

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House of Assembly, Friday, 25th Feb. 1831.

Resolved,—THAT an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, praying his Excellency will be pleased to direct the proper officers to lay before this House a statement of the gross annual amount of the casual and territorial Revenue, from the year 1818 inclusive, distinguishing the amount annually received under the following heads; viz.—

- Rent of the Jesuits' Estates.
- Rent of the King's Posts.
- Forges of St. Maurice.
- Rent of the King's Wharf.
- Droit de Quint.
- Lods et Ventes.
- Land Fund.
- Timber Fund.