

And other demands on the Government have at later periods been laid before the House, for which, with the exception of one item, that of fog-guns, no provision seems to have been made.

His Excellency also forwarded an estimate of the sums requisite for the service of the current year, between which sums and those in the Bill passed by the House of Assembly there appear the following discrepancies.

	ESTIMATE.			SUM VOTED.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Printing, &c.	550	-	-	350	-	-
Coroners	150	-	-	120	-	-
Fuel and light	300	-	-	200	-	-
Repairs of court-houses	180	-	-	100	-	-
Postages and incidentals	120	-	-	60	-	-
Civil and criminal prosecutions	900	-	-	500	-	-
Gaol expenses	700	-	-	352	-	*
Circuits	560	-	-	400	-	-
Contingencies	500	-	-	100	-	-
Fog-guns	250	-	-	nothing.		

* Including surgeon and barber.

The estimate was based upon the experience of former years, and if considered erroneous or excessive, his Excellency would have been and will still be happy to supply any information requested which he may possess upon the subject.

Should the debts continue unpaid, and the sums voted under certain heads be allowed to remain manifestly inadequate to the expense of the current year, not only will the dignity of the Government be injuriously compromised, but the public service must be suspended in some of its most important branches.

With respect to the amount of a vote of credit for unforeseen contingencies, the governor has only to remark that it seems requisite to combine with due caution as to its amount, a consideration of the difficulties in the way of assembling the legislature, arising from the climate and other circumstances, should any emergency call for a sudden and unexpected expenditure.

Government-House, 19 October 1837.

Enclosure 10, in No. 10.

TO His Excellency *Henry Prescott*, Esq., C.B., Governor, &c. &c.

Encl. 10, in No. 10.

May it please your Excellency,

THE House of Assembly, with reference to your Excellency's message on the subject of certain claims upon the Government, and of the estimates for the present year, respectfully inform your Excellency that, in their votes of monies for the service of the current year, they were actuated by a sincere desire to support the dignity of Government, and to give effect to all the necessary branches of the public service, and at the same time to keep the civil and judicial expenditure within those limits of economy which would enable the Assembly to devote as much as possible of the colonial revenues to the permanent improvement of the colony.

That, in the course of their examination of the public accounts, so far as they have been laid before the House of Assembly, they found that various charges had been paid or allowed exceeding greatly charges of a similar character in former years, and that some charges, of a novel description, had crept into the public accounts, which the House of Assembly did not deem it proper to recognize.

That, while the dietary of the prisoners in gaols had been reduced to the lowest scale on which perhaps human nature can in a climate like this exist, a corresponding reduction had not taken place in the gaol expenses; that, under the head of civil and criminal prosecutions, a number of costs and charges have been introduced, with which, waiving any question as to the propriety of prosecuting at all in many of the cases, the public purse under any circumstances ought not to be burdened; for neither in the parent country, nor in the other colonies in general, does the Government defray the expenses of prosecuting for common assaults and other petty misdemeanors; such expenses are either paid by the parties prosecuting, or form a subject for adjudication by the courts before which they may be tried