

The Accounts for the past, and the Estimates for the present year, will be laid before you; and I am confident you will readily provide the necessary Supplies for the Public Service.

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

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

Before leaving England, I was furnished with copies of certain Documents relative to the introduction of what has been termed Responsible Government into the British Provinces in North America; and my attention was directed to some Correspondence which has taken place, as to whether such a system might prove beneficial, or otherwise, to this Colony. At the outset of the arrangement for the change of Government in Nova Scotia, the Colonial Minister stated to the Lieutenant Governor of that Province, what I believe he afterwards repeated to the Lieutenant Governor of this Island, "That it was not desirable to carry on the Government of any of the British Provinces, in North America, in opposition to the opinion of the Inhabitants."

The People of Prince Edward Island are, therefore, entitled to this acknowledgment, as much as those of the other Provinces: the question being one of means only, not of the end. It was admitted, however—and it is no disparagement to the loyal Inhabitants of this Colony—that its population and resources fall far short of the neighbouring Provinces; indeed, I observe, for several years past, by various Resolutions and Addresses of the Assembly, that, while Responsible Government was sought for, even in a modified form, there appeared to be a want of materials for carrying such a system successfully into practice. In this Colony, one Branch of the Legislature is freely elected by the People, and the Executive powers are placed in the hands of the Lieutenant Governor, who knows that he *should* conduct his Government in such manner as to meet, as far as possible, the wishes of the community; and if the People of the Island required security for the future, they could not have found a stronger one, than in the total absence of any motive on the part of the Imperial Government, to render the administration of their affairs otherwise than acceptable to themselves. After the last General Election, however, it seems that a large majority of the Assembly pronounced themselves in favour of Responsible Government, and they passed a Civil List Bill—the last clause of which provides, that the Act shall not go into operation, unless (among other things) a system of Responsible Government similar to that which is now in force in the Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, shall be granted to and established in this Island.

The Act which contains such a condition, I have to acquaint you, cannot receive Her Majesty's confirmation. But I feel myself authorised to announce to you, that I am prepared (without at present entering into any particular details) to introduce Responsible Government into this Colony, and also to surrender the disposal of Her Majesty's Crown Revenues, when the Legislature shall have agreed to certain conditions, which I shall, without delay, submit to their consideration, with respect to the terms on which the Crown will consent to this change, and also to the surrender of its Revenues: these must, of course, be contained in a Civil List Bill. On the subject of its necessary provisions, it will afford me great satisfaction to communicate with the Legislature; and I have now only to assure you, that it is the sincerest wish of Her Majesty and her confidential advisers, that Prince Edward Island may advance in prosperity, and, under Divine Providence, that this prosperity may be attended with the blessings of social order and of harmony among the various classes of the people.

*William Douse*, Esquire, having been re-elected a Member for the Third Electoral District of Queen's County, appeared at the Bar, and being led into the body of the House, and introduced to the Speaker by the Hon. Mr. *Thornton*, and Mr. *Montgomery*, two of the members, took the Oaths and his seat.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of three Members be appointed, to receive Tenders for the printing of the Journals of the House, for the present Session, and to report thereon to the House.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Warburton*, Mr. *Coles* and Mr. *Pope* do compose the said Committee.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of three Members be appointed, to provide Stationery for the use of the House.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Whelan*, Mr. *Warburton*, and Mr. *Haviland* do compose the said Committee.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of seven Members be appointed, to prepare and report, with all convenient speed, the draught of an Address in answer to the Speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, delivered this day to both Houses of the Legislature.

*Ordered*, That the Hon. *Solicitor General*, Hon. Mr. *Thornton*, Mr. *Yeo*, Mr. *Longworth*, Mr. *Montgomery*, Mr. *Beaton*