

Council, to co-operate with the committee appointed by the House of Assembly, to correspond with the Colony Agent.

"On motion, ordered, that a copy of the foregoing Order be sent down to the House of Assembly.

"JOHN O. NANTES, D. C. C.

"Mr. Speaker,

"His Majesty's Council have agreed to the joint Addresses to his Majesty, as prepared by the Committees of the two Houses—one praying the relinquishment of the Quit Rent, and the other on the subject of the impolicy of opening the Ports of the West India Colonies to the Americans—and have also agreed on a joint Address to his Excellency the Lieut. Governor, praying that he would be pleased to forward the same—and have appointed the Honorables *Ambrose Lane* and *T. H. Haviland* to join a committee of the House of Assembly to present such Address to his Excellency.

"JOHN O. NANTES, D. C. C.

"Council Chamber, April 26th, 1830."

Mr. Nantes also informed the House, that his Majesty's Council had passed the Bill intituled "An act to authorise a further issue of Treasury Notes, and to continue an act intituled an act to revive and continue two certain Acts therein mentioned:"—and the Bill intituled "An act for increasing the Revenue, by levying a duty on Molasses and Sugar."

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Read, as engrossed, the Joint Address to His Majesty, praying for the relinquishment of the Quit Rents—which is as follows:

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The humble Address of the Council and Assembly of
Prince Edward Island:

May it please your Majesty:

WE your Majesty's faithful Subjects, the Council and House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, in our Legislative capacity assembled, humbly offer to your Majesty our sincere thanks for the renewed proof of the paternal care and attention of your Majesty's Government manifested in the Despatch of your Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies to Lieut. Governor Ready, relative to the Quit Rents.

While we acknowledge your Majesty's undoubted right to the payment of these Rents, and feel grateful for the liberality displayed in the offer to commute them, our duty to your Majesty compels us to state the reasons by which we have been actuated in not availing ourselves of the proposed commutation.

The Revenue of your Majesty's Island Prince Edward, wholly derived from *Import Duties* on articles either of luxury or necessity, and always insufficient for the growing wants of the Colony, is of late decreasing, while objects of the highest importance to its welfare are continually presenting themselves—demanding the pecuniary aid of the Legislature.

The local situation of the Island—deprived of all Foreign trade for one half of the year, by the severity of its winter—the total absence of all mineral wealth—combined with many other causes, have retarded the improvement and limited the

trade of the Colony to a degree that any increase of the present system of Duties would be productive of loss rather than gain; and have compelled us to turn our thoughts to other means of providing for the numerous calls upon the Treasury of the Island. Among the most prominent of these, a residence suitable to the high station of your Majesty's Representative has seriously engaged our attention; and, in the absence of all other resources, we have reluctantly been driven to an Assessment upon Land for the accomplishment of an object so intimately connected with the dignity of your Majesty's Government.

To the same source have we had to look for the furtherance of another object, on which the future happiness and prosperity of the Country essentially depend—the Education of Youth: and, upon a full and mature consideration of the subject, we have found it necessary to add to the Act passed for these purposes, so necessary and beneficial, a proviso that it shall not go into operation, should it still be your Majesty's will and pleasure to enforce the payment of your Quit Rents;—and we beg to assure your Majesty that this proviso would not have been added, were we not impressed with the fullest conviction that ruinous distress would be entailed upon all classes of this community, if the payment of both were enforced at the same time.

This Island, may it please your Majesty, is wholly dependant upon the surplus of its Agricultural productions for the other necessities and conveniences of life. The markets for this surplus, few in number, scarcely recompense the toil of the husbandman, and furnish no return whatever of gold or silver coin.

The almost total want of a metallic circulating medium has compelled us to substitute a paper currency, which, although productive of great advantage to the internal government and trade of the Colony, has left a large sum charged to the Revenue; and which we fear the wants of the Colony will oblige us to add to, rather than diminish.

The Duties required by the Acts of the Imperial Parliament to be paid into the Office of your Majesty's Customs, although inconsiderable in amount, yet from gold or silver only being received in payment, cause no small embarrassment to persons engaged in trade; and we are fully convinced, did we pledge the country to grant your Majesty the sum of One Thousand Pounds, annually, it could not be paid in specie, at any loss or sacrifice, however great.

Mortifying and humiliating as this disclosure of our inability to meet the views of your Majesty's Government, we should deem ourselves wanting in fidelity to your Majesty had we not stated it without reserve—at the same time, we implore your Majesty to believe, that in no portion of your widely extended Empire is there a people more devoted to your Royal person and Government, than the Inhabitants of this Colony.

Calling to our grateful remembrance the repeated instances of favor shewn to this Colony by your Majesty, we venture, in all confidence to lay this our humble Petition at the foot of the Throne, and respectfully to solicit that your Majesty will add to the kindness and forbearance, which have rendered your Majesty's Royal name and person dear to the hearts of your affectionate and devoted people, the relinquishment of your Majesty's Quit Rents, payable from this Island.

On motion, the Joint Address to His Majesty, praying that the present system of Colonial Trade may be maintained, was read by the Clerk, and is as follows:

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

May it please your Majesty:

WE your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects the Council and Assembly of Prince Edward Island, in Colonial Parliament convened, beg leave most humbly to Address your Majesty, on a subject which involves to a considerable degree the welfare of the Inhabitants of this Province.

Information has reached this Colony from various quarters, of negotiations being at present pending between your Majesty's Government and the United States of America, having for their object the rescinding of the Orders in Council of One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty-six, and re-opening the Ports of the West India Colonies to American Vessels. This intelligence has filled all classes of the community with the most anxious fears for the result.