

laid before you, and you will be gratified to perceive the *cordial* spirit in which the proposals made were met, and which must ultimately lead to a final and satisfactory adjustment of these important questions.

Full powers having been conferred upon me by Her Majesty's Government, I have, acting in the spirit of the measure passed last Session, directed a consolidation of the Crown Land Department, which, I trust, will lead to an improvement in the management of this branch of the public service, and to an ultimate saving of expense.

During the recess, I have endeavoured to carry out the wishes of the Legislature relative to the Mineral resources of this Province. A Survey and Report of a portion of them have been made, in accordance with the Address of the Assembly, and these, together with the correspondence conducted with the Secretary of State, as developing the views of Her Majesty's Government upon the subject, will be promptly submitted for your consideration.

The Acts which provide for the support of Education, and for the encouragement of Agriculture, will shortly expire; and I shall be gratified if, in the renewed consideration of these very prominent interests, the experience of the past conduct you to harmonious and successful Legislation.

It is pleasing to me to be able to inform you that the quantities of Fish taken around our Coasts have proved as abundant as in ordinary seasons: and if any depression is felt in that highly important branch of our industry, it is owing to general causes that tend to lessen the price of this great staple, in the markets abroad.

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

Detailed Accounts of the Receipts and Expenditures of the past year will be laid before you without delay, together with the Estimates of the expenses of the current year.

The general derangement of Commerce has, for a season, injuriously affected every branch of Colonial Trade. The partial failure of the Crops, during three successive years, has necessarily diminished the circulation, and while it depressed the spirit of enterprise, curtailed, among all classes, the means of consumption.

You will, however, be gratified to learn, that while taxation has been light the Revenue has been sufficiently productive to enable the Government to meet with promptitude every demand upon the Treasury, and to make such advances as were necessary to repair the damages occasioned by heavy floods in some of the Eastern Counties, and to discharge, towards the diseased and the unfortunate cast upon our coasts, the obligations of humanity.

Let us, while thankful to Divine Providence for the mercies with which the trials of the past have been tempered, contemplate with renewed hope the unerring signs of a more generally prosperous condition, to which we may confidently look for the supplies necessary to maintain public credit, and stimulate the improvement of the country.

Mr. Mott, pursuant to leave given, presented a Bill for abolishing Imprisonment for Debts of certain amount; and the same was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time.

Bill presented to abolish imprisonment for debt.

Mr. Creelman then proposed the following Address in Answer to the Speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and moved that the same do pass, viz —

Answer to Speech moved.