

that on which we are now entering ; and this most important and interesting subject will no doubt receive at your hands that careful consideration and investigation which it so eminently demands.

I have great pleasure in offering you my congratulations on the general results of the fisheries during the last season ; the produce of which, notwithstanding some partial failures, has, I have reason to believe, been something above the average.

I will cause to be laid before you copies of several despatches, which have been received from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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

The Financial Statement and Estimates shall be laid before you, and I rely, with confidence, on your making the necessary provision for the efficient conduct of the Government.

We have had to encounter a diminished Revenue and a largely increased expenditure, principally occasioned by the distressed condition of many parts of the Colony during the last winter ; this has entailed on us a very heavy outlay in addition to the provision made for such services by the Legislature ; but I have the satisfaction of acquainting you that the Public Treasury has at all times been able to meet these demands, and which will, I am confident, owing to the extreme urgency of our position at that period, meet with your entire concurrence.

In some of the districts in which the potato crop has been destroyed, and the fisheries unsuccessful, the inhabitants have been reduced to a situation of considerable distress. To those most distant I have already felt it incumbent on myself to forward some supplies ; and I would invite your immediate attention to the necessity, before the season becomes too far advanced, of making provision for others in similar circumstances.

*Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :*

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

I have only, in conclusion, to express my full conviction that I shall on all occasions receive your ready support ; and I assure you it will be no less my desire than my duty at all times cordially to co-operate with you in the promotion of the public good.

On motion of Mr. O'BRIEN, seconded by Mr. EMERSON,