

We rejoice to learn that the service for which the grant made during the last Session for the protection of our fisheries has been carried out with energy, and has been productive of benefit; and we fully concur with your Excellency in the expediency of the Executive of this colony being placed in a position to maintain an efficient coast guard during the ensuing season.

We entertain the belief that there are many branches of trade connected with our fisheries that are capable of development and improvement, and which, if properly and economically conducted, would, by conducing to the maintenance and comfort of the labouring classes, ease the pressure upon the public funds for their relief, and add to the general wealth of the colony.

The laws relating to education and the administration of justice shall have, as they deserve, our best consideration.

We are happy to find that satisfactory progress is being made in the erection of a suitable lunatic asylum, and we shall hail with satisfaction the completion of an institution calculated to alleviate the condition and sufferings of that class of our fellow-creatures, who, of all others, have the strongest claim upon our protection and sympathy.

We shall cheerfully contribute our aid towards the encouragement of agriculture. We shall also devote our attention to the consideration of the Quarantine and Pickled Fish Acts.

In conclusion, we thank your Excellency for the assurance of your co-operation with us, and the other branch of the Legislature, in the promotion of such measures as may tend to the advancement of the true interests of this ancient and valuable colony.

*William Robinson, President.*

Council Chamber, 10 February 1854.

To which his Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:—

Mr. President, and Honourable Gentlemen of the Council,

I thank you for this address, and for the assurance it contains, that you will co-operate with myself and the other branch of the legislature in the promotion of measures recognised by you as tending to the advancement of the true interests of this ancient and valuable colony.

ON Wednesday the 15th inst., the Address of the House of Assembly was presented to his Excellency by Mr. Speaker and the whole House, and is as follows:—

To his Excellency *Ker Baillie Hamilton, Esq.*, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its Dependencies.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Newfoundland in general assembly convened, beg to assure your Excellency that while we thank your Excellency for the gracious speech with which you have been pleased to open the present Session of the Legislature, we sincerely reciprocate your expressions of regret at the present depressed condition of this colony, and the financial difficulties of the Government, which are attributable not only to the partial failure of the fisheries, and the visitation of the potato disease, but also to the character of the trade of this colony, and the absence of a vigorous, economical, and truly British system of Government, to encourage the development of its extensive resources, to uphold the rights and interests of the operative population, and faithfully administer the public affairs.

We cordially tender our acknowledgments to your Excellency for calling our attention to several subjects connected with the welfare of the country, and for the assurance of your desire to facilitate to the utmost of your power our labours for the promotion of the public good; at the same time, we frankly avow our mature conviction, that however anxious we may be to render our best exertions conducive to the prosperity of the people, judging from the experience of the past and the avowed policy of your Excellency's confidential advisers in their legislative capacity, we entertain no hope of obtaining their necessary co-operation in measures of general practical utility, except on terms alike injurious to the public service, degrading to the people's representatives, and subversive of the rights and privileges confided to our guardianship.

Having declared, as late as the last Session of the Legislature, that neither the anomalous system of Government in force in this island, nor your Excellency's Council, possessed the confidence of the public or of this House, we addressed a memorial to the noble Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, and both Houses of Parliament, praying for the immediate introduction of a responsible system of government into this colony; and we have been gratified to learn from the delegates deputed by this House to proceed to London for the purpose of promoting the objects of the memorial, that they have received such assurances from the noble Secretary, as induce us to conclude that the long-desired boon shall be conceded.

We respectfully solicit your Excellency to place before this House copies of any correspondence which may have taken place between your Excellency and the Colonial Department, since the last Session of the Legislature, on this highly important subject, the satisfactory settlement