

CANADA.

documents, and the remarks which your Lordship has made upon them in your despatch have not failed to receive the deliberate consideration of my colleagues and of myself; and I have now to convey to you, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, the authority which is asked for by your Council, and which you recommend should be given to them, for proposing to the Canadian Parliament a Bill for reducing, in the manner set forth in the above minute, some of the charges provided for by the Civil List Act of 1846.

2. The grounds upon which Her Majesty's Government have thought it their duty to sanction the proposed alterations of an arrangement which has been so lately made for the term of Her Majesty's life by the Canadian Parliament, I cannot more clearly explain to you than by transcribing the following extract from a despatch which I had occasion, in August last, to address to the Governor of New South Wales, and which, upon this point, is equally applicable to Canada:

"I wish you distinctly to understand, that there is no desire on the part of Her Majesty's Government to prevent prospective reductions of charges which, in the opinion of the colonists, will safely admit of being diminished. The interests of existing office-holders must be protected, because they accepted those offices with expectations which cannot justly be disappointed. But, subject to these interests, there is no objection to the Legislature fixing whatever scale of emoluments they may think fit for public servants to be hereafter appointed. I should, for my own part, consider it highly injudicious to reduce the salary of an office, so as to render it no longer an object of ambition to men of ability and of respectable station. But this is a matter in which the interests of the colonists only are involved, as they will be the sufferers from any failure to provide adequate remuneration for those by whom the Public Service is carried on; the determination, therefore, of what is sufficient, must be left to the Legislatures, with whom will rest the responsibility for the judicious exercise of the power.

"I consider it however absolutely essential, that whatever may be the rate of payment, the salaries of all the principal officers of the Government should, for the reasons stated in the Report of the Committee of the Privy Council, be permanently granted; that is, not voted from year to year, but provided for in the same manner as charges on the Consolidated Fund in this country by Acts, and therefore only susceptible of alteration by Acts of the Legislature passed in the ordinary manner, with the consent of the Crown. You will therefore understand that you are not at liberty to give the assent of the Crown to any Act which may be passed reducing the salaries of those who are now in the Public Service, or rendering dependent on annual votes any of the charges now provided for by permanent appropriations. Any Acts of this sort you will reserve for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure, unless you consider them so manifestly objectionable as to call for their rejection. Subject to this restriction, you are authorized to exercise your own judgment in giving or withholding your assent from Acts for the reduction of the fixed charges on the Colonial revenue."

3. Though for the reasons I have stated in the above extract, I consider it to be inexpedient that Her Majesty's Government should throw any obstacle in the way of those reductions in the salaries provided for by the Canadian Civil List, which it is the desire of your Council to propose to the Provincial Parliament, I think it my duty distinctly to record my opinion, that these reductions are in themselves unwise, and that the comparatively trifling saving which will thus be effected in the public expenditure of the province, will not prove in the end to be an act of true and permanent economy. All experience seems to me to support the conclusion, that the truest economy, whether for States or for individuals, is to give liberal remuneration to those who are entrusted with the performance of duties of great importance and responsibility; the Public cannot, any more than a private employer, expect to secure the advantage of being honestly and ably served, if it is niggardly in paying its servants; and when it is considered how serious are the losses and evils to which the community may be exposed, from a deficiency of honesty and ability in those by whom its affairs are managed, the saving effected by reducing the salaries of those filling responsible situations, below the amount which will afford a fair remuneration to men of character and ability for devoting their time and attention to public affairs instead of to their private concerns, will be found to have been