

JOURNAL

Of the House of Assembly

OF

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

THIRD SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, January 2d, 1833.

THE House having, by several Proclamations, been prorogued until this day, then to meet for the Dispatch of Business:

And being met—

A Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, by George R. Goodman, Esq. Usher of the Black Rod.

“Mr. Speaker,

“I am ordered to acquaint this Honorable House, that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor commands their immediate attendance in the Legislative Council Chamber.”

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker and the House went up:

And being returned—

Mr. Speaker reported, that when the House attended the Lieutenant Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to deliver a Speech to both Houses of the Legislature, of which he had procured a copy—which he handed in at the Clerk's Table, where it was read, and is as follows:—

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council;

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

The early period at which you were last assembled having been found conducive to your convenience, it affords me much pleasure to be enabled to repeat this acknowledged proof of my desire to meet your wishes, by summoning you, in your Legislative capacity, for the second time, at the commencement of a New Year; and I confidently anticipate that your earnest efforts will be directed to discharge, diligently, effectually, and consequently with concord, the important public duty that has been entrusted to you.

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

The Accounts and Returns of the Revenue and Expenditure of the past year, shall be laid before you, without delay.

You will be gratified to perceive that our Exports and Imports are steadily on the increase—from this circumstance, abstractedly viewed, it may be inferred that the usual benefits of commercial activity will soon gladden the Island to a greater extent than has yet been experienced; but I may also congratulate you on the station which your trade occupies relatively to the other British Provinces in this hemisphere.

Contrasting your population, and Exports and Imports, with those of British North America, it will be found that your Importations, or wants, are less by £4000, and your Exports, or superfluities, greater by £6000, than the proportion which justly falls to your share, under a comparison made with these materials.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council;

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

On subjects connected with the Public Service, which may appear to me to require your deliberation, I shall take fitting opportunities of laying before you such documents or elucidation as may enable you to form a right determination.

I cannot, however, refrain from expressing to you, that amongst the various considerations to which my recent observation of the Island has given rise, there is not one that at present more demands your attention, than the absence of any Mart in which the country people might interchange their surplus produce of every kind for other articles, and in which the out-port shipper might complete his purchases, without being obliged to travel, perhaps fruitlessly, to Charlotte-Town, or to other equally distant parts of the country.

The local experience of both Honorable Houses can best determine how far the evils or inconveniences attendant on Fairs in some parts of the Mother Country may be obviated here, by the agency of an efficient police, among a thinly scattered population, and how far their advantages would tend to supply for the present the insufficiency of one Town for the whole Island.

But whether this, or any other measure which may be suggested as a means of developing the public resources, be conducive or not to its purpose, I pray