

an address of heartfelt condolence to Her Majesty, on the great bereavement she has sustained by the death of the Prince Consort.

I shall not trouble you with allusions to the observations which I considered it necessary to call your attention to at the opening of the session, farther than to express my satisfaction that you consider the establishment of a sufficient Police force is now loudly called for ; and when that object is accomplished, it is to be hoped that the Civil Power will not again have to apply for a Naval or Military force to aid in the suppression of riots and disturbances at elections.

The recent very severe weather must have added to the distress which our population have laboured under ; but the time is now approaching when many of our people will proceed to the Seal Fishery, and we must all hope that they will return as successful as we all wish they should, and that the next Cod Fishery will prove an abundant one, remunerative to our industrious fishermen, and affording employment to many who depend on the success of that important branch of industry.

The want of Local Steam must be deeply felt throughout the Island, and I trust the Government may soon be placed in a position to enable them to carry into effect an object which must prove beneficial to many localities, North and South of St. John's.

In regard to Direct Steam, I observe you trust that the Galway Company may be induced again to send their vessels here, *en route* for Galway or New York. In the 7th Report of the Postmaster General, laid before Parliament, His Lordship states that he "terminated the Contract in consequence of the service being so irregularly performed, and so little in accordance with the stipulations of the Contract."

The casualties which befell the Galway ships were much to be regretted ; but they were well paid for making St. John's a port of call. I hope that enterprising Company will again contract to carry the mails between Galway and the United States, *via* Newfoundland ; and, if so, that the Contract will, as the former one did, stipulate that their ships should call at St. John's on their outward and homeward passages.

I have no doubt you will make such provision for the Public Service as its exigencies may require, and I again beg to thank you for this address.

Government House, }
5th February, 1862. }