

The belief that valuable minerals exist in favourable situations in more than one quarter of the Island, has recently acquired strength, and the permission of the Government to search for and work such deposits has been eagerly applied for in several instances.

While fully sensible of the importance of developing such promising sources of public and private wealth, it has appeared to my Government desirable to avail itself of your advice as to the course which it may be expedient to adopt for this purpose, and for the preliminary object of endeavouring to ascertain—approximately at least—the extent and value of our resources of this nature.

Information which has been obtained from various quarters, with a view to the encouragement of the export trade in Herrings, and an improvement in the method of Cure, will be communicated to you. From the correspondence on the subject, you will learn that your desire to foster this important Branch of the Fisheries, as indicated by a money vote in your last Session, has received due attention from the Government.

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

The Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure for the present year will be laid before you.

I rely upon your usual liberality to make adequate provision for the Public Service.

The facility with which the additional Loan, sanctioned by the Act of last Session, has been obtained, affords satisfactory proof of the estimation in which the credit of the Colony continues to be held.

It is believed that advantage and convenience in the conduct of future Financial operations would result from the Consolidation of a portion of the Public Debt, now secured under several separate Enactments, and I have to invite your concurrence in a measure for this purpose, which will be submitted to you on behalf of the Government.

The true interests of a Colony, many of whose resources are comparatively undeveloped, but which is undoubtedly attracting the attention of Capitalists, will not admit of a total neglect of measures of internal and local improvement. Not only Main Lines of intercourse, but those Roads by which transit and communication between the Settlements upon the Coast and the country adjacent to them, may be facilitated, are especially objects which, in the peculiar circumstances of our working population, loudly call for sufficient and systematic appropriations.