

(alleged) illegal advances made by me from the public chest; it was under these circumstances that, in order to meet the wishes of the province at large, I took upon myself the responsibility of advancing the necessary funds for the re-establishment of the quarantine station at Grosse Isle, amounting to nearly 4,000 £., for which no bill of indemnity has yet been passed, and for which I am therefore still accountable.

The objections which had been raised in the Upper Province, and by a portion of the mercantile body in Lower Canada, to the tax upon emigrants, together with other circumstances, having excited doubts in my mind whether a renewal of the Bill (then on the point of expiring), imposing that tax, would receive the Royal sanction, I decided upon reserving it for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure, in the event of its being brought up to me at the close of the session; and at the same time being desirous of obtaining some temporary aid for the relief of indigent emigrants, I sent down to the House of Assembly (on the 14th January 1834), a message, which I now transcribe.

"The Governor-in-chief considers it to be necessary to apprise the House of Assembly, with reference to the Act 2 Will. 4, c. 17, intituled, 'An Act to create a Fund for defraying the Expenses of providing Medical Assistance for Sick Emigrants, and of enabling Indigent Persons of that description to proceed to their Destination,' which Act will expire on the 1st day of May next, that it will be his duty to reserve for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure any Act continuing the aforesaid Act, or imposing any tax on emigrants arriving in this colony."

"The Governor-in-chief therefore recommends to the House of Assembly to take into consideration the expediency of making temporary provision from the public funds of the province, in aid of sick and indigent emigrants in the cities of Quebec and Montreal, thereby relieving the inhabitants of those places from the appeals on behalf of such persons, which have heretofore been found to be alike burthensome to their means, and distressing to their feelings."

The message above recited remained, like the preceding one, altogether unnoticed by the House of Assembly, which separated at the end of the session, after having renewed the Emigrant Tax Bill (which, as I intimated to them would be the case, was reserved for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure), but without making any temporary provision for the relief of indigent emigrants, as recommended in my message.

As I have observed above, the town-council of Montreal must have been aware of the fact of my having communicated such a message to the House of Assembly, and of the fate of it, when they applied to me to issue money from the public funds; and they must likewise have been aware (for two of their body, Members of the House of Assembly, were parties to the measure,) that the Assembly had demanded my impeachment upon certain accusations, amongst which was one charging me with having taken money from the public chest without legal authority.

But, my Lord, had I yielded to the wishes of the town-council in the instance in question, I should have been assailed from all quarters for advances from the public chest for the establishment of hospitals in various parts of the country; and considering that every circumstance in the present state of this province is laid hold of, and converted to party purposes, a refusal in any one instance would have been made the subject of loud and bitter complaints against the Local Government. I felt, moreover, that the application of the town-council of Montreal was not such as to justify an exception being made to the rule I had laid down for my own guidance in regard to the issue of public money, because subscriptions had been raised there, as well as at Quebec, for the relief of indigent emigrants.

There is only one point remaining to be noticed in the petition of the House of Assembly, which immediately bears upon the local administration; it relates to "the payment of the public servants without (as the Assembly allege) the sanction or cognizance of the only body authorized to give such sanction."

I can only state, in answer to that assertion, that the payments made to the public servants, since the failure of the Supply Bill in the year 1833, have all been made, according to the instructions of the Secretary of State, out of the casual and territorial