

the credit of the Province on a firmer basis, and of promoting materially its prosperity.

We learn with much satisfaction that Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to communicate to Your Excellency, Her intention of exercising the prerogative of Mercy in favor of all persons still liable to penal consequences for offences of a political character arising out of the unfortunate occurrences of 1737 and 1838, and we assure Your Excellency that we will concur with Your Excellency in passing any Act which may be deemed necessary to give the fullest effect to this gracious intention of our beloved Sovereign.

This House learns with much pleasure that, in compliance with the expressed wish of the two Houses of the Provincial Parliament, an Act has been passed by the Imperial Parliament repealing the Clause in the Act of Union, by which restrictions were imposed on the use of the French Language.

This House has great pleasure in hearing that Your Excellency, during the recess, has been in communication with Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, and also with the Lieutenant-Governors of *Nova Scotia* and *New Brunswick*, on the subject of the Provincial Post Office, and that steps will be taken on the meeting of the Imperial Parliament, to vest in the Provincial Authorities the entire control and management of that Department, and we trust that as soon as the necessary arrangements to give effect to this object shall be completed, it will be found practicable to establish a low and uniform rate of postage for the Provinces of British North America.

We agree with Your Excellency in the belief that an increase in the representation would be attended with considerable advantage to the public interest, and any measure that may be brought before us for that purpose, will receive our most deliberate consideration.

We are happy to find that the opposition at one time manifested in certain parts of *Lower Canada* to the Common School Act, has in a great measure subsided, and we will cheerfully concur in making any amendments that may be proposed to this House which shall render it as little as possible onerous to the

rate payer, without compromising the important principle which it has consecrated in securing the blessing of education to the youth of this section of the Province.

The system of Judicature in the Province, the Laws for the regulation of Municipalities, and the Constitution of the University of King's College in *Upper Canada*, shall engage our best attention.

We have great satisfaction in hearing that the Officers employed on the exploration of the country between *Quebec* and *Halifax*, with the view of ascertaining the line best adapted for a Railway between these two Cities, have made a Report containing much valuable information, and presenting in a strong light the advantages of the proposed undertaking, and that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has expressed to Your Excellency the interest taken by Her Majesty's Government in the execution of this important work.

This House participates in the concern felt by Your Excellency that *Canada* has been seriously affected by the commercial depression by which the past year has been unfortunately characterised.

We feel grateful to Your Excellency for having pressed on the consideration of Her Majesty's Imperial Government the urgent necessity for the removal of those provisions from the Imperial Statute Book which tend to restrict the Commerce of this Province by checking the resort of Foreign Shipping to her Ports in search of Freight, and we receive with much satisfaction the information that Your Excellency's representations on this head have been cordially responded by the Queen's Government.

This House will not fail to give its best attention to all the measures to which Your Excellency has been pleased to refer, as calculated to raise the credit of the Province, extend its trade, and contribute to the development of its resources, particularly to the following, viz. :—

The provision of the necessary funds for the completion of the *St. Lawrence Canals* at the earliest period, which is of the greatest importance; and we are happy to learn that these great Works may be so far perfected at small