

included in the estimates, appear to me to be of so peculiarly local a character, as to demonstrate the reasonableness of their being made local burthens.

A disregard of economy, and a tendency to improvidence, can hardly fail to flow from a system which makes the public revenue the only fund from whence is defrayed, without discrimination or exception, the expenditure for charges and services purely local, which in other communities are provided for by local rates and assessments.

This observation will apply with equal force to the expenditure for the relief of the poor, which is defrayed entirely from the public chest; as well as to the mode of dispensing it, which, with all the precautions that, under the present system, can be observed, is still deficient in incentives to self-reliance on the part of the able-bodied poor, and calculated rather to increase than to check pauperism.

I commend these matters to your careful consideration, in the hope that you may be able to devise remedies for what cannot but be regarded as growing evils.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of Her Majesty's Council;
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Assembly;

The laws relating to education and the administration of justice in the out-ports will again come under your revision. I shall be happy to concur with you in any well considered enactments which you may adopt for the furtherance of objects so important to the present and future well-being of all classes of the community.

The encouragement of agriculture, with a due regard to the peculiarities of this soil and climate, but especially the introduction, breeding and rearing of live stock of a superior kind, deserve your consideration. By this means the employments and interests of our increasing population will be diversified and augmented, and the general good be advanced.

In fulfilment of the benevolent provisions of the Legislature, I have, during the recess, had the gratification of laying the foundation-stone of an asylum for the reception and curative treatment of pauper lunatics. Satisfactory progress has been made in the construction of that portion of the building for which funds were provided. The report of the Commissioners I shall direct to be laid before you; and I congratulate you on the near prospect of the completion of an institution in which may be put in practice the most approved methods of ameliorating the condition of this most unhappy class of our fellow-beings.

Through the mercy of Providence there has been no actual necessity, during the past year, for putting the Quarantine Act in operation. I deem it right, nevertheless, to impress upon you the importance of supplying any defects there may be in the existing laws for the removal of nuisances, and for enforcing general cleanliness, so essential to the public health.

I will only further detain you in assuring you that upon the subjects to which I have called your attention, and others which may be discussed in either branch of the Legislature, I shall be happy to facilitate to the utmost of my power your labours for the promotion of the public good.

On Tuesday the 14th instant, the Address of Her Majesty's Council, in answer, was presented to his Excellency at the Government House by the President and the whole House; and is as follows:—

To his Excellency *Ker Baillie Hamilton*, Esq., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland, and its Dependencies, &c. &c.

May it please you Excellency,

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Council of Newfoundland, in general assembly convened, beg leave respectfully to thank your Excellency for the speech with which you have been pleased to open the present Session of the Legislature.

We concur with your Excellency that our humble and hearty acknowledgments to Almighty God are due for that measure of public health and tranquillity which has been graciously vouchsafed to this colony during the past year; blessings not without their alloy from the distress which unhappily prevails in consequence of the continuance of the potato disease, and the partial failure of the fishery.

Owing to the causes stated by your Excellency, it was obviously necessary to exceed the grant made last Session for the relief of the poor, and we shall readily concur in a measure to indemnify your Excellency for an outlay so unavoidable.

We are happy to learn that the revenue has exceeded the estimate made of its probable amount.

We thank your Excellency for your promise to lay before us copies of the despatches referred to by your Excellency, and we heartily rejoice to find that Her Majesty's Government will carefully maintain our rights of fishery, involving, as those fisheries do, interests of paramount importance to this colony, and of grave concern to the empire at large.

We agree in the opinion that, whilst agriculture is a valuable adjunct to our fisheries, it is upon the prosperity of these that the general welfare of this colony is dependent; and it shall be our endeavour, as it is our duty, to devise and promote the best means of guarding them against encroachments from without, and of suppressing the illicit and extremely injurious traffic in bait carried on by some of our own people with our foreign competitors.