

Lord Glenelg to
Earl of Gosford,
11 March 1837.

from the exercise of those functions with which that branch of the Provincial Legislature has been intrusted, and his Majesty's Government have therefore resolved to endeavour, for a time at least, to contract the indispensable expenditure of the Province within the amount of those resources which are now subject to the control of the Crown and applicable to this purpose.

These funds may, as appears from the Reports of the Commissioners, be safely estimated at from 28,000*l.* to 30,000*l.* per annum. From that sum your Lordship will be able to defray the various charges which are enumerated in the Minute subjoined to this despatch. If, as I assume, the sum of 28,000*l.* may be taken as clear from all charges of collection and management, there will remain a surplus of 2,600*l.* per annum and upwards, applicable to any unforeseen but necessary expenditure which it may become your duty to incur. Even allowing for those charges, there will yet be an inconsiderable surplus of a few hundred pounds per annum; for the present, your Lordship will consider the hereditary, territorial and casual revenues appropriated to the services enumerated in the subjoined Minute, and will apply the proceeds accordingly.

This arrangement will provide for the first and indispensable exigencies of your administration from the 10th of April. It will, however, I fear, leave many important objects unprovided for, which have formerly been included in the appropriations made by the Legislature of the Province, but for which his Majesty's Government do not feel themselves imperatively called upon to provide, in the absence of any such appropriation; disclaiming, therefore, on the part of his Majesty's Executive Government, all responsibility for the personal and public inconvenience which may follow, the evil must, for the present at least, be encountered and sustained.

Should the funds at your disposal be more ample than I have anticipated, your Lordship will consider in what way the public interests may be best consulted in the application of any sum remaining at your disposal, after providing for the services to which I have referred.

Amongst the immediate effects of thus restricting the expenditure of the Government to objects of primary necessity is to be numbered the want of any security which the Government can offer for the future payment of those public officers whose salaries cannot be defrayed out of the resources at the disposal of the Crown; it follows as a necessary consequence, that immediate notice should be given to such officers, that as his Majesty can enter into no engagement for their further remuneration, the duties which they have hitherto discharged can no longer be required from them. If they shall continue in the performance of these duties, it must be at the risk of being remunerated hereafter by supplies to be granted for that purpose by the Provincial Legislature.

I have thought it essential to address this communication to you at the earliest moment at which it has been in my power to do so, and your Lordship may confidently rely on receiving further instruction for your guidance so soon as I shall be enabled to communicate to you the decision of Parliament on those points which still remain to be discussed in reference to the affairs of Lower Canada. In the meantime, I can only express my deep regret that you should be called to the discharge of duties of a painful and invidious nature, and involving at the same time no ordinary degree of responsibility. The personal esteem which your Lordship appears to have conciliated from men of all parties in the Province will, I trust, tend to strengthen your hands in your endeavour to moderate the violence of extreme opinions, and to acquire the support and assistance of all those who acknowledge the impartiality of your administration, and recognize in your acts a sincere desire to carry out the gracious intentions of his Majesty to govern Lower Canada only for the interests and welfare of all classes of his Majesty's subjects in the colony.

I have, &c.
(signed)

Glenelg.

Enclosure 1, in No. 1.

RESOLUTIONS intended to be proposed by Lord John Russell, in a Committee of the whole House, relative to the Affairs of Canada.

Encl. 1, in No. 1.

1. THAT since the 31st day of October, in the year 1832, no provision has been made by the Legislature of the Province of Lower Canada for defraying the charges of the administration of justice, and for the support of the civil government within the said Province, and