

manded by the public voice, and appear likely to tend to the increase of trade and to the advantage of the Country. Such works as the Legislature shall decide upon adopting, may thus be conducted upon one uniform system, having reference as well to each particular work as to the whole, and great advantage will result both as regards their execution, and in making provision for the funds necessary for the undertaking.

The Governor General accordingly directed a Report to be prepared upon the subject by the President of the Board of Works, and that Department having now been established by Law for the whole Province, he transmits this document for the consideration of the House of Assembly.

This Report will be found to embrace all the great improvements which appear at all desirable for some time to come, or that afford promise of rendering a return for the Capital to be expended upon them. The completion of the Welland Canal—the opening the communication between *Kingston* and *Montreal* by the *St. Lawrence* for Schooners and Steamboats—the improvement of Lake *St. Peter*, and the navigation between *Quebec* and *Montreal* for Vessels of large burthen—opening the River *Richelieu* so as to perfect the navigation through that River by the *Chambly* Canal—the construction of Slides for Timber, and other works on the *Ottawa*—the improvement of the Inland waters of the *Newcastle* District—the construction of a Port and Light Houses in Lake *Erie*, and the improvement of *Burlington* Bay Harbour—the establishment or improvement of great lines of Road from *Quebec* to *Amherstburgh* and *Port Sarnia*, from *Toronto* to Lake *Huron*, and between *Quebec* and the *Eastern Townships*—and the improvement of the *Metis* Road, and of the communications near the Bay of *Chaleurs*.

The total cost of all these works thus enumerated, would involve an expenditure of about £1,470,000 Provincial Sterling, to be spread over a period of five years necessary for their completion.

Whether the whole or any part of these works shall be decided on by Parliament, it is clear, that in the present financial state of the Province, whatever is required for their construction must be provided by drawing on the Public credit.

The Statement of the Provincial Receipts and Expenditure submitted to Parliament, although exhibiting, after the payment of the charges for the Public Service, a considerable surplus in proportion to the Revenue, affords nothing from which, as Capital, the costs of works of any importance can be defrayed.

Parliament must therefore provide the means for raising the Capital required for the execution of these Public Works, which it may determine to adopt, and at the same time afford such security as may be necessary for the annual interest upon the money to be borrowed, as well as for the gradual extinction of the debt, until the works themselves become productive.

If the whole of the works specified in the Report are determined upon, the charge for interest upon the total sum required, calculated at the rate of interest usual in this Province, would be between £80,000 and £90,000, a charge which it would be difficult to impose at once upon the Country.

Means however exist, by which such an increase of the charge upon the Revenue of the Province may be materially reduced, whilst the Capital itself may notwithstanding be provided.

The reduction of the Interest of the Public Debt, through the assistance to be afforded by the Imperial Parliament, would probably reduce the present charges upon the Provincial Revenue by a sum of between £15,000 and £20,000 per annum, which will thus become available as security for any fresh Loan.

Message from His Excellency on Public Improvements.