

with which Your Excellency has been pleased to open the present session of the Legislature.

Strongly impressed with the conviction that the original Constitution graciously conceded to this Colony is best adapted to our condition, we hail with satisfaction a return to that form under which we are now convoked.

We fully appreciate the necessity of re-enacting the Revenue Act which will expire on the 31st of the present month, to enable us to do which Your Excellency has wisely assembled us at this early period, and with a view to the benefits which may therefrom be drawn, our early attention shall be directed to the Imperial Act which confers on the Colonial Legislature enlarged fiscal authority.

We are well aware of the unhappy condition in which, from the train of evils it had encountered, Your Excellency found this Colony on Your assumption of the Government, and the extent to which the after-disasters had aggravated the evil is also painfully known to us. We believe that the consequent embarrassments and obligations of the Government were wisely and efficiently met, and the manner in which Your Excellency provided for the sufferings of the people during the past winter, and the conditions on which relief was afforded, have our entire approbation. We join Your Excellency in thankfulness that, notwithstanding so widespread an amount of destitution, the loss of a single life was not experienced.

The attention Your Excellency has devoted to the extension of the field of labour for our increasing population in the encouragement given to Agriculture since Your Excellency's arrival in the Colony merits our grateful acknowledgements; for in Your Excellency's views of its importance as a powerful auxiliary to the fisheries we fully and cordially coincide.

We regret to learn that our financial condition will not justify a large appropriation for the Road service—a subject so essentially connected with the promotion of Agriculture. We shall however give our best consideration to this important matter, and the Main Lines of Conception Bay, St. Mary's and Placentia, shall receive that attention which their importance demands.

In connexion with this subject we shall take into our best consideration the suggestions made by Your Excellency, as to the superiority of