

I commend, therefore, to your consideration, the adoption of such Legislative enactments, within the legitimate scope of the functions of the Local Legislature, as will check, or greatly restrict, this mischievous traffic. To enforce the provisions of the law in this respect, as well as to protect our River Salmon Fisheries on the West coast, I recommend you to place at the disposal of the Executive, adequate means for the maintenance of an efficient Coast-guard during the ensuing fishery season. A Naval Officer will be detached to the West coast for this last mentioned service by the Vice-Admiral commanding on the station, who has invited the co-operation of this Government.

In connection with the subject of the Fisheries, I would further submit for your consideration the expediency of reviving, in whole or in part, the Act for the Inspection of Pickled Fish which has recently expired.

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :*

The Financial Statements and Estimates for the ensuing year, shall be laid before you without delay.

In consequence of the omission to provide means for defraying the expenditure contemplated by the Road Act of last Session, and owing to the unavoidable necessity of exceeding the appropriation for the Relief of the necessitous, the Revenue has been quite inadequate to cover the total expenditure of the year. To supply the deficiency it will be necessary, during the present Session, to authorize the raising of a further sum by loan on the credit of the colony, whereby a considerable addition must be made to the already large Public Debt.

I deem the present opportunity, therefore, a fitting one for calling your earnest attention to the financial condition of the colony, and to its large and increasing debt. To reduce this debt, in accordance with subsisting engagements, and to maintain the public credit in a sound and healthy condition, I need hardly point out to you the imperative necessity for discontinuing, or greatly curtailing, the casual and extraordinary appropriations for services not included in the Estimates. Several of these services, as well as some of those heretofore 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