

To His Excellency GEORGE DUNDAS, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Island Prince Edward and the Territories thereunto belonging, Chancellor, Vice Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY;

1. We Her Majesty's faithful subjects the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, respectfully offer our thanks for the Speech with which Your Excellency was pleased to open the present Session.

2. We deeply sympathize with our beloved Queen in the irreparable loss Her Majesty has sustained by the death of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort,—a loss which we, in common with all Her Majesty's subjects, most sincerely regret.

3. We thank your Excellency for having directed the Public Accounts for the past and the Estimates for the current year to be laid before us. It is satisfactory to learn that the latter have been framed with a due regard to economy.

4. Although the disturbed condition of a neighboring People has occasioned serious embarrassments to the Trade of this Colony, we are glad to find that there has been no remarkable decrease in the Revenue of the past year.

5. We regret to be informed that the Expenditure for the same period has exceeded the Revenue. In view of the large sums annually voted for Education,—with a due regard for the other branches of the Public Service—it is difficult to confine the expenditure within the receipts.

6. We are pleased to learn that so many of the Acts passed during the last Session have received the Royal allowance; and when the Despatches referred to by your Excellency, containing suggestions in reference to those which have not yet received the Royal assent, are laid before us, they shall receive our best consideration.

7. When the unhappy differences existing in the United States, which seriously disturb our Trade, shall have been adjusted, we trust the Act authorizing the issue of Fishery Licenses to citizens of that Country, for vessels built in this Island, will be acted upon, and tend to advance the trade of the Colony.

8. It is gratifying to hear that the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the land question, have completed their laborious task, and forwarded their report to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

9. We regret to learn that Your Excellency has not yet received any communication from His Grace on the subject of their Award, a matter in which the people of this Colony feel so deep an interest; but we are pleased to hear that Your Excellency is confident that Her Majesty's instructions on this most important question may be expected during the present Session of the Legislature.

10. When the proposal of the Governor General of Canada, for the establishment of Reciprocal Free Trade among the North American Colonies shall have been submitted to us, it shall receive all the consideration which a subject of such paramount importance demands.

11. We join Your Excellency in the hope that our deliberations may, under the Divine blessing, tend to the advancement and prosperity of the people of the Colony.

And the said report being again read,

The Hon. Mr. Coles moved to amend the said reported Address, by expunging the whole of the third, fourth and fifth paragraphs, and inserting the following in lieu thereof:

“We thank Your Excellency for having directed the Public Accounts for the past year, and the Estimates for the current one, to be laid before us. When the latter will be submitted to us, we will be pleased to find that due economy has been observed in so regulating the Expenditure as to meet the Resources of the Colony.

Although the disturbed condition of a neighboring People has occasioned some embarrassment to our Foreign Trade, it will afford us pleasure to observe that there has been no remarkable decrease in the Revenue of the past year, but we regret to be informed that the Expenditure for the same period has exceeded the Revenue.”

The House divided on the motion of amendment.

YEAS:

Hon. Mr. Coles,	Hon. Mr. Wightman,
Hon. Mr. Thornton,	Mr. Cooper,
Hon. Mr. Whelan,	Mr. Sinclair,
Hon. Mr. Perry,	Mr. Sutherland,
Hon. Mr. Hensley,	Mr. Doyle.
Hon. Mr. Kelly,	Mr. Conroy.—12.

NAYS:

Hon. Mr. Macaulay,	Mr. Davies,
Hon. Mr. Gray,	Mr. Holm,
Hon. Mr. Pope,	Mr. Howat,
Hon. Mr. Laird,	Mr. Macneill,
Hon. Mr. Haviland,	Mr. Beer.
Hon. Mr. Longworth,	Mr. John Yeo,
Mr. Montgomery,	Mr. Douse,
Mr. Ramsay,	—15.

So it passed in the negative.