

The sum of £14,500 Currency would, I presume, be equal to £13,050 Sterling, and there would therefore remain an immediate surplus of £566 Sterling, which will of course be hereafter increased by reductions in the amount of the Salaries at present borne on the Civil List. Among the objects to which it is my purpose to devote a portion of this surplus, is the institution of an efficient office of Audit within the Province for all the Revenues raised and expended in it. I am of course aware that at present it is the custom of the House of Assembly to appoint from time to time Committees of their body to whom are referred such Financial returns as are laid on their Table, and who in fact exercise the power of auditing the accounts specified in such Returns. It is far from my intention to undervalue the labours of these Committees, or to question the advantage which must accrue to the public service from the rigid supervision by the Representatives of the people, of the Expenditure of the Executive Government. But at the same time Committees of a popular body are but an inadequate substitute for a permanent and responsible officer, whose sole duty it would be to inspect the accounts of Public Departments. The experience and practical skill, the intimate and continuous knowledge of official transactions which are necessarily acquired by such an officer, give him many advantages over any fluctuating body. It is also to be observed, that the appointment of an Auditor immediately responsible to His Majesty is more consistent with the constitution and practice of this Kingdom, than the consigning of the duty of examining the public accounts altogether to the Representatives of the people. The office of Auditor as at present constituted in New Brunswick is, I apprehend, insufficient for the duties which I have here proposed to devolve on it; I have therefore to desire that you will bring the subject under the notice of the Council and of the House of Assembly, and request them respectively to furnish me with a report on it, specifying among other points what should be the amount of remuneration to be conferred on the officer at the head of the proposed Department. On receiving that report, I shall lose no time in communicating with the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, and in preparing in concert with them the necessary arrangements for the institution and regulation of the office.

It is to be understood, that I by no means propose or contemplate that the officer so appointed should supersede the labours of the Committees of the House of Assembly. Those Committees will, if the House think fit, continue their inquiries exactly as they do at present; nor will the Auditor in any degree impede or interfere with their proceedings. Indeed it will be always in the

power of the House to obviate any such consequence.

5. The last subject noticed in the inclosed memorandum is the scale of the Salaries of Public Officers, and it is proposed that the reductions to be made in those Salaries on the occurrence of vacancies should be distinctly specified in the Despatch to you. It is also stated to be the opinion of the House of Assembly, that no officer in the Province except the Lieutenant Governor should receive a larger Salary than the Chief Justice or a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court. I am fully alive to the importance of the subject thus brought under my notice, but adverting to the rapid changes which are taking place in New Brunswick, and to the length of time which may possibly elapse before an opportunity occurs for revising the offices of which the emoluments are borne on the proposed Civil List, I am of opinion that it would not be convenient at the present time to pledge His Majesty's Government to the specific amount of remuneration which shall hereafter, and perhaps under altered circumstances, be attached to those offices. At the same time I am anxious to institute a course of inquiries calculated to prepare materials for a final and well considered judgment on the subject. With this view, I desire to receive from yourself and from the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly respectively, reports pointing out the amount of emoluments which in your opinion would constitute an adequate remuneration for each of the offices in question. It is of course understood, that during the tenure of the present officers their existing emoluments shall be preserved to them, but whenever vacancies shall occur, His Majesty's Government will consider what reduction shall be made in those emoluments, and will devote their serious attention to the statements which I have now invited, in the hope that they may be able at once to effect a considerable saving in the public expenditure without impairing in any degree the efficiency of the respective offices. It must moreover be distinctly intimated to every officer who may hereafter be temporarily appointed to any of the situations of which the salaries are borne on the Civil List, that should such temporary appointment be subsequently confirmed, the emoluments of the office will nevertheless be subject to revision and reduction, and that no claim to compensation for loss of Salary will have been created by the discharge of the duties ad-interim. With respect, however, to the office of Lieutenant Governor, I am to observe, that it has been already determined, on the occurrence of the next vacancy, to reduce the salary attached to it to £3,000 Stg per annum. Below that sum, it could, I think, scarcely be reduced consistently with the rank and dignity which the Lieutenant