

others; and thus an effectual remedy for such evils is rarely to be found within the reach of any one community. We have reason to congratulate ourselves on the prudence of our commercial men; and we may be proud of the position of our Banks, inasmuch as they stand almost alone on this Northern Continent, in having continued to meet, without shrinking, their obligations to pay in specie. Yet, there is no doubt that the pressure has been, and still is, severe on our merchants, our land-owners, and our farmers. There is no doubt, too, that much may be done to amend and improve our own commercial legislation. I earnestly recommend these matters to your attention, and I therefore solicit your consideration of the following subjects:

The expediency of assimilating the Commercial law of *Upper* and *Lower Canada*. The law of imprisonment for debt, and the law of Insolvency in *Upper Canada*. The law regarding fraudulent assignments and preferences, and that relating to the interest of money in Commercial transactions of every kind.

It appears to me also that the Jury laws require revision, and that the Municipal law of *Upper Canada*, may be with advantage amended and consolidated.

There are no Statutory provisions more important to the Country than those which regulate the franchise, and the trial of Controverted Elections.

Being of opinion that the present Acts require amendment, I trust that you will do all in your power to improve and simplify the existing system. I believe too, that it would be expedient to secure the proper registration and protection of all qualified voters.

A measure will be laid before you, for amending and simplifying the whole system of management of our public lands, and facilitating their occupation by industrious settlers.

I am glad to state that the number of Emigrants in the course of the year just ended was considerably in excess of that of the previous year.

A large extent of territory in different parts of the Province has been Surveyed for the purpose of immediate occupation. Experience has proved that the opening of Roads through the forest, has much facilitated the settlement of our wild lands. By making these Roads on a system at once uniform and comprehensive, there is every reason to expect the best results from the aid granted by the Legislature.

The subject of the Fisheries in both sections of the Province is one which deserves your attention, as I believe that they may be so dealt with as hereafter to become a source of Revenue.

In *Lower Canada*, the Legislative changes made in the Judicial system have been brought into operation. I trust that more ready access to Justice and the speedy termination of Civil Suits will be the result of these provisions.

I congratulate you on the continued success of the *Canadian* Line of Steamers.