

TORONTO, 16th January, 1862.

SIR,

From the period which has elapsed since my last communication, and under the most anxious desire to simplify, facilitate, and make every sacrifice calculated to afford a prompt settlement of my claims, which have been already urged in three Reports of the Legislature, and have met with recognition from the Government as well as the virtual acquiescence of the Parliamentary Committees, I beg leave to suggest for your consideration and that of the Government the following moderate and very reasonable proposition, viz. : That the provision in my favour contemplated by the Legislature in its Reports and Resolutions be awarded me to the present period only, leaving the future out of consideration, and that it be computed with interest at the same low rate as that given to certain other civil officers recently placed on the retired list, £300 per annum.

I am aware that this sum, proposed as compensation, is considerably less than the pension to which I am justly entitled from the position which I formerly occupied as Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, yet I am willing to waive any scruples on that point so as to arrive at some definite adjustment of my claims. I abstain from making any allusion to the ruinous losses I have sustained, or the serious expenses which I have incurred personally and through agents, by journeys to and detentions at the seat of Government, during the past fifteen years, in the just prosecution of my suit.

One half of the amount which I suggest as a settlement shall be paid to the Government for old Crown Land arrears, which will thus be secured—the balance is more than anticipated by loans to meet expenses incurred by the delay which has taken place. I would submit that this is a miserable result of forty years professional life, the whole of which, I can conscientiously say, has been zealously, energetically, and successfully devoted to the social improvement and material interests of my adopted country, and by which, I firmly believe, that many thousands of pounds have been annually saved to the Government.

In a letter, dated Quebec, 26th August, 1861, I was informed by the Provincial Secretary, that notwithstanding the very favourable Report of the Committee of the Legislature at its last session, they had placed no funds at the disposal of His Excellency for the liquidation of my claim. I enclose a copy of my reply to that communication; but I would confidently submit *that there is a fund* out of which such compensation might be paid, viz., the surplus of the old Lunatic Asylum Tax, which, when that tax assumed under a new statute the name of the Upper Canada Building Fund, was handed over to the credit of that fund.

At the period of the enactment of that statute it did not probably appear that there was any object connected with the Asylum which had a claim on that balance, but I would suggest, as consistent with reason and equity, that, if any such claim should subsequently appear, the Building Fund should, to the extent of such claim, be considered debtor to the former Asylum Fund—in fact that for any legitimate object that balance should be considered still in existence.

I write you especially as representing this section of the Province, and trust that, as other members of the Executive have unequivocally assented to the justice of my appeal, you will now give my letter your most careful consideration, and assist me to a recognition of my claim in the estimates of the approaching session.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. REES.

The Honorable  
The Attorney General.