

ance, to undersell the producers of the Eastern Townships in our own markets. Similar complaints of the effects of the Duties on our produce in the United States, and of the facility given to the admission of their produce into our territory, are also made in other parts. Whatever improvement can be afforded to our internal communications is so obviously desirable for the advantage of the community, that any outlay devoted to that object, and consistent with the means at command, must be highly beneficial. It is therefore much to be regretted, that the state of the finances does not afford any immediate prospect of our being able to meet the wishes of many districts deeply interested in this respect.

I cannot refrain from bringing to your notice, as a subject worthy of consideration, the state of the Prisons in some portions of the Province. The Penitentiary at Kingston is an Institution very creditable to the country; great cost has been incurred in the erection of prisons in other places, and some of the local authorities are now laudably exerting themselves to provide suitable accommodation for prisoners; but in some places there is great deficiency. The justice due even to criminals requires that they should not be subjected to greater punishment than what is designed by their sentence, and that disease or death, from foul air and want of exercise, should not be superadded to imprisonment. It is likewise due to untried Prisoners, who may be innocent, that they should not be confined in the same cell with convicted criminals. A classification and separation of the latter is also requisite. Decency and morality demand the same with regard to the sexes: and Debtors and Criminals ought not to be confined together. It is desirable that enquiry should be made, in order to ascertain in what respects the Prisons of the Country may be defective in requisite accommodation, and to remedy any material deficiency that may exist.

The establishment of a Lunatic Asylum in Lower Canada is much required; those who are visited with the affliction of mental aberration being now confined in the common Prison, or in some of the Religious and Charitable Institutions which do honor to that portion of the Province. Measures are in progress for the permanent location of the Asylum now existing under a temporary arrangement in Upper Canada, and for the completion of the arrangements of that Institution.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

The Accounts for the past, and Estimates for the present, year will be laid before you. I am concerned to announce to you that there is a considerable decrease in the Revenue, but I hope that it proceeds from temporary causes, and that it will be followed by a greater increase. The Loan obtained in England, under the guarantee of the Imperial Government, has been raised on advantageous terms.

This Act of the Imperial Legislature prescribing a new Tariff renders necessary a corresponding alteration in our Custom Laws, and this subject will be brought under your consideration. I have no doubt of your readiness to provide for the exigencies of the Public Service, and, as far as that object can be promoted, by practicable and judicious economy, you may rely on my co-operation.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and
Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

I will not detain you longer from the commencement of your arduous duties. The welfare of Canada depends on the result of your deliberations on the numerous and important questions which will

come before you, and that great end will, I trust, be the sole object of your labours; It is the anxious desire of Her Majesty's Government, and will be the constant aim of my endeavours. I humbly hope that the Blessing of Almighty God will crown our united efforts with success.

The following Petitions were severally brought up and laid on the table: Three Petitions brought up.

By the Honourable Mr. Neilson, the Petition of the Minister, Elders and Trustees of the *St. Andrew's Church of Quebec*; and the Petition of the Reverend *George Mackie* and others, the Managing Committee of the National Schools at *Quebec*.

By Mr. Hale, the Petition of *C. M. Hyndman*, keeper of the Court House and Crier of Her Majesty's Courts of Judicature, of the District of *St. Francis*.

On motion of Mr. Henry Smith, seconded by Mr. Taschereau,

Ordered, That the Clerk do charge, to the Contingencies of the House, the Postage on all letters not exceeding one ounce in weight, and on printed papers to and from Members of this House, during the present Session, provided that when Petitions to this House are enclosed, the Postage thereon shall be charged without restriction as to weight. Postage.

On motion of the Honourable Mr. Attorney General Baldwin, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Solicitor General Small, Speech to be considered.

Ordered, That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General, this day delivered to both Houses of the Provincial Legislature, be taken into consideration on Monday next.

Then, on motion of the Honourable Mr. Solicitor General Small, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Attorney General Lafontaine.

The House adjourned.

Veneris 29^o die Septembris.

Anno 7^o Victoriae Reginae, 1843.

MR. SPEAKER communicated to the House a Report, received from the Librarian, of the present state of the Library of the House, pursuant to a standing order of the 19th June, 1841. Report from Librarian.

(For the said Report, see Appendix C.)

Mr. Speaker also laid before the House General Statements and Returns of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials in the District of *Gaspé*, for the year 1841, and in the Districts of *Quebec*, *Montreal* and *Three Rivers*, for the year 1842, received from the Prothonotaries of the said Districts, in conformity to the Act of the Legislature of the late Province of *Lower Canada*, 6, Geo. IV., Cap. 8. Returns of Baptisms.

(For the said Statements and Returns see Appendix D.)

The following Petitions were severally brought up and laid on the table. Nineteen Petitions brought up.

By the Honourable Mr. Dunn, the Petition of *E. B. Gilbert*, and other Inhabitants, of the City of *Toronto*.

By Mr. Williams, the Petition of the Municipal Council of the *Colborne* District, and the Petition of *William Smart* and others, inhabitants of the County of *Durham*.