

many amongst you, has induced me to call you together at an earlier period of the year than I have hitherto done; and I feel every confidence that you will readily afford me the best advice and assistance you can give to enable me to meet a conjuncture of unforeseen difficulty.

It is gratifying to me to be able to state that the Harvest, with the exception of the Potato Crop, has been, in most parts of the Province, rather more than usually abundant.

I regret, however, to inform you, that the Fisheries have been less productive than for several years past, although the decrease is not to be attributed to causes likely to be permanent in their nature, or calculated to excite anxiety for the future success of this branch of industry.

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

The Public Accounts, and the estimates for the expenses of the current year, shall be submitted to you with the least possible delay.

Assured of the generous sympathy of the people of Nova Scotia for their suffering fellow subjects in Canada, I did not hesitate, on the occasion of the late extensive fires at Quebec, to appropriate a portion of our abundant resources to the relief of those who had been visited by such dire calamity, convinced that, in so doing, I but anticipated the wishes of those whom you represent, and that the measure would meet with your approbation and concurrence.

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:*

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

I am happy to acquaint you that the Public Revenue still continues in a prosperous state.

I have received from the Governor of Barbados a letter expressive of his grateful appreciation of your liberality, in granting four thousand dollars for the succour of those amongst the population of Bridgetown, who were reduced to distress and destitution by the conflagration which took place there in February last; and a copy of a joint resolution, passed by the Council and Assembly of that Island, which I am sure you will be proud to place on your Journals.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to instruct me to signify to the Provincial Parliament Her Majesty's willingness to relinquish the Casual and Territorial Revenues of the Crown in the Colony in exchange for a Civil List on certain conditions, of which I will hereafter apprise you.

I have the pleasure to announce to you that a correspondence, in which I have been recently engaged with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has terminated happily for the interests of this Country, which are so deeply involved in the protection of the fisheries on its Coasts—further privileges sought by the American Government, the concession of which would have affected the prosperity of Nova Scotia, having been withheld by Her Majesty.

I strongly recommend to your favorable and deliberate consideration, a project for the construction of a Railroad from Halifax to Quebec and Montreal, which has lately much engaged the public attention, and the execution of which, should it turn out to be practicable under the present circumstances, cannot be otherwise than beneficial in its consequences to the British North American Colonies, by facilitating their intercourse with each other, and affording at all seasons an outlet through British Ports for the productions of the British Canadian Dominions. I have thought it necessary to address Her Majesty's Government on the subject of this great enterprise; and I have endeavored to obtain such statistical and other information as may assist your deliberations, both as to the feasibility of the contemplated work, and the extent to which pecuniary aid should be afforded to promote the undertaking, should you deem it expedient to apply to that purpose any part of the public income. The information thus collected shall be imparted to you at the first convenient opportunity.