

accustomed, while enjoying the largest practicable measure of self-government, to cherish respect for the queen's prerogative, and feelings of loyal attachment to the parent state.

I shall direct to be laid before you, certain papers connected with the important subject of an efficient protection of the fisheries, including correspondence between the executive and his excellency the naval commander-in-chief on this station, with respect to the best mode in which this service should be carried out. To the zeal and experience of that distinguished officer, and to the active and cordial co-operation of the officers of the squadron employed under his command, we are much indebted for the vigilance with which our national rights have been guarded, without, at the same time, any diminution of the friendly relations which ought to exist between those whose common origin and mutual interests offer so many pledges for the preservation of peace.

You will be pleased to learn that the government of the United States has at length consented to negotiate on the subject of their commercial relations with the British Empire.

I shall rejoice if those negotiations result in the opening of more extended markets for the productions of British America, and the adjustment of questions in which the legislatures of all the provinces have hitherto evinced a lively interest.

*Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the house of assembly :*

The public accounts, and the estimates of the expenses of the current year, shall be laid before you without delay.

*Mr. President and honorable gentlemen of the legislative council :*

*Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the house of assembly :*

The question of railway communication has received from the members of my government that grave attention which its vital importance to the future interests of the province demands. The negotiations for an inter-colonial line having been broken off prior to my assumption of this government, Nova Scotia was freed from previous obligations, and left at liberty to frame such measures as should be suited to her own peculiar position and requirements. The promulgation of a minute in council, pledging the government with the approbation of the legislature, to construct certain lines upon our great thoroughfares, has induced parties to make propositions well deserving of your careful consideration. That you might the more readily be enabled to deal with the whole subject, and decide wisely upon the policy to be adopted, I have been careful that the means to carry out that policy should be provided ; and when the papers referring to this subject are laid before you, I trust that you will be satisfied that every effort has been made to prepare the way for wise and successful legislation.

While I estimate at their true value the great advantages to be derived by the public generally from the construction of railroads, and while I also look confidently forward to their completion, I trust I need not remind you of the serious responsibility that rests upon you to confine the liabilities of the province within those limits which its revenues and resources will justify, in order that the honor and good faith of Nova Scotia may continue unquestioned and unimpaired.

The system by which grants of money are expended on the great roads of this province is confessedly so defective, that I have instructed the members of my government to prepare a measure for your consideration that I hope may be approved.

So large a proportion of the population of this country being engaged in the cultivation of the soil, there is no subject which demands more careful investigation than the means by which their condition can be elevated and their productive power increased. From the best information I can gather, it would appear that, notwithstanding the liberality of the legislature and the exertion of the central board and local societies, there is yet a wide field for improvement in this department. Your attention will be called to a revision of the existing law and to the means by which finer breeds of cattle and sheep may be introduced into the province, and sound knowledge bearing upon the pursuits of husbandry more widely diffused.

Circumstances