

TORONTO, 11th October, 1861.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 26th August, informing me that His Excellency the Governor General in Council had had under consideration my Petition and its enclosures, and intimating that the Legislature had not placed at his disposal any funds out of which any provision or allowance could be made to me.

I should have replied before this had I not been suffering from serious indisposition arising from my general ill health, aggravated by travel and my long detention at Quebec expecting my case to be taken up, and the mental suffering arising from hope deferred.

I now recur to the subject because, although I gratefully acknowledge the recognition by the Government of my claim, and their virtual acquiescence in the strong recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee of last Session, I cannot believe that, on reconsideration, His Excellency in Council will be of opinion that the answer I have received meets the case.

Since the introduction of Responsible Government, it has been a well-established practice that all *money grants* must be *initiated by the Government*, and whenever an attempt has been made by an independent member in the House to infringe this rule it has been met by a prompt rebuke. The most the Committee could have done, under these circumstances, was to investigate the case and recommend *generally*;—this they did in very strong terms, after a careful and close examination of facts, and it was absolutely out of their power *to place funds at His Excellency's disposal*, but in their very favorable recommendation they afforded the Government the strongest assurance that whatever provision the Government, in the exercise of the duty constitutionally devolving on them, should submit to the House, would meet their cordial approval.

On former occasions I was informed that the Government only desired a Report from the Legislature as a ground for action, and to justify a provision such as my case deserved—this ground was furnished last Session.

I submit, therefore, that I have done all that can be expected of me, and that the House have done all that can be expected from them, until a provision is submitted to them by the Ministry adequate to my claims as admitted, in which, doubtless, they will readily concur; and that it would be cruel towards me, at my advanced age, and in my very critical state of health, to require me to go to the labor and expense of another visit to Quebec to make another appeal to the Legislature, and that the latter, after the thorough investigation of last Session, and the Committee's very favourable Report, might, however much they sympathized with me, not unreasonably decline to again enter on the subject.

I have therefore respectfully to request that His Excellency in Council will cause to be included in the Estimates for next Session such adequate provision for me as will carry out the strong recommendation of the Committee, and that I may receive such an assurance of this intention as will relieve my mind from the suspense under which I am and have long been laboring.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient servant,  
WM. REES.

The Honorable  
The Provincial Secretary,  
Quebec.