

To His Excellency George Dundas, Esquire, Lieut. Governor, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

1. We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the House of Assembly of P. E. Island, beg respectfully to tender our thanks for the Speech with which your Excellency opened the present Session.

2. Although the late time at which it was deemed advisable to dissolve the last Assembly, and the ministerial arrangements resulting from the General Election, prevented your Excellency from summoning us at an earlier period than the present, your Excellency may rely upon our willingness to devote a sufficient time to mature such measures as the exigencies of the Colony and the public service may require.

3. We shall be glad to receive from your Excellency the particulars of the purchase of Estates which have been effected during the recess.

4. We have observed in common with your Excellency the general desire evinced by the tenantry to obtain the Fee Simple of their lands, by the purchase of their farms, and we therefore rejoice to learn that your Excellency's efforts will continue to be directed towards extending the operations of the land Purchase Bill to such parts of the Island as have not yet participated in its benefits. We trust that the remaining Proprietors of Township lands, who have not as yet evinced a disposition to part with their lands under the provisions of the Land Purchase Bill on fair and liberal terms, will see the advisability now of forwarding your Excellency's views in that respect; and we can assure your Excellency that we are fully impressed with the importance of making every exertion to extinguish the leasehold tenure, and secure to the occupant of the soil a more independent interest in his labor and improvements. The means of providing funds for the foregoing object shall receive our careful and serious consideration.

5. The important question of Education shall receive our deliberate attention whenever it shall be brought before us, whether it be with the view of improving the position of the School Teachers, or otherwise rendering the law now in force relating to Education more efficient and more extensively useful to the inhabitants of the Colony.

6. We are gratified to learn from your Excellency that the Revenue has increased, and we thank your Excellency for the assurance that the public accounts for the past year will be laid before us, which will inform us as to the sums paid for the purchase of the Estates already alluded to, and the amounts expended for military purposes, which your Excellency informs us have caused the expenditure to be largely in excess of ordinary years.

7. We shall be prepared to grant the necessary supplies for the public service so soon as the accounts for the past and the estimates for the current year shall have been laid before us.

8. We acknowledge fully the great advantages to be derived from the development of local industry and improvements in agriculture. The subject is well worthy of, and shall receive, our constant attention as the Representatives of the people; and we thank your Excellency for informing us that you will gladly cooperate with us in such measures as we may devise for the advancement of those interests.

9. We agree with your Excellency that the whole question of the construction and management of the highways, and the expenditure of public moneys thereon, requires a thorough investigation, and we shall endeavor to obtain reliable information on this most important subject as a preliminary step to future legislation.

10. We assure your Excellency that you may rely with confidence upon our zeal for the welfare of the Colony.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAN, Chairman of the Committee to receive tenders for printing the Parliamentary Reporter, submitted the Report of said Committee, stating that they had received tenders from Messrs. John Ings, W. Malone, and David Laird, and recommending that the tender of Mr. D. Laird, being the lowest, be accepted.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES, Chairman of the Committee to receive tenders for printing the Journals of the Session, submitted a Report, stating that tenders had been received from Messrs. W. Malone, H. Cooper, J. Ings, and George T. Haszard, and recommending that the tender of Mr. Haszard, to print the Journals on superior English paper, same as specimen submitted, at 19s. 6d. per sheet, be accepted.

House adjourned till Monday next at 10 o'clock.

MONDAY, April 22.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL moved that the House do adopt the usual Resolution touching the distribution of a certain number of copies of the Journals. In submitting which, he observed that it would be necessary to forward copies to the Governmental departments of the Provinces recently Confederated.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND asked the Hon. Attorney General if he admitted that Confederation was a fixed fact.

Hon. Mr. DUNCAN remarked that the people of Nova Scotia were driven into Confederation without their consent—they were denied the privilege of an appeal to the Polls.

Mr. HOWAT did not see the necessity of recognizing the Confederated Government, as it was termed, for it could scarcely be said that it had, as yet, an existence—certainly it was not yet in working order, and, therefore, it was unnecessary on the part of that House to give it any hasty recognition.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES said the fact that the Bill for Confederating Canada and the two Maritime Provinces had passed the Imperial Parliament, and received Her Majesty's Royal assent, rendering it necessary that the House should recognize it. He thought the views of some hon. members of the Opposition must have been considerably modified on the question of Confederation, for it appeared that they had nominated the Hon. Mr. Haviland, who was a strong Confederate, as their Leader.

After some further remarks from hon. members, the resolution was put and agreed to.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND remarked that the names of the new Administration had not been announced to the House, nor was it made known whom hon. members should address as Leader of the Government.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY, Attorney General, replied, and read the names of His Excellency's responsible advisers. He remarked that the Hon. Mr. Coles, Colonial Secretary and President of the Executive Council, having just been triumphantly elected by the people, would in a few days be able to take his seat as the Leader of the Government.