

when expended, will be of great benefit to the public generally, and particularly so to the farmer. As roads are extended into the country, the price of cartage and other labour will be proportionally reduced, and greater facility given to this branch of industry. But as roads are constantly wasting away, they require constant attention to keep them in repair, and it would be an ultimate saving to the Colony, if a grant were given by the Legislature for this purpose, to be placed at the immediate disposal of the Board of Commissioners, so that they may be enabled to enter into contracts for keeping in good order the more extended and public lines of road, and have the power of employing labourers to keep the minor roads in repair.

The Commissioners in the adoption of improvements, have found it advisable to alter the direction of several roads, which alterations have caused them to enter upon, and damage private property. For such damages they are liable to pay a fair remuneration. This reasonable demand of parties sustaining loss, is calculated greatly to diminish the limited funds placed at the disposal of the Commissioners. They would therefore suggest for the consideration of the Legislature the great advantages which would be gained by recommending his Excellency the Governor to give, in lieu of property so taken, an equivalent in waste land.

In framing their Contracts the Commissioners have reserved to themselves the right to alter and vary their plans, without prejudice to the subsisting contract, and with the understanding that, should the labour or expense be thereby increased, a fair and equitable remuneration should be allowed to the Contractor. Few Contracts can be so clearly defined by specification as not to need some amendment. The Commissioners therefore have found it necessary to improve on some of the specifications, whereby the expenses of the Contractor have been increased. To meet such liabilities the Commissioners trust that the Legislature will make it a consideration in their future Grants for the completion of any particular service, as well as to provide for other contingencies, concomitant on carrying into practical operation the provisions of the Road Act.

The Commissioners cannot close their present Report without calling the attention of the Legislature to the state of the streets in the town. In almost every part they are overlaid with filth of every description, which ought not to be permitted. Nothing, however can be done to effect a permanent good, without first improving the surface, and cutting catch-water drains of sufficient dimensions to carry off water, &c. &c. Some plan should be devised to cleanse the streets daily by removing all the useful manure and depositing it in some part where it might be sold to meet the expense incurred in its removal. The Nuisance Act should be amended, and full effect given to it, in order to prevent the dirty practice of throwing filth in the open street. Several Petitions, numerous and respectably signed, have been received by the Commissioners, representing the necessity of improving the streets; and so desirous are the petitioners of immediate amelioration, that they look forward with much anxiety to the proceedings of the Legislature in matters connected therewith. The inhabitants of Queen's Street have offered to aid in cutting a public sewer in that street, and the householders and others in the neighbourhood of Ryall's hill have offered their assistance to improve that part of Gower Street situate between the Wesleyan Chapel and the Theatre.

In a place like St. John's, where two thirds of the Revenues of the colony are raised, it is rather surprising that a sum has never been given by the Legislature for the very useful purposes alluded to. But the Commissioners trust, that when the attention of the Legislature is drawn particularly to the subject, a grant will be given suitable to the magnitude of the town, and the importance of the matter—to render clean the Capital from all those impurities which daily collect in a dense population, and which cannot but affect both the health and comfort of the people.

Of the many subjects of internal economy which have been submitted to the honourable the House of Assembly, there is none more immediately interesting than the state of the roads; “for next to the general influence of the seasons upon which the regular supply of our wants and comforts depend, there is, perhaps, no improvement more useful to men in a civilized state than the perfection of the means of internal communication.” In the neighbourhood of St. John's where the best roads in the Island are to be found, they are still very defective, and hitherto the people have been willing to put up with a very absurd system of road-making, and with roads in every respect essentially bad;—for it must be obvious, that