

steps will be taken on the meeting of the Imperial Parliament, to vest in the Provincial Authorities the entire control and management of that Department, and they trust that as soon as the necessary arrangements to give effect to this object shall be completed, it will be found practicable to establish a low and uniform rate of postage for the Provinces of British North America.

That they agree with His Excellency in the belief that an increase in the Representation would be attended with considerable advantage to the public interest, and that any measure that may be brought before them for that purpose, will receive their most deliberate consideration.

That they are happy to find that the opposition at one time manifested in certain parts of *Lower Canada* to the Common School Act, has in a great measure subsided, and that they will cheerfully concur in making any amendments that may be proposed to them which shall render it as little as possible onerous to the rate payer without compromising the important principle which it has consecrated in securing the blessing of Education to the youth of this section of the Province.

That the systems of Judicature in the Province, the Laws for the regulation of Municipalities, and the Constitution of the University of King's College in *Upper Canada*, shall engage their best attention.

That they have great satisfaction in hearing that the Officers employed on the exploration of the country between *Quebec* and *Halifax*, with the view of ascertaining the Line best adapted for a Railway between these two Cities, have made a Report containing much valuable information, and presenting in a strong light the advantages of the proposed undertaking, and that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has expressed to His Excellency the interest taken by Her Majesty's Government in the execution of this important work.

That this House participates in the concern felt by His Excellency, that *Canada* has been seriously affected by the commercial depression by which the past year has been unfortunately characterised.

That they feel grateful to His Excellency for having pressed on the consideration of Her Majesty's Imperial Government the urgent necessity for the removal of those provisions from the Imperial Statute Book which tend to restrict the Commerce of this Province by checking the resort of Foreign Shipping to her Ports in search of Freight, and that they receive with much satisfaction the information that His Excellency's representations on this head have been cordially responded by the Queen's Government.

That to all the measures to which His Excellency has been pleased to refer, as calculated to raise the credit of the Province, extend its trade, and contribute to the development of its resources, this House will not fail to give their best attention, particularly to the following, viz. :

The provision of the necessary funds for the completion of the *St. Lawrence* Canals at the earliest period which is of the greatest importance; and they are happy to learn that these great Works may be so far perfected at small additional expense as to permit Vessels drawing nine feet on the outward and eight feet on the inward voyage to pass from Lake *Erie* to the Ocean soon after the opening of the Navigation, and that when this object shall be accomplished, *Canada* will possess an Inland Navigation unparalleled in capacity and length, and connecting the Marts of a Commerce to the growth of which it is impossible to assign limits.

An enactment authorizing the alienation of Works of a purely local character, which have been executed at the cost of the Province, and giving such powers as may be necessary to the Government for the re-organization of the Provincial Debt and the creation of an efficient Sinking Fund: it is gratifying to remember that this debt has not been contracted in the prosecution of costly wars of defence or aggression, but in the construction of works of utility, the more important whereof can hardly fail, when completed, to prove remunerative; this, with the existence of a large Revenue derived from Customs, places the public creditor in a very advantageous position, and which will be improved when the principle of a Sinking Fund is brought into active operation.