

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 1.

it would not prejudice the satisfactory adjustment of any of the questions at issue between His Majesty's Government and the House of Assembly. However the measure may have been subsequently understood, such were the feelings with which it was adopted. It is obvious that this application does not call on you to grant the smallest amount more than would have been required if there had been no advance. His Majesty therefore hopes, that an issue made in reliance on the just and liberal feelings of the House of Assembly, and designed for no other purpose than to prevent an highly inconvenient interruption of the general business of the province, will be cheerfully repaid.

In the absence of any legal provision for the purpose, I took on myself the responsibility of continuing the Quarantine Establishment at Grosse Isle, on the same footing as I found it, relying on your liberality to make good an expenditure thus incurred solely for the public advantage. I am happy to state that the establishment was closed at an earlier period than usual, in consequence of there having been, for several weeks previously, no sick of any description in the hospital. I avail myself of this opportunity to suggest to you the expediency of indemnifying the proprietor of the island for its past occupation in the public service, and of enabling the Government to obtain possession of it, should the continuance there of a quarantine station be deemed advisable.

I have to announce that the suit instituted by the Crown against the late Receiver-general for repayment of the debt due to the province, has been brought to a termination which makes the estate of the defendant applicable to the satisfaction of the demands of the province. I may also announce to you that the party against whom the judgment has been given, has come to the determination to relinquish his seat in the Legislature of the province, and to abstain from the exercise of all rights and privileges attached to it.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

In requesting your attention to such useful statutes as may have recently expired, I beg to recommend to your more immediate notice, one, the expiration of which has affected the system of strict reciprocity requisite to be maintained in our commercial intercourse with the United States. I allude to the Act passed in the fourth year of the reign of His present Majesty, intituled "An Act to continue for a limited time, and to amend certain Acts therein mentioned, relating to the collection of the revenue at the several inland ports of the province." I would also recommend to your consideration the whole question of prisons and prison discipline, and the expediency of adopting some more effectual methods, than at present exist, for repressing crime, which, I regret to say, appears to be on the increase in the province.

Of the Commission of which I have spoken to you, it will be the first and most urgent duty to prepare with deliberation, and the utmost care, and yet without delay, the heads of a bill for giving up to the appropriation of the House of Assembly the net proceeds of the hereditary revenue, and to prepare it in such a form that it may be acceptable to the various authorities whose sanction it may require, or under whose cognizance it may come. In what form precisely this important concession may be finally made, it would now be out of place to discuss; but it will be necessary that two points should be secured: First, that the management of the sources of that revenue of which the proceeds are to be appropriated by the House of Assembly, should be reserved to officers of the Crown, whose accounts will be open to the inspection of the Legislature of the province: Secondly, that a provision should be made for the support of the Executive Government, and for the salaries of the Judges, by an adequate civil list.

The much agitated questions respecting the tenures of land and the registry of titles, and all the complicated considerations connected therewith, will also form a subject for the review of the Commissioners; and they are directed to make a complete investigation of the conflicting claims of the Crown, and of the seminary of St. Sulpice, within the seigneurie of Montreal. What constitution and course of proceedings would be most advantageous for the Executive Council? What system for the general education of the people? How the collection and apportionments between the two provinces of the duties of customs, levied within the waters of the St. Lawrence, may be best arranged? And what principle ought hereafter to be taken as a guide in granting or refusing to companies or associations any powers to be exercised, or privileges or capacities to be enjoyed, within the province, are also questions on which the Commissioners must report to the Crown.

There are still graver matters which have been made the grounds of petition to His Majesty, and respecting which the Commissioners are not precluded from entering into an inquiry. But it would be painful to speak here of dissensions between the two Legislative bodies whom I address, or to recapitulate the faults which have been found with the constitution of either body by the other; let me invite you, rather, to follow that example of forbearance, moderation, and of mutual respect which, notwithstanding their differences of opinion, has been recently exhibited by the two Houses of the Imperial Parliament. This moment, as it seems to me, is a great opportunity for good or for evil; let me entreat of you that it may not be lost or thrown away. Lower Canada is divided by two parties, and each of them appears to be agitated by apprehensions which, I trust, are exaggerated. To the Canadians of French origin I would say, do not fear that there is any design to disturb the form of society under which you have so long been contented and prosperous. However different from those of her colonists in other parts of the world, England cannot but admire the social arrangements by which a small number of enterprising colonists has grown into a good, religious and happy race of agriculturists, remarkable for the domestic virtues, for  
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