

Despatches from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial department, on this important subject will also be laid before you.

From this correspondence you will perceive that Her Majesty's Government have given to these Resolutions their most deliberate consideration, and have expressed their general approval of the proceedings of the Conference.

For this, the most momentous question ever submitted to you, I ask your earnest consideration.

I have received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies a communication respecting the Militia Law.

The Colonial Minister has observed with satisfaction that a Volunteer movement has arisen in this Colony, which reflects much credit on the loyalty and spirit of its inhabitants; on the other hand, he has remarked that a law exists among the statutes of the Island which declares that the Militia shall not be called out, except in case of war, civil commotion, or other sufficient emergency.

You will, I confidently hope, give your careful attention to a measure which will be proposed to you, and which is framed with the view of remedying a state of affairs characterized by Mr. Cardwell as having no parallel in British North America.

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;*

The Public Accounts of the past year will be laid before you. It affords me much satisfaction to observe that the revenue exceeds that of any previous year, and is considerably in excess of the expenditure.

The estimates for the current year will also be laid before you. They have been framed with due regard to economy.

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;*

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;*

The people whom you represent are so thoroughly capable of appreciating the importance of Agriculture, that I would suggest for your consideration the expediency of giving some further encouragement to the promotion of the scientific culture of the soil, and to the improvement of stock.

In full reliance on your zeal for the welfare of the Colony, I now commit its interests to your care.

The Hon. James C. Pope rose in his place and stated to the House, that since the last Session of the Legislature, in consequence of the resignation of the Hon. Mr. Gray and the Hon. Mr. Palmer, as members of the Government, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor had been pleased to appoint him (Mr. Pope)

as President of the Council, and instead of the Gentlemen who retired as aforesaid, the Hon. T. Heath Haviland and the Hon. Kenneth Henderson had been appointed to seats in the Executive Council.

*Resolved,* That a Committee of seven Members be appointed to prepare and report with all convenient speed the draft of an Address in answer to the Speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, delivered this day to both Houses of the Legislature.

*Ordered,* That Mr. Brecken, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. Haslam, Mr. John Yeo, Mr. Green, Mr. Duncan and Mr. Montgomery do compose the said Committee.

*Resolved,* That a Committee of three Members be appointed to examine what Laws have lately expired or are near expiring, with leave to report from time to time, by Bills or otherwise.

*Ordered,* That the Hon. J. Longworth, Mr. Brecken and the Hon. J. Hensley do compose the said Committee.

*Resolved,* That a Committee of seven Members be appointed to examine and report on the Public Accounts,—with power to send for persons, papers and records.

*Ordered,* That Mr. John Yeo, Mr. Haslam, Mr. MacLennan, Mr. Duncan, the Hon. G. Coles, the Hon. J. Warburton and Mr. Conroy do compose the said Committee.

*Resolved,* That a Committee of five Members be appointed to examine Bills to be engrossed, or that have been engrossed.

*Ordered,* That Mr. MacLennan, Mr. Green, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. Sinclair and Mr. Walker do compose the said Committee.

*Resolved,* That a Committee of six Members be appointed to keep up a good correspondence between the two Branches of the Legislature, and to report their proceedings from time to time—with power to send for persons, papers and records.