

Speech at opening  
of session

the extent of no less than a million and a half sterling, to aid the Province for the double purpose of diminishing the pressure of the interest on the Public Debt, and of enabling it to proceed with those great public undertakings, whose progress during the last few years has been arrested by the Financial difficulties. I shall direct a measure to be submitted to you, embracing a plan for this purpose, and I shall lay before you, for your information and that of the People of *Canada*, extracts from the despatches which convey to me this most gratifying assurance.

In immediate connexion with the outlay of capital upon public works is the subject of Emigration, and the disposal and settlement of public lands. There exist within the Province no means so certain of producing a healthy flow of Immigration from the Mother Country, and of ultimately establishing the Immigrant as a settler and proprietor within the Colony, as the power of affording sure employment for his labor on his first arrival. The assistance of Parliament, for the Public Works which may be undertaken here, will in a great measure provide for this; but with a view further to aid Immigration, I am authorised to declare to you that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to assist in facilitating the passage of the Immigrant from the Port at which he is landed to the place where his labour may be made available, and that a vote of money for this purpose will be proposed to the Imperial Parliament. The conditions which Her Majesty's Government attach to this measure will be submitted to you, at the same time that I shall draw your attention to a scheme for the settlement and disposal of the Public Lands.

It appears highly desirable that the principles of local self-government which already prevail to some extent throughout that part of the Province which was formerly Upper *Canada*, should receive a more extended application there, and that the people should exercise a greater degree of power over their own local affairs. I have directed a measure upon this subject to be submitted to you, and I solicit your earnest attention to the establishment of such a form of local government for those Districts of the Province which are unprovided with it, as may ensure satisfaction to the people, whilst it preserves inviolate the prerogative of the Crown, and maintains the administration of Justice pure from party and popular excitement.

A due provision for the education of the people is one of the first duties of the State, and in this Province especially, the want of it is grievously felt. The establishment of an efficient system by which the blessings of instruction may be placed within the reach of all, is a work of difficulty, but its overwhelming importance demands that it should be undertaken. I recommend the consideration of that subject to your best attention, and I shall be most anxious to afford you in your labours all the co-operation in my power. If it should be found impossible so to reconcile conflicting opinions as to obtain a measure which may meet the approbation of all, I trust that at least steps may be taken by which an advance to a more perfect system may be made, and the difficulty under which the people of this Province now labor, may be greatly diminished, subject to such improvements hereafter as time and experience may point out.

*Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

The financial Accounts of the Province will be immediately laid before you, and I shall direct the estimates for the public service to be submitted to you with the least possible delay. I rely upon your co-operation in the financial measures which it will be my duty to propose to you for taking advantage of the assistance which Her Majesty's Government propose to afford, and for carrying into effect the Public improvements which are deemed most desirable. I shall earnestly endeavor that whatever you may appropriate for this latter purpose shall be economically employed and rendered effective.