

but I wish to embrace this opportunity of acknowledging that kindness, and to say it was greatly enhanced to the Queen's Representative, by the expressions of loyalty and attachment to Her Majesty's Person and Throne which all classes of Her subjects in this Colony seemed anxious to impress upon me. During my visit in the country, I ascertained with regret that there is a lamentable want of Education, and until lately great apathy seems to have prevailed on this most important question; while in this Town I am happy to find many benevolent individuals taking a warm interest in the rising generation and the cause of Education. It becomes, therefore, the duty of the Legislature to put their shoulders to the wheel, and in addition to the provisions they make for the Academy in Charlottetown and District Schoolmasters, to take care that the inestimable blessings of Education be extended to every corner of this Colony. The necessity for a more efficient system is a subject which has for some time occupied the anxious attention of the Government; and a measure will soon be submitted for your consideration, which I am sure will meet with from you, that impartial deliberation and favor which its great importance demands.

Of the thirty-four Acts which you passed last Session, twenty-eight have been left to their operation; on the provisions of two of the remaining six, I have ascertained the views of Her Majesty's Government, to which I shall presently advert; but before doing so, I may acquaint you that the loan of £10,000, which you authorized the Government to borrow, was easily effected at 5 per cent., and the whole sum appropriated to the purposes for which you intended it. The 6 per cent. Warrants are called in; all Warrants under £10 are paid on demand; and I am happy to say, that no higher rate of Interest than 5 per cent. is now paid on any obligations which the Treasury has to discharge. In regard to the two Acts I have alluded to, I shall first notice the Civil List Bill of last Session: it seems there was an accidental omission in the Act, which required that the title of the Sovereign should continue in the land, and thereby render valid any legal proceedings that might arise in reference to Crown Lands; a similar clause, under similar circumstances, was introduced into the Nova Scotia Act, and I am confident you will take an early opportunity to remedy the omission, in order that the Bill may receive the Royal assent.

The other Act is the One-ninth Bill. This Act has not been confirmed, Her Majesty's Government requiring clearer proof of its necessity. My belief of its equity and justice was fortified by both branches of the Legislature, although several Honorable Gentlemen, Members of the Legislative Council, considered that unless some case arose to call for Legislative interference, it was unnecessary; such cases have arisen, and more may follow; and I cannot help thinking, that all inconvenience and difficulty arising from uncertainty, might have been obviated, had the Legislature, on passing so important a Bill as one to regulate the Currency, also defined by Statute the just and equitable provisions, so necessary on such an occasion, for all the existing contracts and obligations according to the established practice, custom and usage of the Colony; in other words, that "parties should in future pay and receive at the rate at which they had before paid and received," without subjecting their contracts and obligations to the interpretation of the Courts of Law. It shall be my duty to endeavour to afford proof to Her Majesty's Government, of the necessity for legislation on the principle which I have just enunciated, and which induced me to give my assent to the Bill in question.

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

The state of the Revenue, notwithstanding that you made wise reductions of duties last Session on some articles of general consumption, you will, I think, have reason to be satisfied with. The amount for the year would have been larger, had it not been for the unusually early winter, which has frozen up and prevented several vessels from reaching the Island, laden with cargoes subject to revenue duties.

The Estimates will soon be laid before you, and I doubt not you will readily vote the necessary Supplies for the Public Service. By a wholesome control over the expenditure, and keeping it always within the amount of the Revenue, you will soon increase the credit of the Colony, enable its Government to carry on a better system of Finance than has hitherto prevailed, which cannot but prove to be acceptable and advantageous to the Community at large.