

that on the meeting of the Imperial Parliament, steps will be taken for conferring on the Provincial Authorities the entire control and management of this Department. I trust that when the necessary arrangements for effecting this object shall have been completed, it may be found practicable to establish a low and uniform rate of Postage for the British North American Provinces.

I am disposed to believe that an increase in the Representation would be attended with considerable advantage to the public interests, and I recommend this subject, which is one of no ordinary importance, to your best consideration.

It gives me much gratification to state that the opposition manifested at one time in certain parts of *Lower Canada*, to the School Act, has in a great measure subsided. I am of opinion, nevertheless, that this Act may, with advantage, be amended in some of its details, and I feel confident that you will readily consent to make such alterations in it, as shall render it as little as possible onerous to the rate payer, without, however, compromising the important principle which it has consecrated, in securing for all the youth of this section of the Province, the blessing of education.

Among the subjects which will probably engage your attention, are the system of Judicature in both sections of the Province—the Laws for the Regulation of Municipalities, and the Constitution of the University of King's College.

The Officers employed in exploring the Country between *Quebec* and *Halifax*, with the view of discovering the best line for a Railway to connect these two points, have presented a Report which contains much valuable information, and sets forth in a strong light the advantages of the proposed undertaking; I shall lay it before you, together with a Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, expressive of the interest taken by Her Majesty's Government in the execution of this great work.

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,*

I shall direct the Public Accounts with the Estimates for the year to be laid before you.

I rely on your readiness to grant the Supplies which are necessary for the Public Service.

*Honorable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,*

I have observed, with much concern, that *Canada* has participated largely in the Commercial depression by which the last year has been so unfavorably characterized.

I have not failed to impress on Her Majesty's Ministers, the urgent necessity which exists for the removal of such provisions from the Imperial Statute Book, as may tend to restrict the Commerce of the Province, by checking the resort of Foreign Shipping to its Ports in search of Freight, and I have much satisfaction in stating that my representations on this head, have been cordially responded to by the Queen's Government.

Among the measures which seem to merit the attention of the Provincial Parliament at the present time, as being calculated to raise the credit of the Province, to extend its trade, and to contribute to the development of its resources, I recommend to your consideration the following as specially important:

The provision of such funds as may be required for the completion of the *St. Lawrence* Canals at the earliest period. These great works may, it is believed, be so far perfected at a small additional expense, as to permit Vessels drawing nine feet on the outwards, and eight feet on the inwards voyage, to pass from Lake *Erie* to the Ocean, soon after the opening of the navigation. When this object shall be accomplished, *Canada* shall 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.

The enactment of a Law authorizing the alienation of works of a purely local character, which have been executed at the cost of the Province, and giving the Government such powers as may be necessary for the reorganization of the Provincial Debt, and creation of an efficient Sinking Fund—this debt has been contracted not in the prosecution of costly wars, whether of defence or aggression, but in the construction of works of utility, the more important of which can hardly fail when