

*To His Excellency GEORGE DUNDAS, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Island Prince Edward, and the Territories thereunto belonging, Chancellor, Vice Admiral, and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.*

May it please your Excellency ;

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council, in Parliament assembled, thank your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present Session, and assure your Excellency that we shall give our best attention to the affairs of the Colony.

Although the usual period has not yet arrived for taking the Census, yet we concur with your Excellency on the propriety of having it taken in April next, more especially as it is the desire of the Imperial Government that a simultaneous course should be adopted in all parts of the British Empire. Our best attention will be given to the Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State and the accompanying documents on this subject, when laid before us.

In concurring in the Act passed last Session to give effect to the Report of the Commissioners to be appointed on the land question, the Legislative Council were guided in a great measure by what appeared to have been deemed requisite by the Imperial Government from the construction the Legislative Council put on the despatch of His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, addressed to your Excellency, and bearing date the 21st March last. We trust, however, that although the Act has not yet been submitted to Her Majesty, the award of the Commissioners will undergo no unnecessary delay, and when perfected and published, will be such as to enable Her Majesty to allow the same.

We unite with your Excellency in the gratifying prospects resulting from the purchase of the Selkirk Estate, and hail it as the earnest of similar and yet more extended benefits to the people.

We regret that your Excellency was put to much inconvenience in consequence of not being able to negotiate Debentures bearing only five per cent. Interest, which caused your Excellency to avail yourself of the temporary expedient of issuing Treasury Warrants to the amount required. We feel there was no other course left for your Excellency to adopt in order to meet the engagements which your Excellency's Government had entered into for the purchase of Public Lands.

We thank your Excellency for the successful efforts which you have made in organising throughout the Island Volunteer Rifle and Artillery Companies, and for the interest which your Excellency so fully evinced for the protection of the Colony; and it is highly gratifying to know that the young men of this country have responded so manfully to your Excellency's call. We shall gladly concur in such liberal measures as shall be deemed necessary to complete their efficiency.

We refer, your Excellency, with much pleasure and loyal gratitude, to the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to this Island,—a visit that proved so mutually agreeable to both Prince and People, and which, while manifesting the kind consideration of Her Majesty, and Her regard for the interests of the Colony, has afforded opportunity for the expression of the warm attach-