

ments, the Officers of that department have been induced to lay aside or postpone every occupation of less immediate urgency. This is indeed a very insufficient reason for the neglect of business of so much importance as that of forwarding these Acts through their final stages, since the additional assistance which has been recently obtained, might of course have been procured at a much earlier period:—I refer to the fact, not as justifying the delay, but as it may tend to convince the Council and Assembly of Prince Edward Island, that the apparent inattention to their affairs has not been the result of any failure of respect for them, or of any insensibility to the magnitude of the interests affected by these enactments, but of an exigency which, from its peculiar and alarming character, may perhaps have been allowed to supersede all other topics in one particular department, to an extent not strictly defensible. The attention of the Lord President and of the Clerks in ordinary of the Privy Council, having been very distinctly drawn to the subject, I have every reason to entertain a confident hope that no similar delay will occur hereafter.

With reference to the statement that His Majesty having conceded to the local Legislature of Lower Canada the exclusive enactment of every Law affecting real property in that province, a similar relaxation of the Royal Prerogative may be claimed in favor of Acts passed in Prince Edward Island—I have to observe, that a misconception would seem to prevail as to the real object and effect of my despatch to Lord Aylmer. The case is, that a series of Acts of Parliament had been passed to determine whether certain Lands in Lower Canada should be holden on Feudal or on Soccage tenure, and what should be the legal consequences of the tenure in whatever respected Inheritance, Dower, or other proprietary titles. The Assembly of Lower Canada complained of this interference with their local affairs, which they insisted could not be correctly understood, or safely regulated, except by a Legislature residing within the Province, and chosen from amongst its inhabitants. To the justice of this complaint His Majesty's Government acceded, and pledged themselves not to propose to Parliament any further interference respecting the tenure of lands in the Province, but to leave that subject exclusively to the Provincial Legislature. His Majesty did not on that occasion forego, nor has he ever abandoned his Prerogative of disallowing any Acts of the Council and Assembly which he may deem objectionable, or of requiring, in particular cases, the suspension of Laws until His assent had been given, upon the advice of the Lords of the Privy Council. The standing instructions under which you are acting, with regard to the suspension of Acts in particular cases, are at this day in force in Lower Canada as fully as in Prince Edward Island. If the accidental circumstances to which I have already referred have had the effect of converting those Instructions on some recent occasions into the source of a most inconvenient delay, I cannot on that account venture to advise His Majesty to forego a right coeval with the earliest settlement of Legislative Assemblies in the Colonies, and indispensable to the maintenance of the Royal authority there. An equally effective and much less inconvenient remedy will be found, in establishing a system of greater punctuality in the discharge of this branch of the public business, which His Majesty's Government distinctly pledge themselves to accomplish.

You will have the goodness to communicate a copy of this Despatch to the Council and Assembly of Prince Edward Island, acquainting them that His

Majesty has been pleased to receive their Address very graciously, and to command me at once to convey to them His thanks for their loyal expressions of attachment to his Person and Government; and to signify to them His Majesty's regret that any circumstances should have occurred to impede the dispatch of the business of the important and valuable Colony which they represent, and to inform them that His Majesty has issued such orders as he trusts will secure the most prompt attention to the Legislative Acts of Prince Edward Island in future. I have, &c.

(Signed)

GODERICH.

Ordered, that the said Message and Despatch do lie on the Table.

The House again resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, on the Report of the Special Committee on the expiring Laws.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair:

Mr. Brennan took the Chair of the Committee:

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

Mr. Brennan, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that they had made some progress in the business to them referred, and had come to Four Resolutions thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House—and he read the same in his place, and afterwards delivered them in at the Clerk's Table, where they were again read, and are as follows:—

1. **RESOLVED**, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that an Act made and passed in the Sixth year of the reign of his late Majesty, intituled "An Act to continue an Act made and passed in the First year of his present Majesty's reign, intituled An Act to regulate the Measurement of Ton Timber, Boards, and all other kinds of Lumber; and to repeal two certain Acts made and passed in the Fourteenth and Fifty-seventh years of his late Majesty's reign; and also for declaring what shall be deemed Merchantable; and for appointing Officers to survey the same," should be continued.

2. **RESOLVED**, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that an Act made and passed in the Eighth year of the reign of his late Majesty, intituled "An Act to authorize the formation of a Fire Engine Company, for the Town of Charlotte-Town," should be continued.

3. **RESOLVED**, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that an Act made and passed in the Eighth year of the reign of his late Majesty, intituled "An Act to establish and regulate the practice of the Supreme Court of Judicature of this Island in cases of Replevin"—should be continued and amended.

4. **RESOLVED**, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that so much of an Act made and passed in the First year of his present Majesty's reign, as relates to