

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council ;*

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

Although some apprehension has been created, in consequence of the partial destruction of the Potato Crop, upon which the great mass of the community so much depend for sustenance, yet, Providence having blessed this Island with abundant crops of other descriptions, I have not felt it necessary to call for your services in your Legislative capacity until the present period: I will however, take this opportunity of observing, that it appears to me very advisable to invest the Executive with general power to prevent the exportation of Agricultural produce in cases of threatened scarcity, which can only be now done by an Act of the Legislature; it might therefore be necessary not only to assemble you at an extremely inconvenient period, but most injurious consequences might occur to the Colony before you could meet to avert them.

I recommend to your notice the Criminal Law of this Colony, as it applies to the crime of Burglary, which, under any circumstances, can only be punished by death. I think it very essential that this Law should be assimilated to that of Great Britain, by which, sentence of death, instead of being passed, may, in certain cases, be recorded. I also recommend the revision of the Law passed in the last Session for the better prevention of Smuggling.

I must again call your attention to the state of the Laws relating to the Roads and Bridges; it is obvious that the former must from necessity be for a great portion of the year, in an extremely bad condition, while the Statute Labor can only be applied at one particular period.

I have also to repeat the observations I have formerly made respecting the method of paying for services performed upon the Roads and Bridges; numerous personal applications have been made to me during the past year of inability to obtain payment from the Road Correspondent, who was himself unable to meet the demands, because he could not procure money for the Treasury Warrants placed in his hands for the purpose; individuals have travelled, in some instances, more than 30 miles, in order to lay their cases before me. I feel that you will exert your best endeavours to relieve this hard working and indigent class of the population, from so great a hardship as that complained of.

I shall cause to be laid before you the Report of Commissioners, whom I appointed, to enquire into this Department of the public service, for the purpose of carrying out, more fully, the wishes of the House of Assembly, as expressed to me in their Address last Session.

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

I shall cause the Public Accounts to be laid before you without delay. Although I have satisfaction in announcing a further increase of the Revenue, yet, in making provision for the services of the current year, the existing state of the financial affairs of the Colony will demand your serious deliberation; the large amount of outstanding Warrants, so disproportionate to the present resources of the Colony, will, I fear, ultimately operate to weaken public confidence in their stability; therefore, as the due maintenance of public credit is essential to the prosperity of the Colony, it is my obvious duty, not only again to urge the necessity of confining the expenditure within the limits of the prospective Revenue, but also to reiterate the importance of adopting some efficient measure for the early redemption of the liabilities which, a previous excess of expenditure, has imposed upon the Colony.