

Legislature may address to the Throne; and to see that His Majesty's answer be conveyed to the province with the utmost possible dispatch.

There have been several complaints of other matters, such as of the undue preference of the English to the French language; of improperly calling on the judges for extrajudicial opinions on matters which might subsequently come before them for decision; of an interference in the elections of the representatives of the people, and of other matters on which I should scarcely have thought it necessary to make any specific observations, because I can assure you generally, and without reservation, that any course of government liable to such imputations would be marked by the displeasure of His Majesty, and because I rely upon your giving me so much of your confidence as not to suppose beforehand that I should subject myself in these respects to any just reproach.

With respect, however, to any undue partiality to the English language, it may not be superfluous to apprise you more explicitly, that His Majesty disapproves, and is desirous to discourage and prevent the adoption of any practice which would deprive either class of his subjects of the use, in their official acts, of that tongue with which early habits and education may have rendered them most familiar; and that if you should deem it requisite to pass a law, for securing both the English and French inhabitants of the province against any disadvantage arising from an undue preference to either language, I should be prepared willingly to assent to the measure.

It has been represented as another grievance that exorbitant fees have been charged in some of the public offices. I have not yet been sufficiently long in the province to have obtained accurate information on this subject; but I am willing to concur with you in a revision of the fees of every office in the province, and in the appointment, should you think it expedient, of a commission of inquiry for that purpose.

His Majesty has no wish on the subject, but that the remuneration of all public officers, from the highest to the lowest, should be so regulated as to provide for the efficient discharge of the public service, an object which cannot effectually be secured without a fair remuneration to the persons employed by the public.

I will readily co-operate, if it be desired, with a Committee of both Houses, or of either House, in an inquiry not only into certain rules of practice, made by the courts of law, which, it has been stated in addresses to the Throne, have exceeded the just authority of the Judges, but also into all the practice and proceedings of the superior tribunals, with a view to rendering them more prompt and methodical, and less expensive. I apprehend, however, that after such an inquiry, it might not be in the power of the Governor alone to apply any effectual remedy; and that I should require the concurrence of both branches of the Provincial Legislature in passing an Act for the purpose.

The clergy reserves are among the most extensive of the subjects adverted to in the complaints from the province. The whole question, with the draft of a Bill for the adjustment of the claims of all parties, has been already submitted to the decision of the Legislature, but was lost, apparently, by some misapprehension of the intentions of His Majesty's Government. As the best means of removing this misapprehension, I shall cause to be communicated, without delay, copies of the Earl of Ripon's despatches on this subject; and I invite you to resume the consideration of the proposals which they contain.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

To both branches of the Legislature I am authorized to offer my warrants for the payment of their contingent expenses.

I have received the commands of our most gracious Sovereign to acquaint you that His Majesty is disposed to place under the control of the representatives of the people all public monies payable to His Majesty, or to his officers in the province, whether arising from taxes or from any other Canadian source; but that this cession cannot be made except on conditions which must be maturely weighed, and that to arrange such conditions for your consideration is one of the principal objects of the commission with which it has pleased His Majesty to charge myself and my colleagues.

Our inquiries into this subject shall be pursued with unceasing diligence, and the result shall be submitted with all practicable speed to His Majesty's Government, and I hope in a session to be holden in the ensuing year, I shall be able to lay before you proposals for a satisfactory and conclusive arrangement.

I have desired that the accounts which are necessary to show the financial state of the province, with an estimate for the current year, should be submitted to you as soon as possible, and every explanation respecting them which it may be in my power to afford shall be furnished without reserve. These accounts show the large arrears that are now due for salaries to public officers, and for the other ordinary expenditure of the Government; and I earnestly request of you to pass such votes as may effect the liquidation of these arrears, and provide for the maintenance of the public servants, pending the inquiry by the Commissioners to which I have alluded.

Should you place the Government in this position, I am authorized to engage that no part of the surplus proceeds of the Crown revenues which may accrue beyond the charges to which they are at present permanently liable, shall, in the interval of the Commissioners' inquiry, be applied to any purpose whatever unless with your assent.

As connected with the subject of arrears, I am further commanded to ask of you the repayment, to the military chest, of the sum advanced under the sanction of His Majesty's Government, to meet the pressing exigencies of the public service. This advance was exclusively made from British funds, for the purpose of avoiding any undue interference with the revenues falling under the control of the Assembly, and with a strong persuasion that

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 1.