

I am anxious to press this matter upon your immediate attention, because if in the two great districts of the Colony which return seven of the fifteen members of which the House is composed, elections can only be carried on under protection of bayonets, if brutal force and lawless violence are to be perpetually resorted to, and, as heretofore, to a degree that can be restrained solely by Military interference, the inevitable inference must be that the Island is unfit for a Representative System and Legislative Institutions, and that this ancient possession of the British Crown is not duly prepared for conducting its own affairs, and watching over its particular interests by means of a General Assembly. I shall have the honor of laying before you a circular despatch from the Secretary of State recommending the formation of roads, with a view to the facilitating post office communications. The completion of the line connecting Placentia and St. Mary's with St. John's would appear best calculated for the fulfilment of this object, and be essentially advantageous in other particulars. A general Road Bill, establishing a complete and uniform mode of preliminary survey, of subsequent supervision and effective audit, would be far preferable to the plan hitherto pursued, of a yearly act constantly varying in its provisions. Under the proposed arrangement it would only be necessary to decide in each Session upon the sums to be expended, and the localities to which they should be applied.

A case occurred early in the recess, which, in consequence of the quarantine act having been allowed to expire, occasioned considerable perplexity. To prevent a repetition of such inconvenience, and to enable the Executive legally to prescribe and enforce such measures as may, under providence, best guard the public from contagious disease, is a matter well worthy of your care.

You are aware that the Education Act will cease in the approaching month of May, and that consequently it will be necessary to continue it for a certain period or to prepare another bill.

Its benefits have latterly been pretty generally extended, and I may here refer to the message with which I last Session recommenced to your favorable consideration the rules and regulations of the Board of Directors for the District of St. John's, believing that under them Catholic and Protestant children are educated together in habits of friendship, while they receive useful instruction and virtuous admonition.

A very serious fire occurred in this town in the month of September last, the destructive ravages of which were arrested by the ardent zeal and daring courage of the Garrison, of the Fire Companies, and of individuals of every class of Society—their strenuous efforts were, however, much impeded by the want of water, which it would be well to obviate in future by the formation of reservoirs, the construction of floating engines, or such other means as may, on investigation, appear expedient.

The principal legal functionary of the Island having declared it to be, in his opinion, very desirable that the right of the Fisherman and of the trade should be regulated and defined by some express enactment to which the judges might refer, and which would guide their decision; I think it proper to submit this point for your determination.

I shall be happy to assist you to the utmost of my power in every effort for the public good, and it will be a source of the highest gratification to me should this, the concluding Session of the present General Assembly, be remarkable for the harmony of its proceedings, and the beneficial results of its labours.