

as will, it may be hoped, fully meet the views of Her Majesty's Government. There does not seem any sufficient reason for dividing the appropriation into two classes, and specifying the services to be provided into two distinct schedules. This has been found already to produce confusion; but the principal objection to it is, that it may re-open, at a future day, a question which has already given rise to most serious difficulty. It would therefore be expedient, in bringing forward a Bill for granting a Civil List to Her Majesty, to make the appropriation permanent, and to include all the services to be provided for in one schedule.

With a view of meeting the general demand on the part of the public for retrenchment and economy, and in view of the large debt contracted for public works, the interest of which it is of the highest importance should be punctually met, it is necessary that a reduction of salaries should take place. A schedule, annexed to this memorandum, will explain the extent of the reduction which is recommended, and which will leave the salaries of public officers quite as high as any Canadian Legislature will be willing to sanction. The reduction proposed in the salaries of the chief justice, vice-chancellor, judge at Three Rivers, and deputy inspector-general, ought not to affect the present incumbents. The only items provided for in the schedules annexed to the Re-union Act which are not included in the proposed Civil List, are a portion of those under the head of "Contingent and Miscellaneous Expenses of the Administration of Justice in Schedule (A.), and Contingencies of Public Offices in Schedule (B.)." There are many reasons why it is inexpedient to include these services. The charges in Schedule (A.), which it is proposed to exclude, consist chiefly of the contingent expenses of sheriffs, gaolers, coroners, and other judicial officers in the late province of Lower Canada. Services of a similar character have always been cheerfully provided for in Upper Canada, as they are in England, by local assessment, and it is possible that some similar mode of defraying them in Lower Canada may be adopted by the Legislature.

It is necessary to offer some observations on one item of the services provided for in the present Civil List; viz. the pensions.

The system which prevails in England of granting pensions and gratuities to retired servants of the Crown is considered highly objectionable in Canada, and any attempt to persevere in it will lead to very great discontent. The Pension List at present amounts to the very large sum of about 7,000*l.*, 2,000*l.* of which is included in Schedule (A.) as pensions to the judges, to which, however, there is no objection; and 5,000*l.* in Schedule (B.). It has already been noticed, that in the propositions formerly made by the Imperial Government for the grant of an adequate Civil List, in exchange for the hereditary and territorial revenues of the Crown, the amount granted for pensions was to cease on the death of the recipients. Although there is a very general feeling against the principle of pensioning retired servants of the Crown, there can be no doubt that the Legislative Assembly would at any time hereafter, as heretofore, be most ready to co-operate with Her Majesty in granting a retired allowance to any of Her old and meritorious servants who might be in actual want. This is the utmost extent to which any of the sister colonies have been called upon to go, and it would be necessary that, in proposing the same amount fixed in the present Civil List for pensions, the Members of the Government should be enabled to assure the Legislative Assembly that every effort will be used to reduce this item of expenditure as much as possible.

In the annexed Schedule, remarks have been made on such of the different heads of service as appear to require explanation. The amount of the proposed Civil List is 60,000*l.*, a sum much greater in proportion than what has been claimed for any of the other colonies on this continent, and much more than what has ever been required from the Legislature of Lower and Upper Canada, in exchange for the surrender of the hereditary, casual, and territorial revenues of the Crown.

The plan suggested will be received, it is hoped, as evincing an anxious desire to meet the wishes of Her Majesty's Imperial Government on this question; and, if approved of, there can be no doubt that the members of the present Provincial Government will be able to procure the assent of the Canadian Legislature to a Bill for granting a permanent Civil List to Her Majesty, to the amount and for the services specified in the annexed Schedule.

It is manifestly impossible that the members of the present Provisional Government, having a regard to their conscientious convictions, and to the oaths which they have taken, can vindicate in Parliament the present arrangement of the Civil List; and were they to attempt such vindication, they would, by entirely losing that public confidence which they now enjoy, be deprived of the power of affording the Governor-general any assistance in the administration of the government. It is quite possible that calamities may result, both to the colony and the parent state, if a serious difference of opinion should again arise between the Imperial Government and the Canadian Legislature, but it will be satisfactory to reflect that a mode has been pointed out in this memorandum for averting these calamities.

The Civil List now proposed is greater than the people of Canada will approve of, and the members of the government will have to rely entirely upon an appreciation by the Legislative Assembly and the people at large, of the motives which could alone induce them to bring it forward.

The question is in the hands of Her Majesty's Government, and it is earnestly to be hoped that they may sanction the arrangement which has been suggested in this memorandum, and that they may authorize it to be carried into effect before any excited feelings on the subject shall have been manifested either in or out of Parliament.