

during the quarter or any preceding period, and that the net balance in hand after the payment of such expenses be then paid over to the Provincial Treasurer. This arrangement would compel the officers to be regular in rendering their accounts at fixed periods and prevent mistakes in the amount to be paid over.

It will also be perceived that the Bill as it now stands makes no provision for any surplus that may remain of the Revenues at the expiration of the Act, if made only for a limited period; and as lands are sold generally every year on terms of paying for the same by instalments, there may be at the expiration of the Act instalments coming due at a subsequent period for lands sold while the Act was in force; in which case the House of Assembly might claim those sums when received to be paid over as part of the proceeds of sales made under the directions of the Act, although their grant for the Civil List had ceased to be payable; so on the other hand very large sums might have to be paid over to the Treasurer at the end of the quarter preceding the expiration of the Act, and a large surplus undisposed of may be in the Provincial Treasury when the Act expires, while the Government would be left without any provision for the Civil List for the then succeeding year except the uncertain amount that might be derived from the income of that year.

The second section of the Bill provides that the Grant for the support of the Civil Government shall be paid by the Treasurer by warrant from the Lieutenant Governor in four quarterly payments, that is at the end of each quarter in the year, but there is no direction as to the person in whose favor such warrant is to be drawn, or where this quarterly payment when so drawn is to be deposited for the purpose of answering the demands of the Civil Government. It is true that this can be regulated by His Majesty's Government without being inserted in the Act, but Your Lordship may think it worthy of consideration, whether it would not be better that the Act should direct that these quarterly payments should be made to the Receiver General or other proper officer appointed for that purpose, on a warrant drawn in his favor by the Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief for the time being, to be applied in the first place so far as may be necessary to the support of the Civil Government of the Province, and any surplus that remains to be expended in the Province in such way as the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury may direct.

I now come to the fifth section, upon which so much has been already said in the Despatches of the Lieutenant Governor to Your Lordship, as to the evil effects its operation would have in the Province if allowed to pass into a law. As it now stands it is unnecessary for me to trouble Your Lordship with any further remarks on that head; but I cannot but think the mode adopted by the House of Assembly for providing against such evil by passing another Bill (which is only to have effect for two years) to restrain the provision of this, instead of at once making the necessary alterations in this before it passes into a Law, is a most unprecedented and unparliamentary course of proceeding, and one that will not have the effect intended, for the second Bill has other objects in view relative to the control and management of the Crown Lands and Timber in the Province, and contains provisions on that head which I think Your Lordship will require to be materially altered in several respects before it can go into effect.

But at all events if it is admitted, as it is, that the operation of the fifth section of the Civil List Bill as it now stands should be restrained, it surely would be better to have