

equal to the estimated amount. The accounts for 1866, and the estimates for the present year, shall be promptly laid before you. You will, no doubt, give careful consideration to the requirements of the Public Service in the provision of necessary means for the maintenance of Public Credit, and the support of the departments of Government.

*Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Council :*

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honorable House of Assembly :*

During the last summer I was enabled to visit many districts of the Southern and Western Coasts, of which I could not previously acquire any personal knowledge. In the course of my tour I obtained much information, which will be valuable to me in the administration of Public Affairs; and I used the opportunity for acquainting myself with the circumstances of the settlements and the character of the country on a considerable part of the West Coast. The Report of Mr. Murray, the Geological Surveyor, engaged in exploration of portions of the Interior, encourages enterprise in mining, and the success attending some undertakings already commenced affords ground for reasonable expectation that exports of ores will, before long, form a prominent feature in our trade. You are aware that there is reason to believe that considerable Mineral wealth exists in districts of the Island within the limits commonly known as the French Shore; and many applications have recently been made respecting Grants of Land in these localities, which, in obedience to instructions from Her Majesty's Government, I have hitherto been obliged to decline to issue. I shall lay before you a recent Despatch from the Secretary of State relating to this subject, in which he expresses his regret at the inconvenience which results from the unsettled state of the questions respecting British and French rights on the coast, but states that, pending their settlement, he has no alternative but to instruct me, for the present, not to make any grants of Land on that coast. At the same time, Lord Carnarvon expresses the readiness of Her Majesty's Government to re open the negotiations with the French Government which were broken off in 1860, if only satisfied that there were a reasonable prospect of bringing them to a successful