

We thank Your Excellency for the intimation of your intention to submit to us the Financial Statements and Estimates, and we assure Your Excellency of our desire to make competent provision for the efficient administration of the Government.

In directing our attention to the Financial condition of the Island, and to its large and increasing Debt, we shall adopt such measures for the reduction of our liabilities as shall be compatible with subsisting engagements. In doing so, nothing will give us greater pleasure than to comply with Your Excellency's recommendation of discouraging, or curtailing as far as practicable, the casual and extraordinary appropriations for services not included in the Estimates.

We entirely concur in Your Excellency's observations, that the expenditure for charges and services purely local should not be defrayed out of the Public Revenue ; but that the same should be provided for by local rates and assessments—more particularly with regard to the casual relief of the Poor ; and in accordance with Your Excellency's recommendation, we shall endeavour to devise a remedy for this evil.

We assure Your Excellency of our desire to co-operate with Your Excellency and Her Majesty's Council, in maturing such well-considered enactments for the promotion of Education and the due administration of Justice in the Outports, as will serve to promote the present and future well-being of all classes of the community.

Your Excellency's suggestion as to the encouragement of agriculture, with the view of diversifying and augmenting the employment and interests of our increasing population, shall receive our best consideration.

It affords us the greatest pleasure and satisfaction to learn that, in fulfilment of the provisions of the Legislature, Your Excellency—during the recess—has had the gratification of laying the foundation-stone of an Asylum for for the reception and curative treatment of Pauper Lunatics—and that satisfactory progress has been made in the construction of that portion of the building for which funds were provided ; and while we thank Your Excellency for the promise to furnish us with the Report of the Commissioners, we reciprocate Your Excellency's congratulations on the near prospect of the completion of an Institution in which may be put in practice the most approved methods of ameliorating the condition of this most unhappy class of our fellow subjects.

In the discharge of our Legislative duties, we shall duly consider Your Excellency's recommendation, to adopt such sanitary measures as may be necessary for the preservation of the public health.

In conclusion, we beg to assure Your Excellency of our sincere desire to co-operate with Your Excellency and Her Majesty's Council in the