

of the Branches to Miramichi and Fredericton, in order that measures may be taken to carry out the Law providing for that important part of the Contract.

While we are aware that the unprecedented Floods during the past Autumn have caused serious damage to many of the Roads and Bridges, and that those disasters must have occasioned considerable advances from the Provincial Funds in order to the maintenance of the public communications, we are glad to learn that Your Excellency has taken the necessary steps to lay before us reliable information in regard to those Bridges still requiring immediate repairs, or renewal. That a more efficient and reliable system of inspection and control over this important branch of internal improvement is required, there can be no doubt, and we shall not fail to give the subject due consideration.

We thank Your Excellency for bringing under our notice the expediency of passing a Law for the security of Passengers and Merchandise against carelessness and negligence in the construction and management of the Steamers of this Province. A subject of such importance to the lives and property of our fellow creatures demands and will receive our early attention.

We are glad to be assured of the satisfactory management of the Lunatic Asylum, and trust the money granted for the enlargement of that highly useful Institution will effect the laudable object for which it was given.

We readily respond to Your Excellency's congratulations on the prosperous state of the Public Finances; and view the increase of our Revenue as a gratifying proof of the flourishing condition of our Trade, and other industrial resources, and of the increased comforts and enjoyments of our people.

We shall cheerfully sanction the payment of the balance of the Debt funded in 1843, and due in this and the three following years, and highly approve of a step which has so materially relieved the Province from its liabilities without interfering with the usual appropriations for internal improvements and ordinary services. It is a source of gratification to us to learn that the Province is now virtually free from debt.

The reason for imposing the one per cent. Loan Duty having ceased by the payment of the Funded Debt, the continuance or discontinuance of that Impost is now open for deliberation, and we shall not fail to deal therewith as we may deem best for the Public interest.

We are fully sensible that as our Finances and public operations increase, additional vigilance and responsibility in the management and disposal of the Public Funds will be required, and we shall not fail to devote our best attention to this subject.

We feel with Your Excellency the vital importance of the consolidation and amendment of our Provincial Laws, and are happy to learn that the final Reports of the Commissioners will now be laid before us. We shall be gratified to find that they are such as to call forth our approval and acknowledgment of the ability and industry displayed by the Commissioners in the performance of their arduous work, and we shall bestow upon it that consideration which its importance demands, with as little delay as is consistent with due deliberation on so grave and weighty a subject.

D. HANINGTON, *Speaker*.

And being returned—

The Honorable Mr. Speaker reported, that His Excellency had been pleased to make the following Reply thereto:—

*“ Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

*“ I receive with much satisfaction the Address which you have just presented to me.*

*“ Our Gracious Queen will fully appreciate the expression of your loyalty; and I rely, under Providence, upon your wisdom for such legislation as will uphold and increase the prosperity which we now enjoy.”*

On motion of the Honorable Mr. Partelow,

*Ordered*, That the House do on Saturday next the 18th day of February instant, resolve into Committee of the whole for the granting of Supplies for the Public Service.

A Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor.

The Honorable Mr. Street, a Member of Her Majesty's Executive Council, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, delivered the following Message:—