

embracing such items as were originally undisputed, might, in consideration of the painful position of various claimants, be at once advantageously prepared. We beg leave to observe that the address to which your Excellency alludes, was complaining of the impediments daily thrown in the way of the operation of the Assembly in Newfoundland; and the subject of the rejection of the Contingency bill is there introduced merely incidentally with that of the rejection of the Academy Bill, the Grammar School Bill, the Poor Bill, and others, but by no means with a view to leave to the decision of her Majesty's Government matters whereof the Assembly are themselves the only constitutional judges.

We shall therefore consider the subject of the contingent expenses of the last session in the same manner as we shall those of the general expenses of the Civil Government of the country, with a view to the public interests, as well as to the maintenance of the independence of the popular branch of the Legislature.

We thank your Excellency for the intention your Excellency expresses of laying before us a survey of the building occupied by the Legislature, and shall not fail to take the subject of the condition of that building under our consideration.

We also return your Excellency our thanks for your Excellency's intention to lay before us the third report of the Geological Surveyor.

We feel grateful to her Majesty's Government for conceding to the Legislature the alienation of the crown territory, and shall lose no time in preparing a bill upon that subject, in order that the assent of her Majesty thereto may be had with as little delay as possible.

Your Excellency judges correctly that a road bill will occupy our deliberations, inasmuch as such a measure is essentially necessary for providing for the completion of roads already in operation, as well as for the making others of great importance; but particularly is such a bill called for by the necessity of affording employment to the poor, thereby enabling us to avoid voting a large sum for the support of the able bodied and industrious labourer.

In fine we shall give our fullest consideration to all those topics to which your Excellency has deemed it expedient on former occasions to call our attention, and in which we have not yet been permitted to carry your Excellency's views into effect, and beg leave to return our thanks for the readiness your Excellency is pleased to express to assist our efforts for the general good.

On motion of Mr. Nugent, seconded by Mr. Doyle,

*Resolved*,—That the said address do pass, and that it be presented to his Excellency by Mr. Speaker and the whole House.