

rected to the several ordinary items of Postage, Sleigh hire, and Stationery.

The gross amount of Postage Account against both Branches of the Legislature for 1841 was £449 6 8, of which, the proportion of the Assembly was £326 16 8.

The Account for 1842 against both Branches was £497 9s.; the proportion against the Assembly was £355 19 6.

The Committee after full consideration of this subject, beg leave to recommend that the following sums be allowed in lieu of Letter Postages for each County—

Restigouche,	£8
Northumberland,	6
Westmorland,	12
County of Saint John,	10
Charlotte,	12
Sunbury,	4
York,	4
Gloucester,	6
Kent,	6
King's,	6
City of Saint John,	4
Queen's,	5
Carleton,	6

These sums will effect a saving on the last year of about £75 per cent., currency.

Another important point now arises, for the first time, as to the Postages of the Journals.

The Committee have had laid before them a letter from the Postmaster to the Clerk, telling him for the information of the House, that in consequence of instructions received by him from the General Post Office in Halifax, the Journals of the Legislature will in future be charged with a postage of one penny per sheet.

At this rate, allowing six sheets a day for each Member, the probable amount of Postage for Journals for the Assembly will exceed £70; and the Committee submit for the consideration of the House, whether this branch of Postage should be paid out of the Treasury, in addition to the allowance above mentioned. The Committee cannot refrain from expressing their dissatisfaction with the rates of Postage as now established, and with the irresponsible and independent character of the Post Office establishment, so far as regards any control of the Provincial Government.

It is the opinion of a majority of the Committee, that one of the Sleighs should be dispensed with.

The Committee are informed, that in consequence of instructions from some Members of the late House, Mr Turner, one of the drivers, has recently procured a new Sleigh at a large expense; they therefore recommend that he should be continued at the rate of 20s. per diem, and that his public labours shall be exclusively confined to attendance on the house during the hours of business.

The attention of the Committee has been called to the fact of a reduction of £15 having been made on Turner's allowance at the last Session, and they recommend that this sum be now given in consideration of the expense incurred by him in procuring a new Sleigh.

With respect to the second Sleigh, the Committee are of opinion, that as the owner has been at considerable expense in providing for attendance on the house, a small allowance should be made, and they recommend the sum of £17 10s. for this purpose.

As the Committee are of opinion that several items have hitherto been inserted in the Contingent Account which should be disposed of in Committee of Supply, they recommend that in future no sum be allowed for Contingencies, until the account thereof be first laid before the House, and considered and approved of by a Committee thereof, as allowed, should be printed in the Journals.

The Committee will submit their observations on the subject of Stationery in a farther Report.

February 2.
On motion of Mr Barberie, Ordered, That the House do on Thursday the 16th day of February instant, at the hour of 12 o'clock at noon of the same day, take into consideration the several matters contained in the Petition of John Ambrose Street, Esquire, and others, and which was presented to the House yesterday, complaining of the undue election and return of John T. Williston, Esquire, a Member for the County of Northumberland.

February 3.
On motion of Mr Fisher,

1st. Resolved, unanimously, That it is the opinion of this House, That an humble and dutiful Petition should be

presented to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, praying Her Majesty to assent to the reduction of the amount charged upon the Province for the support of the Civil Government, upon condition that a sum should be secured to Her Majesty proportioned to the resources and population of the Province, and sufficient to provide for the efficient administration of the Government.

2d. Resolved, unanimously. As the opinion of the House, That the sum of six hundred pounds, per annum, is an adequate maximum Salary for the principal subordinate Ministerial Officers of the Government.

3d. Resolved, unanimously, That it is the opinion of this House, That no Public Officer should be remunerated for the performance of the duties of his office by Fees: that were the imposition of such Fees is deemed advisable, they should be paid into the Treasury as part of the Provincial Revenue, and the Public Officer so receiving them allowed a fixed Salary in lieu thereof.

On motion of Mr Fisher, Resolved, That the subject of the foregoing Resolutions be referred to a Select Committee, to report to the House the draft of an humble and dutiful Petition to Her Majesty: and also to report upon the other matters therein contained, by bill or otherwise.

Address of the House in answer to the Speech of His Excellency.

We, the Representatives of Her Majesty's Faithful and Loyal Subjects, the People of New Brunswick, thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver at the opening of the present Session.

Assembled to deliberate on the affairs of the Province, under circumstances of more than ordinary interest, we assure Your Excellency that we are animated by an earnest desire to advance the general welfare, and thus fulfil the expectations of the Country.

The recent brilliant successes which have signalized the operations of Her Majesty's Naval and Military Forces in the East, are highly gratifying: offering as they do so prominent an occasion for National gratitude, and opening at this time prospects so favorable to British enterprise.

The Ratification of the Treaty with the United States of America, for the Settlement of the Boundary between those States and the British Provinces, is satisfactory, as having terminated a question of no ordinary perplexity; and we sincerely hope that the result may prove advantageous to the Commerce of the Country; yet we cannot but regret that, by the terms of that Treaty, a large and valuable portion of what was always considered the territory of New Brunswick has been yielded up to the United States, by which the resources of this Province and its Revenues will be greatly diminished.

The abundant Harvest with which a kind Providence has blessed the labours of the Husbandman, and the timely relief thereby afforded, at a period of extraordinary depression, call for our warmest expressions of thankfulness.

We duly appreciate Your Excellency's exertions in the formation of Settlements on the Wilderness Lands of the Crown, and we shall cheerfully attend to the adoption of such measures as may prevent the illegal occupation of Crown Lands and Indian Reserves, and also secure the Revenue derivable therefrom.

It being within the peculiar province of the Assembly vigilantly to preserve the Constitutional rights of the Freeholders, we shall not fail to adopt such measures in regard to the Election Laws as, in our opinion, will be best calculated to protect those inestimable rights.

Duly impressed with the value and importance of Education, we shall give our early attention to the subject of the Parochial Schools, and shall thankfully receive such information as Your Excellency may be pleased to communicate and which can in any way assist us in remedying the defects of the present system.

The measures proposed by Your Excellency, as Improvements on the Institutions of the Province, and which have already so much engaged the attention of the Country, shall be duly and carefully considered; and it is our earnest desire immediately to adopt such Financial measures as may restore confidence and establish the Public Credit on a secure and permanent basis.

Our thanks are due to Your Excellency for your unremitting endeavours to alleviate the embarrassments arising from the decrease of the Revenue and the consequent depreciation of the Provincial Credit, as well as for the promise to

lay before us, fully audited, the accounts of the last year. We are gratified to learn that, notwithstanding those embarrassments, there will be adequate means to provide, with economy, for the public Service and for other objects which, in a new Country, require the protection and encouragement of the Legislature.

We tender to Her Majesty's Government our grateful acknowledgment for having acquiesced in the proposal to ascertain the practicability of opening a Canal to connect the Gulf of St. Lawrence with the Bay of Fundy, and for the great liberality exhibited in causing a Survey of that Bay and its tributary Rivers—a service from which the country must derive the greatest advantages; and we confidently hope the anticipations of Your Excellency may be realized, and that, from these and other researches alluded to, the great natural resources of the Province may attract the attention of the United Kingdom, and that this Country may draw to its shores those who may bring with them a knowledge of the Arts and Institutions of the Parent State, the adoption of which, to such an extent as may be applicable to our position and the wants and wishes of the Province may call for, is strictly in accordance with our feelings, and we are fully satisfied that no higher gratification can be afforded Your Excellency, than in fostering the growth of those principles, so venerated by the people of this Province, which have raised the British Nation to her present pre-eminence, and which, under Providence, will ensure the prosperity of succeeding generations.

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