



ROYAL GAZETTE.

[SUPPLEMENT.]

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1843.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

[Extracts from the Journals.]

House of Assembly, Monday, 6th February, 1843.

POST OFFICE.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEPUTY POST MASTER GENERAL.
General Post Office, Halifax, 16th April, 1842.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 7th instant, accompanied by a Resolution of the House of Assembly of New Brunswick, and conveying to me a request from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, that I would furnish the information required by that branch of the Legislature.

In obedience to His Excellency's command, I herewith transmit sundry documents, in accordance with the Resolution to which I have alluded.

The only Papers sent free of charge through New Brunswick are those printed in Great Britain, and received by the Steam Packets from England.

Many of the Contracts with the Post Riders are of long standing, and the sums founded upon tenders; but in some instances, in order to obtain the services of faithful, active men, on the most important routes, the rule of tender has been departed from, as some persons offer their services on terms which would prevent their fulfilling their obligations to the Public. There are other circumstances which operate against the system of contracting by tenders; inebriety, carelessness, delays in the transmission of the Mails, robbery of the Mails, &c., which must be promptly visited upon offenders. They must be deprived of their situations, and other persons at once put in their places: the public service must be regularly carried on, but in making such removals, I would, however, observe, that no increase of the established salary takes place.

As respects the conveyance of the Mails with one, two or more horses, I beg to state, that I have never interfered: I merely bind the Couriers to travel certain distances within certain periods of time. I have never thought it the duty of the Post Office, in its Riding Department, to make arrangements for the accommodation of Travellers, although I am always glad when facilities are afforded to such persons by the Couriers. In the last Session of the Legislature of this Province, a Resolution was passed by the House of Assembly, praying His Excellency Lord Falkland to cause the establishment of a Line of Mail Coaches between Saint John and Truro, which would accommodate Passengers. His Excellency, in compliance with the request of the Assembly, commanded me to make such an arrangement. I have made the necessary contract, and the service will commence on the 6th July next, but in making the arrangement I have not exceeded the sum at present paid for the conveyance of the Mails between the places I have mentioned.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

J. HOWE, D. P. M. G.

A. READE, Esquire, &c. &c. &c.

Extracts from various Despatches received from the Right Honorable Lord Stanley, Secretary of State for the Colonies, upon the subject of the Financial Affairs of the Province.

Extract of a Despatch from Lord Stanley to Sir William M. G. Colebrooke.

[No. 79.]

Downing Street, 29th June, 1842.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch and its enclosures of the 30th of April, No. 45, on the state of the Finances of the Province of New Brunswick.

Having adverted to your previous Despatches of the 10th of February last, and 21st of June, 1841, on this subject, I have to state that it appears that the debts and liabilities of the Province, at the termination of the past year, have exceeded the means which had been provided, or which were calculated upon for meeting the

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expenditure by a sum of more than £33,563 16 3, and as a portion of those means had not at that time become available, the Provincial funds were then subject to a charge of interest at the rate of £4,100, per annum, after allowing for the interest stated to be payable to the Treasury on a portion of the assets.

The documents before me do not shew the purposes for which, nor the particular period at which this excess of expenditure has been incurred, nor does it appear how far any exigencies of the Colonial service may have rendered it unavoidable to contract it; but I must enjoin upon you to use every means in your power to keep the expenditure of the Province within the limits of the ways and means afforded by its Revenue, as well as to liquidate from the same source the debt which has been contracted.

In my opinion it is desirable that a vigorous effort should be made by the Provincial Government to reduce the expenditure below the level of the income, to discharge all the existing liabilities, and to employ the annual surplus, which would be the effect of these measures, in prosecuting the most useful Public Works.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STANLEY.

Extract from a Despatch of the Right Honorable Lord Stanley to Sir William Colebrooke.

Downing Street, 30th June, 1842.

However convenient may have been the practice of discussing separately each individual Resolution of the Assembly in regard to expenditure by the Council, I cannot but observe that, although it increases the control of that body over the general expenditure, it does not in any way give to the Executive the power which it is so desirable it should possess of restricting improvident or corrupt grants of money.

At the time the compromise was made, for such it was, the Crown did possess this check by the union of Legislative and Executive Councils. The check was imperfect as compared with that which is given by British practice, because there is no single authority to whom is delegated the care of taking one broad and comprehensive view of the whole Financial state of the Province, and proportioning before hand the annual expenditure to the probable Revenue, or on the other hand devising means for making the annual Revenue adequate to the annual necessary expenditure. I think the absence of such a system has led to much of the Financial embarrassment which is now felt in the Province; and without entering on the question of Municipal Bodies or District Taxation, it strikes me very forcibly that, if local objects are to be provided for, not by local taxation, but out of the general funds of the Province, there is an additional reason why recommendations of such expenditure should proceed from one, and that an impartial, authority alone.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STANLEY.

Extract from the Despatch of the Right Honorable Lord Stanley to Sir William Colebrooke.

Downing Street, 13th August, 1842.

I have had the honor to receive your Despatch, No. 69, of the 7th of July, with its enclosures.

I perceive with much regret, the additional evidence furnished by your Despatch, of the financial embarrassments of the Province.

The remedy, however, for these embarrassments, rests with the Provincial Legislature, and not with Her Majesty's Government, and it is unnecessary for me, on the present occasion, to trouble you with a repetition of the warnings and advice which I have from time to time felt it my duty to give you on this subject. I am well aware that you are as fully sensible as I am of the urgent necessity for decided measures to check the growing and formidable evil.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STANLEY.

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