

£56,635 15s. 10d., and in 1845 to £65,774 1s. 8d., independently of the grants for by-roads; and as this amount includes the whole charge for the Civil government of the province, for the pay and expenses of the legislative bodies, for colleges and schools, great roads, bounties, and various other mis-cellanies, it will be obvious that if some practicable reductions were to be made in these charges, and a moderate rate imposed on property to defray in part the expenses of works of a local nature, and for the support of parochial schools, according to the practice in the United States, the trade of the coun-try might in a material degree be relieved from a burthen which seriously fetters and restrains it, discouraging commercial enterprise, and constituting in effect a charge upon the rural population in the supplies which they are obliged to purchase at advanced rates, when the duties are not evaded by smuggling.

In 1842 and 1843, owing to the financial difficulties of the province, no funds were issued for by-roads; notwithstanding which some roads, for which grants had been made in 1842, but without funds being provided, were found to have been kept in sufficient repair by the effective application of the statute labour. The sums granted in 1845 for by-roads, amounted to £9,615 3s., and in the present year to £12,162, distributed in a vast number of small grants throughout the country. In the last Session the Assembly has recognized a method of calling forth the re-sources of the country in the advances made for seed potatoes, which are repayable in labour on the roads. From the difficulty often experienced by the labouring settlers in paying for their lands, a stimulus would be given to the settlement of the province, if certificates from the road contractors for labour duly performed in virtue of grants from the Assembly, were accepted in payment from land purchasers, a practice which also, as it is understood, obtains in the United States.

On the passing of the Civil List Act, in 1838, when the casual revenues were transferred to the province, the administration of the Crown domains was reserved to the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the charges of which are detailed in a separate account. An important reduction on these charges was made in 1844, by the substitution of a moderate export duty on timber, in lieu of the "stumpage" collected on timber cut in the forests under license; the collection of which was attended with considerable expense and difficulty. If to the Crown Land department could be added a Surveyor of Roads, whose duty it would be to compile reports and surveys of the roads, much useful information would progressively be acquired for the Government and the Legislature, and the settlement of the country would be facilitated. The return at page 52, with the remarks appended, afford all the information which the Government at present possess regarding the provincial roads, on which such large sums are annually disbursed by supervisors and commissioners. Hitherto they have not been surveyed, nor the distances marked, and the situation of many is unknown to the department.

The military expenses charged upon the colony do not at present exceed £1000, but ample provision has been made for these expenses, if the services of the militia force should at any time be required.

COUNCILS AND ASSEMBLY.

The Executive Councillors named at page 64, having resigned in the present year, they have been succeeded by others. They derive no advantage, but an allowance charged on the land revenues for travelling expenses; and from the laborious executive duties undertaken by them, it were much to be desired that an annual stipend should be granted to them as in Canada. It would also enable them to afford greater time for the general business of the country, if they could be relieved from responsibility for the detailed administration of the Crown Land Department, the general superintendence being reserved to them. In the event of a vacancy hereafter in the office of Surveyor-General, I should recommend the revival of that of Commissioner of Crown Lands.

The expenses of the Legislative Council and Assembly amounting to £6,934 1 4, as stated in the accounts (page 21), consists of an allowance of 16s. 8d. sterling a day, or £41 13 4 sterling for each session, granted by the Assembly to each Member of the former body for 10 years, in the year 1840, and an allowance of 12s. 6d. sterling per day, to its own Members, granted in 1843, for the term of the Provincial Parliament, with travelling expenses to and from Fredericton, also for other contingent charges of the two Houses. It is open to con-siderable objection, that such a provision should be made for the Members of the Legislative Council by a temporary Act, although the charge is inconsiderable, and intended only to defray their expenses while resident at the seat of Government.

In the Civil Establishment, the only material alteration which has taken place within the last year has been in the separation of the clerkship of the Executive Council from the office of Pro-vincial Secretary and Registrar; the arrangements for the former office are still in abeyance, the duties being performed by a clerk from the Provincial Secretary's, and one from the Crown Land Office, no sufficient provision having been made for establishing a separate Council Office. From the present constitution of the Executive Council, it would be impracticable to assign these duties to the Secretary and Registrar, who was formerly a Member of the Board, but resigned in 1845.

In 1841 the Provincial Auditor was, for the first time, required to audit the Provincial Accounts; he had previously confined his attention to the land revenue accounts. The Recei-ver-General continues to receive the gross proceeds of land sales, and other branches of the casual revenue, holding them in deposit till disbursed or paid over to the Treasurer, his duties are inconsiderable, while those of the audit department are laborious. These officers each re-ceive £300 sterling per annum. In 1841, the consolidation of the General and Provincial Cus-toms were brought under consideration of Her Majesty's Government, such a measure having been proposed in the Legislature; and from the correspondence which passed in 1842-3 and

REVENUE.

Net Parliamentary Duties, ..	£22,774	5	3
Provincial Customs, ..	47,734	14	2
Casual & Territorial Revenues, ..	27,821	4	8
Total, ..	£98,330	4	1

EXPENDITURE.

Civil List, ..	£13,050	0	0
Pay and Expenses, Legislative Bodies, ..	6,934	1	4
College and Schools, ..	2,553	19	1
Penitentiary and Lunatics, ..	2,211	14	8
Great Roads, exclusive of By-roads, ..	8,691	6	0
Fish Bounties, ..	4,205	1	5
Charities, ..	5,112	9	1
Other Miscellanies, ..	22,985	10	1
Total, ..	£65,744	1	8