

payment, by this Province, of the proportion of the expenses which have attended that Exploration; and I shall be gratified to afford my aid in forwarding such measures as may be proper, consistently with the varied interests and wants of this Province, for promoting so great a National Undertaking.

I invite your early attention to a question which I regard as one of very great importance to the future interests of this Province, namely, that of the surrender of the Crown Estate in Nova Scotia to the control and management of the Local Legislature, in exchange for a Civil List.

This question was presented for consideration in a Despatch of the Secretary of State, dated 17th November, 1846, which, at the last Session, was communicated to the Legislature, and in which the views of Her Majesty's Government are fully explained.

It will be the occasion of much gratification to me if your deliberations shall lead to a final and satisfactory adjustment of this long pending negociation.

I trust before the close of this Session to be prepared to lay before you for consideration, a proposal for the future management of the Post Office Department throughout the North American Provinces, and the regulation of the Postage payable on the transmission of Letters,—a proposal which, I confidently expect, will be found conducive to the convenience and the social and the intellectual advancement of the people, and the general interests of the Province.

We have again to deplore a deficiency in the Crops; but I have reason to believe that the Fisheries have in general, during the last season, reached their ordinary productiveness; and it is gratifying to know that the Revenue paid and secured during 1847, equals in amount that of the preceding year.

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

The Accounts of the Public Receipts and Expenditure during the last year will be laid before you at the earliest practicable period, and although some considerable expenses have been unavoidably incurred in consequence of an unexpected influx of Pauper Emigration, attended with much sickness, yet I do not, on that account, abstain from tendering to you my congratulations upon the comparative exemption which has been experienced by Nova Scotia during the past year, from that sad extent of calamity by which the neighbouring Provinces of Canada and New Brunswick have been, and still continue to be afflicted; but although our visitation in this respect has been comparatively slight, yet I regret to say that distress to a very considerable extent exists amongst our own Settlers and Indians, in several parts of the Province, especially Cape Breton, in consequence of the failure of the Crops generally, but particularly of that of Potatoes.

In these cases, relief has been afforded, under such precautions for the ultimate protection of the Revenue as were in my power, to a moderate, and, it is believed, a sufficient extent, to guard against absolute destitution.

The Accounts of these Expenditures will be laid before you.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

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

Before I leave you to your deliberations, I renew to you the assurance of my readiness at all times freely to communicate, and cordially to co-operate with you for the advancement of any object which may appear to us calculated to promote the true interests, prosperity and happiness of Her Majesty's Loyal Subjects of Nova Scotia.

REPORT.

YORK GENERAL SESSIONS, 7th January, 1848.

The Committee appointed to examine and report upon the County Accounts, have attended to that duty, and beg to make the following Report:—

No. 1. Is the Account of the Commissioners of the Alms House. Balance in hands of Commissioners, 1st Jan. 1847, £191 9 9½

Amount received from that period to 31st Dec. 1847, £614 8 7

As follows—

Parish of Fredericton,	£414 4 3
" Douglas,	44 17 6
" Kingsclear,	57 11 10
" Saint Mary's,	69 15 0
" Queensbury,	18 0 0
" Prince William,	10 0 0—
	614 8 7

Amount expended by the Com'rs to 31st Dec. 1847, £768 2 11

Balance in hands of the Commissioners, £37 15 5½

And the Commissioners ask for a Warrant of Assessment for the following amounts for the support of the Poor:—

For the Parish of Fredericton, ..	£500 0 0
" Kingsclear,	50 0 0
" Douglas,	60 0 0
" Saint Mary's	80 0 0
" Stanley,	47 10 0
" Queensbury,	30 0 0
" Prince William,	30 0 0

The Commissioners also ask a Warrant of Assessment for the following amounts for repairs absolutely necessary for the security of the Alms House, and comfort of the inmates; estimates of which have been furnished, and which amount to about £200:—

Parish of Fredericton,	£60 0 0
" Kingsclear,	17 10 0
" Douglas,	17 10 0
" Saint Mary's,	12 10 0
" Stanley,	7 10 0
" Queensbury,	10 0 0
" Prince William,	10 0 0

The amount of Assessment asked for by the Commissioners for the support of the Poor of the Parish of Fredericton, appeared to your Committee to be excessive, as compared with the past and the two previous years, but on examination, they discovered that the annual expenditure for Fredericton during those years had largely exceeded the amount collected.

Upon the Accounts connected with the Alms House, and upon the management of the same, the Committee beg to make the following remarks:—

The Annual Statement of the Receipts and Disbursements for the several Parishes, with the requisite vouchers, for the present year, have been laid before your Committee, by the Treasurer, Joseph Beek, Esquire, in his usual clear and systematic form, and are highly satisfactory.

As the beneficial results anticipated by your Committee of last year, have been fully realized, your present Committee still adhere to the recommendation that the establishment should be placed under the supervision and control of one properly qualified Commissioner, for whose services a fair and reasonable remuneration should be allowed; with this exception, the suggestions made by the Committee, in their last year's Report, have been successfully carried into effect, and which have, mainly through the indefatigable exertions and judicious management of Mr. Simpson, the only acting Commissioner for Fredericton, whose services in that capacity have been entirely gratuitous, resulted in a considerable reduction in the amount expended, so far as relates to the Parish of Fredericton, although the past year has been one of unexampled privation and distress.

Your Committee further consider it their duty to remark, for the information of the Court, that a great proportion of the expenditure has been incurred in consequence of a number of cases of Typhus and Ship Fever, for whom separate accommodations had to be provided to prevent contagion, and thereby requiring additional attendance, fuel, &c. Other unforeseen incidental charges have also arisen, to which your Committee do not consider it necessary to advert.

No. 2. Is the County Treasurer's Account for Contingencies.

This Account shews a balance due by the County of £900 16 5, which is an excess over the amount due last year of £104 0 8.

Your Committee cannot but regret, that in the face of so large a balance as £796 15 9 reported due last year, no Assessment was made to pay off any part of that large amount, and under the present exceedingly depressed state of the Country, your Committee would beg to decline recommending any specific sum for which a Warrant of Assessment should be ordered for the purpose of liquidating, in part, this very heavy debt, but beg leave to submit this question entirely to the consideration of the Court.

Your Committee have carefully examined all the vouchers connected with this Account, and find the same correct. Besides the large amount now reported due by the County, Accounts amounting to £244 14 5 have been laid before the Committee, for Contingencies during the past year, and which are submitted to the consideration of the Court, and which, if sustained, will swell the amount due on this account to £1041 10 2.

This Account has been largely increased by the heavy expenses incurred in consequence of the unfortunate riots which occurred on the twelfth of July last.

No. 3. Is the Treasurer's Account with the New Gaol Fund, shewing a balance in his hands of £270 16 5.

On reference to the Committee's Report of last year, your present Committee find that the balance then due by the County, on this Account, was £583 5 8

From which deduct amount paid during the year, 75 0 0

£508 5 8

Add one year's Interest, 30 9 10

£538 15 6

Amount in Treasurer's hands .. £270 16 5

Interest to be allowed by Contrac-

tors, &c... .. 16 4 9—

£251 14 4

Leaving the balance of £251 14 4 to be provided for by the County, and for which your Committee recommend that a Warrant of Assessment be ordered.

All which is humbly submitted.

JAMES TAYLOR, J. P.

T. R. ROBERTSON, J. P.

ASA COY, J. P.

R. HAYNE, J. P.