

*Number of Paupers in the Asylum, 31st December, 1844.*

Men,	123,	of which 21 are Lunatics.
Women,	97,	of which 13 are Lunatics.
Children,	43,	—
		34 Total.

*Casual Receipts during the past year, as per General Abstract.*

Maintenance of Sundry persons in the Asylum,	£76	3	3
Sales of Oakum,	85	7	6
“ of Wheat,	12	5	9
“ of Fish Barrels,	4	15	6
“ of Palm Leaf Hats,	31	10	0
“ of Barley,	28	13	4
Bastardy, amount of Penalties for Bastard Children, during the past year,	10	0	0
	£248	15	4

No. 21.

*(See Page 243.)*

The Committee appointed to enquire into the state of the Library belonging to the House, and to suggest any practical plan for its improvement, beg to Report as follow :

That a more minute division of the shelves should be made under the direction of the Clerk, according to a plan by them submitted, and that a distinct and separate partition be set apart for each class of books. They further recommend that it should be prescribed as a duty to one of the Officers to have the books regularly arranged in the places set apart for them, every morning before the meeting of the House. This service would not entail an expense of more than £5 a year. They have had a List of the books prepared, and would recommend that it should be the further duty of this Officer to take charge of these books during the Session, and to see that they are complete and handed over to the Clerk at the end of each Session.

They question the expediency of recommending at present an union of the Libraries of the House and the Legislative Council.

Your Committee find upon examination, that the Sets of our own Journals are incomplete. and that we have neither a complete Set of the Journals nor Laws of any one of our Sister Colonies in British North America. They feel satisfied that if a correspondence were opened by our Clerks with the Clerks of the different Assemblies and Councils in these Colonies, by tendering a Set of our own in exchange, or of such at least as we can furnish, this deficiency would be cheerfully supplied. The value of these as books of reference, whether as suggesting useful hints on questions of local legislation, or in enquiries into constitutional rights, is too obvious to require enlargement.

Your Committee are satisfied also, that if a proper application were made through the Executive to the Colonial Secretary, a complete copy of the Journals of the House of Lords and of the Commons could be had free of expense. The Right Honorable Lord John Russell, while Secretary of State for the Colonies, on such application being made to His Lordship, directed a copy of these valuable records of constitutional history and usage to be furnished for the use of the Legislative Council, and as they have reason to believe that Her Majesty's Government have spare sets of these at their disposal, your Committee feel assured that if an application were preferred in this behalf, such boon would readily be granted to Her Majesty's faithful and loyal Commons of Nova Scotia.

Your

Your Committee beg further to recommend, that the sum of ten pounds be placed at the disposal of the Speaker, to obtain from London a complete set of all the Returns and Reports made to Parliament relative to the affairs of Canada and the Lower Provinces—being satisfied from their examination of many of these documents, and from the low price at which they are printed and sold, that the set could be procured for this outlay; and that the benefit they would confer in affording information and precedents on subjects of local legislation, would amply repay this trifling expense.

They further recommend that means should be taken to obtain from the Colonial Office or from the office of the Provincial Secretary here, copies of the Blue Book from the date of their first transmission up to the present time; and also a complete set of Norton's Colonial Tables. The latter could be obtained at the Board of Trade free of charge; and your Committee are satisfied, that on this subject being submitted to the Colonial Secretary, that he would for the future direct a copy of all Parliamentary Returns relating to these Colonies, to be sent for the use of the House free of expense, except perhaps the cost of carriage.

Your Committee are happy to state that they have examined the Copy of the Annual Register from 1760 up to the present time, consisting of 84 volumes, obtained by the Speaker since the last Session, and regard it as a most interesting and valuable addition to the Library. The Clerk has directed suitable shelves to be provided for its reception.

Your Committee beg lastly to state, that, in the present state of the Provincial Funds, and the imperative necessity which exists for carefully husbanding the public monies to promote useful objects of improvement, they are not disposed to recommend any costly additions to the Library. The objects above suggested will entail but a trifling expense in comparison with the benefits which will be derived from them, in the safe conduct of the public business, and in the promotion of sound and judicious Legislation.

All which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. R. YOUNG, Chairman,  
JOHN C. HALL.  
JOSEPH HOWE.

Halifax, February 26th, 1845.

No. 22.

(See Page 254.)

*Impost Office, Sydney, Cape Breton, 19th February, 1845.*

SIR,—

I have the honor to offer the following Report on the services of the Revenue Boat employed under my direction during the past year.

In my Report of the preceding year, I stated that an encreasing trade with the French Island of St. Peters, was carried on from the Bras d'Or Lake, which occasioned the services of the Boat to be much engaged at that part of the station. The amount of Agricultural produce exported to the French market has been still greater during the past year, and about twenty vessels are owned in the harbors around the Lake, and employed in that trade. Ship building is also prosecuted to a greater extent in its more distant Bays, causing a considerable increase of traffic. I have therefore found it advisable, as in former years, to confine the employment of the Boat almost exclusively to the waters of the Bras d'Or, no other part of the station demanding so great a degree of vigilance.

As long as the allowance would defray the expenditure, the Boat was so employed; and during that time entries of return cargoes were made both at the Customs and Excise. The vessels engaged in the trade return with a French clearance specifying the articles on board, which is produced when there is a probability of detection by the Revenue Officers, but when