

It is very material that there should be a right understanding upon this question, as any doubt which was suffered to rest upon it might lead to considerable inconvenience. I have therefore to inform you, that the instructions conveyed by Lord Stanley on the 28th June, 1843, to the Governors of Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions, continue in full force at the present time. It is desirable that the Legislature of New Brunswick should be soon apprized of this fact, as Sir William Colebrooke mentions that the Revenue Bill for the ensuing year is now under the deliberation of the Assembly, and that they are disposed to modify it in a manner which he does not exactly specify, but which leaves me to infer that an inclination exists to impose something in the nature of differential Duties. I may perhaps have misunderstood what Sir William Colebrooke intended to convey; but if my apprehension should be well founded, I hope that the Local Legislature will not deliberately adhere to an intention of reviving a class of Duties, of which Parliament has so recently, and on such strong ground, condemned the policy. And although I cannot pronounce a positive judgment upon an Act not yet transmitted to me, I must state that I think it highly improbable that I could advise Her Majesty to sanction any measure which should contemplate the imposition of differential Duties upon Imports into New Brunswick, when the policy of levying such Duties in this Country has been abandoned by Parliament, as detrimental to the general interests of the Empire.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

GREY.

Lieut. Governor Sir E. Head, Bart. &c. &c. &c. New Brunswick.

(Copy—No. 25.)

REVENUE.

Downing Street, 16th May, 1848.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge receipt of Sir William Colebrooke's Despatch, No. 38, of the 8th of April, transmitting the annual "Blue Book" of New Brunswick for 1847.

The Report with which this Book is accompanied is highly satisfactory, except so far as it relates to the public expenditure, which, I regret to learn, still exceeds the Revenue. My predecessors in this Office have on several occasions* remarked upon the objectionable practice of the Colony exceeding its resources; and I can only hope that the subject of making provision against an accumulation of debt, will seriously occupy the attention of the Legislature during its next Session.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

GREY.

* Lord Stanley, 28th Aug., 30th Nov., 9th Dec., 1841; 31st Mar., 29th June, 30th June, 13th Aug., 2d Nov., 1842; and 4th Sept. 1843: Mr. Gladstone, 18th May, 1846.

Lieut. Governor Sir E. Head, Bart. &c. &c. &c.

(Copy—No. 72.)

REVENUE.

Downing Street, 9th November, 1848.

SIR,—Her Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the Act passed by the Legislature of New Brunswick in the month of March last, imposing Duties for raising a Revenue, and I now transmit to you, for your information, the accompanying copy of a Letter* from the Board of Treasury to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, explaining the objections entertained to this Law.

I have not considered it proper to advise Her Majesty to disallow this Act, as that step would occasion much inconvenience in New Brunswick; but I must direct you to withhold your assent from any future Act, continuing the differential Duties of the present Act, or making discrimination in any other respect between Duties on the produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom or of other British possessions abroad, and those on the produce and manufactures of Foreign Countries, unless you shall have obtained the express approval and authority of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

GREY.

* 5th October, 1848.

Lieut. Governor Sir E. Head, Bart. &c. &c. &c.