

"This Act requires every Elector for Members of the House of Assembly to swear that he is a Protestant. I am disposed to believe that this enactment has been introduced into the Act inadvertently, by transcribing an old form of oath, the effect of which was not fully perceived. If such should be the case, the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Island will of course have no difficulty in altering the Act in this respect. If, however, this clause has been intentionally enacted, his Majesty's Government will not be able to advise his Majesty to confirm it. The decision of his Majesty in Council upon this Act is therefore suspended until it shall have been revised by the Legislature of the Island with reference to the form of the Voter's oath.

"I have, &c.

(Signed)

"G. MURRAY.

"Lieut. Governor Ready, &c. &c. &c."

"DOWNING STREET, May 25th, 1829.

"SIR,—With reference to an Act passed by the Legislature of Prince Edward Island in the month of April, 1828, *"for the increase of the Revenue, by raising a duty on all Goods, &c. imported into the Island,"* the operation of which is suspended until His Majesty's pleasure shall be known: I have to direct your attention to the following remarks, which have been suggested by this enactment, and which have hitherto prevented its being approved by his Majesty in Council:—

"The Act declares the Master of the importing Ship liable for the Duties, and renders the Ship itself liable to answer any judgment against the Master. These rules will operate as a serious burden and discouragement to navigation. If a Ship be put up for freight as a general Ship, the Owners may be made responsible for the defaults or defrauds of Freighters, of whose character and credit they must be unavoidably ignorant.

"Where there is no Collector at the place of landing, the Justices of the Peace are authorized to collect the Duties. It is, however, highly objectionable to permit the landing of Goods, or the payment of Duties, at any place except a regular Port of entry.

"The Collection of this Revenue is in no case to be intrusted to the Officers of Customs, but to Collectors to be appointed for this special purpose by the Governor. It is impossible to sanction an innovation of so important a nature as this. The collection of His Majesty's Customs, whether granted in the Colonies or in this Country, is, by immemorial usage, if not by positive Law, vested in the Commissioners of Customs, or their Officers. The confusion and fraud which must arise from two different sets of Officers collecting duties upon the same Goods at the same time would be unlimited.

"If the Legislative Council and Assembly shall pass an Act amending the Act under consideration in these particulars, the difficulties which have hitherto prevented the allowance of this Law might be surmounted.

(Signed)

"I have, &c.

"G. MURRAY."

"Lieut. Governor Ready, Prince Edward Island."

"DOWNING STREET, August 1829.

"SIR,—Various Acts of the Governor, Council, and Assembly of Prince Edward Island, passed in the years 1827 and 1828, having been referred by His Majesty in Council to the Committee of Privy Council for the Affairs of Trade and Plantations—that Committee have reported to His Majesty in Council their opinion that these Acts should be left to their operation; and I have the honour herewith to transmit to you an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 22d of June last, approving that report.

(Signed)

"I have, &c.

"G. MURRAY.

"Lieut. Governor Ready, &c. &c. &c."

"AT THE COURT AT WINDSOR, THE 22d OF JUNE, 1829.

PRESENT:

The KING'S Most Excellent Majesty,	Marquis of Winchester,
Lord Chancellor,	Earl of Aberdeen,
Lord President,	Mr. Vesey, Fitzgerald,
Lord Privy Seal,	Mr. Secretary Peel,
Duke of Leeds,	Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer,
Duke of Montrose,	Sir William Freemantle,
Duke of Wellington,	Sir George Murray.
Lord Steward,	

"Whereas the Governor of Prince Edward Island, with the Council and Assembly of the said Island, did pass thirteen Acts in the years 1827 and 1828, which Acts have been transmitted intitled as follows, viz:—

"A Bill, intitled 'An Act for regulating Apprentices.'

"A Bill, intitled 'An Act to amend an Act made and passed in the 43d year of His late Majesty's reign, intitled An Act to amend an Act intitled An Act to prevent the running at large of Rams at improper seasons.'

"A Bill, intitled 'An Act to establish an Assize of Bread within the town and Royalty of Charlotte-Town.'

"A Bill, intitled 'An Act to ascertain the Population of the Island.'

"A Bill, intitled 'An Act to regulate Appeals from the Courts of Justices of the Peace in this Island, in amendment of an Act made and passed in the 13th year of the reign of His late Majesty King George the Third, intitled An Act for the more easy and speedy recovery of small Debts.'

"A Bill, intitled 'An Act to regulate the driving of Carts, Carriages, and Carioles, on the Highways.'

"A Bill, intitled 'An Act to continue and amend an Act passed in the 59th year of His late Majesty's reign, intitled An Act to regulate the Sale of the Interest of Leaseholders when taken in Execution.'

"A Bill, intitled 'An Act to authorize the formation of a Fire Engine Company for the Town of Charlotte-Town.'

"A Bill, intitled 'An Act to establish and regulate the Practice of the Supreme Court of Judicature of this Island in Cases of Replevin.'

"A Bill, intitled 'An Act for raising a Fund in aid of supporting the Light House on Cranberry Island.'

"A Bill, intitled 'An Act to continue an Act made and passed in the 6th year of His present Majesty's reign, intitled An Act to revive, alter, and continue an Act made and passed in the 52d year of the reign of His late Majesty, intitled An Act for raising a Fund to make and keep in repair the Pumps Wells, and Streets of Charlotte-Town, and for other purposes therein mentioned.'

"A Bill, intitled 'An Act to revive, alter, and continue an Act made and passed in the 6th year of His present Majesty's reign, intitled An Act for increasing the Revenue by levying an additional Duty on all Wines, Gin, Brandy, Rum, and other distilled Spirituous Liquors imported into this Island, and to repeal and amend certain parts of an Act passed in the 25th year of His late Majesty's reign, intitled An Act to amend, render more effectual, and reduce into one Act the several Laws made by the General Assembly of this Island relative to the Duties of Impost on Wines, Rum, Brandy, and other distilled Spirituous Liquors, and for allowing a Draw-back on all Wines, Rum, Brandy, and other distilled Spirituous Liquors exported from this Island, and to appropriate the Monies hereby granted.'

"A Bill, intitled 'An Act to revive, alter, and continue an Act made and passed in the 6th year of His present Majesty's reign, intitled An Act for increasing the Revenue by levying a Duty on Tobacco and Tea, and to appropriate the Monies hereby granted.'

"Which Acts having been referred to the Committee of the Lords of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, appointed for the consideration of all matters relating to Trade and Foreign Plantations—the said Lords of the Committee have reported as their opinion to His Majesty, that it is advisable that the said Acts may be left to their operation in the said Island: His Majesty was thereupon this day pleased, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, to approve of the said Report—whereof the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Commander-in-Chief of Prince Edward Island, and all other persons whom it may concern, are to take notice, and govern themselves accordingly.

(Signed)

"JAS. BULLER."

Ordered, that the foregoing Messages and Papers do lie on the table for the perusal of Members.

The Hon. A. Lane, Acting Collector of Impost, laid before the House the Impost Accounts for last year.—Referred to the committee on Public Accounts.