

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

Province should have the Intire Authority in appointing Such Inspectors & giving them Such Instructions as I pleased. This Business is of more Consequence to the Safety of the Province than would at first Sight Appear, but it remains with me to put it into the Hands of Such Officer of Government as I can Confide on, & it is at present under the direction of Mr. Finlay, who has Talents & Experience in that Department.—¹

In my Speech to the Legislative Council² I mentioned the Additional Instruction of the 16th of July 1779, which the Lieu^t Gov^r by my order communicated on the 28th of January with the Letter from Your Lordship accompanying it. I will give Your Lordship an Account of the Transactions which it gave rise to, without having regard to Dates in the minutes of Council in the Same Manner as I have done that of the Wheat Business.

Mr. Alsop moved that the L. Council Should previously address me to Communicate any other Instructions which I may have Received relative to passing Laws &c.³—He had in Conjunction with Mr. Livius & others observed the Same Conduct the Second Sessions of the Legislative Council, and which contributed to Embroil the Council with my Predecessor. The Motion was considered as indecent & rejected by a Great Majority of the Council, many of Whom knew that Mr. Livius & others had a Copy of Sir Guy Carleton's Instructions in their hands at the same time they were teizing him with motions in Council to Communicate them. The L^t. Gov^r nevertheless Acquainted the L. Council at their next meeting that I had two more Instructions, which I did not think proper to communicate for Reasons, which I would give to the King.⁴ Some Members wishing that a Distant Day Should be appointed for taking the Instruction into Consideration, It was Resolved accordingly, and in the mean time the Instruction was ordered to lie on the Table for the Consideration of the Members.

On the Day Appointed for that Business Mr. Caldwell moved that the Question Should be put ; whither passing an Ordinance agreeable to the Instruction of the 16th July⁵ would either contribute to the Good of the

¹ Mr. Finlay was Deputy Post Master General. This was an Imperial appointment, and for many years postal matters remained under the direct control of the British authorities.

² See Minutes of Leg. Council, v. D., p. 57.

³ See *ibid*; p. 61.

⁴ See *ibid*; p. 67. In a letter from Germain to Haldimand April 12th, 1781, referring to his conduct in these matters he says: "I have had much Satisfaction in the View your Dispatches have given me of the Military State of the Province, and in expressing in my former Dispatch His Majesty's Approbation of your Conduct in your Capacity of Commander in Chief. It is therefore a great concern to me that any part of your Proceedings, as Civil Governor, does not appear in the same favorable light, or merit the like approbation.

"The King commanded me to transmit to the Board of Trade the Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council and the whole of your Dispatch N^o 67, and you will receive from their Lordships the Observations which the Consideration of those Papers have given occasion to, and as their Lordships have communicated them to me, and they entirely correspond with my own Sentiments, it is unnecessary for me to enlarge upon the Subject, as I should only repeat what their Lordships have said: it is however fit you should further be informed, that your withholding from the Council the Instructions which you were originally commanded by the King to communicate to them, and that Command repeated by an Additional and Special Instruction from His Majesty, is considered by His Majesty, as well as the Lords of Trade and myself, as such an Instance of disobedience to the Royal Authority as ought not to be passed over, if longer persisted in." Q 18, p. 37. The "Observation" of the Board of Trade follows this letter of Haldimand referred to as Dispatch No. 67. See p. 722.

⁵ See note 1, p. 707.