

At the suggestion of the late John Young we commenced at our own pay, and reduced it about £100 a year, from 42 to £40 each; to use his words "as an earnest of what we intended to do." In justice to the old council I must say they allowed us to make this reduction without offering the least obstruction; but mark it, this was the only one, all others we fought for inch by inch. We then, by an address to the Throne, got the Judges fees struck off; but the Council, to reward their friends the Puisne Judges for the loss of fees which they had collected illegally, and to discourage us in our attempt to reduce salaries, procured for each of them £212, 10s per year from the casual revenue, a treasury established, before there was a House of Assembly, for the collection of fees on commissions, Marriage licenses, rents of coal Mines, sale of Crown lands, &c., and which was a kind of side pocket for Councillors to help their friends out of. We next took about £100 a year from the salary of the Attorney General, the then head of the House; but the Council again thwarted us by procuring for him about the same reward as the Judges. This taught us that it was impossible to effect retrenchment until we had control of the Casual revenue. Our right to this had been admitted by the British Government, but before it would be surrendered, we were asked to pass laws for the payment of certain salaries. To do this agreeably to the wishes of the Tories in the House, and with anything like justice to the country, was a difficult task. In 1838 we passed a Civil List Bill; which we in our sober judgment thought right, some advances were subsequently made, but only for the sake of effecting a settlement, we gave £3000 for present and £2000 for future Governors. For the present Chief Justice £850 and for future £700, and to each of the Assistant Judges, we gave £500. The Crown Lawyers and Provincial Secretary we left to be provided for by annual grants; believing the fewer permanent salaries the better for the people. This bill, I need scarcely say, was rejected, by the Tories in Council. We then sent Huntington and Young to England to obtain for the people some power and control in their own affairs: in the reduction of salaries, in a word, Responsible Government. The Tories sent Stewart and Wilkins to prevent salaries from being reduced and the people of Nova Scotia from enjoying the power now given to them by Responsible Government—the power to direct their own affairs.

The increased salaries to Judges and Attorney General, and the whole salaries being paid in dollars at 4s. instead of 4s 4d. the original agreement; with a grant to repair a church; a bounty of fifty guineas a year for horse racing; a sum of £35 a year to sweep an office, and another for something else, together with the partial failure in the Coal trade, made the Treasury bankrupt; consequently large arrears soon accumulated. In 1844 the Liberal members, weary and discouraged at seeing the people's money, so long wasted, effected to pass a bill with much higher salaries than that of 1838. This was a sort of compromise of the opinions of all parties. It was, however, rejected at home, nothing effectual could be done, so long as the Tories were in power, to obstruct by despatches the Colonial office, as will be hereafter shown—but when the Liberals came into power in 1847, so as to aid the Assembly, this long vexed question was soon settled, and Responsible Government established; so the