

Appendix
(Z)
4th March

rigged vessels and topfail schooners, not owned at this port; but it is not charged on those registered and belonging here. This is believed to be the invariable practice at all the ports in the colonies; the term foreign being considered as applying not exclusively to ships of countries foreign to British Dominion, but to ships foreign to the port, or country where the charge is made.

With these observations, the undersigned leaves the subject with your Honors, in the full persuasion, that he will on these points be borne out in the practice, which after much consideration and discussion, was adopted by him and his late lamented colleague, Mr. Scott, and was submitted then to your Honorable Board.

With great respect, the undersigned has the honor to be,
Honble. Sirs,

Your most obdt. humble servant
(Signed,) H. M. PERCEVAL, Coll.

To
The Honble. Commissioners }
of H. M. Customs, London. }

(Copy)

CUSTOM HOUSE,
QUEBEC, 13th November, 1820.

HONORABLE GENTLEMEN,

The undersigned begs leave to state, that it is the practice for vessels bound to Montreal, to come to an anchor at Quebec, and there to enter and pay port charges, which appears to be contrary to the order of your Honorable Board, dated 23d June 1815, No. 33.

The undersigned prays your Honors' further instructions, as well as to a system to be pursued with respect to such vessels, as the method of levying and collecting His Majesty's duties at Montreal, and accounting for the same, should your Honors deem it expedient to relieve the trade of that place from the impediments to which it is at present subjected.

With great respect, &c. &c.
(Signed) T. A. YOUNG, Compt.

To
The Commissioners of }
H. M. Customs, London. }

CUSTOM HOUSE,
LONDON, 10th February 1821.

To the Collector of Quebec, to whom this letter ought to have been delivered in the first instance, for his observations.

By order of the Commissioners,
(Signed) H. MACLEAN.

(Copy)

CUSTOM HOUSE,
QUEBEC, 11th May 1821.

HONORABLE SIRS,

The undersigned, in obedience to your Honors' reference of the 10th February last, on a letter from Acting Comptroller Young, of the 13th November, respecting the entering here of vessels bound to Montreal, and the difficulties imposed on the Montreal trade, has the honor to report, that the entering and clearance of all vessels coming into the River St. Lawrence, the whole extent of which is established as the Port of Quebec, having from time immemorial been made only at the City of Quebec, where the Collector and Comptroller are required to reside, and where the necessary documents for entry and clearance can alone be given, the undersigned is not aware of any order of your Honorable Board, that precludes him from receiving the regulated fee for the duty so necessarily performed by him. He is as little aware of the existence of the impediments alluded to by Mr. Young, as affecting the Montreal trade; but he is, on the contrary, able to state the following facts, destroying both those pretexts of complaint:

1st. That it rarely happens that a vessel is loaded with goods entirely for Montreal.

2d. That all that is required of vessels bound to Montreal is, to pay the Crown Duties, and to give security for the Provincial Duties.

3d. That every facility has at all times been afforded by the Custom House, (Sundays and Holydays not excepted,) for performing this duty, and forwarding vessels bound to Montreal; and that it is an established rule, that the duty connected with these vessels shall have precedence of all other business.

4th. That even if there were no Custom House existing at Quebec, a vessel proceeding to Montreal would be obliged to come to anchor here to discharge her Pilot, and take another licenced for that branch of the navigation between the two places; to make report, and leave a manifest of her cargo at the Naval Office, for the information of the Governor, and to pay the Port charges connected with that Office, and the Trinity House; to deliver her letters at the Post Office; and she would also have to submit to the visit and inspection of the Health Officer.

5th. That, in truth, the King's duties are collected, bonds taken for the Provincial duties, and the whole business at the Custom House is in such cases completed, while the details above enumerated are performed at the other offices, and, generally, before they are finished; and

6th. That there is only one cause that can prevent the immediate entry of any vessel, and that is her entering the Port with-

out the Master having prepared the proper manifests of the cargo, which, by Act of Parliament, ought to be made out at sea, & delivered to the first Custom House Officer that approaches the ship.

With respect to the mode of collecting the Crown duties on goods destined for Montreal, the undersigned neither sees any hardship on the Montreal Merchant in the present course, nor how any alteration can be made. Of the vessels that arrive at Quebec with cargoes, not one in twenty goes to Montreal; and it will scarcely be maintained that, for so small an object, a separate Custom House should be established there. But, even if this were done, the Montreal Merchant would be obliged to have an agent at Quebec, for other purposes connected with his trade; and it is by such agents that the Crown duties on Montreal goods are paid, and the Provincial duties secured. The circumstances detailed above sufficiently show, that no delay, inconvenience, or hardship, is imposed by the Custom House, on the trade to Montreal; and that those inconveniences that it may suffer, arise from circumstances not to be controuled, originating in the situation of Montreal as an inland town, and from the seat of Government being at Quebec.

With great respect, the undersigned has the honor to be,

Honorab'e Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servant,
(Signed) M. H. PERCEVAL, Coll.

To
The Honble. Commissioners
of H. M. Customs, London.

(Copy.)

CUSTOM HOUSE,
LONDON, 31st January, 1821.

(No. 4.)
Gentlemen,

Having read a letter from the Comptroller of your Port, dated 18th November last, enclosing forms of general certificates, which it is the practice to grant for every vessel arriving at and leaving Quebec, whether with a Cargo, or in ballast, provided, the merchant does not object thereto; and submitting whether the same are not contrary to our General Order of the 17th July 1781, No. 13.

We acquaint you, that under the General Order referred to, no certificate was requisite in the case of a ship arriving in ballast; and with respect to the certificate stated to be issued as to the landing of cargoes, that the same is defective in an essential point, namely, in not specifying the several packages, and their contents landed, in the way in which they are inserted in the cockets, provided the packages correspond therewith.

And we acquaint the Acting Comptroller, that he ought, previously to transmitting his letter to the Board, to have called upon the Collector to have joined therein, or to have assigned at the foot thereof, his reasons for not doing so, pursuant to the 7th article of your instructions, which we enjoin the Acting Comptroller to observe in future.

(Signed) S. BURNE, G. STEWART,
T. S. RICHMOND, G. WILSON.

(Copy.)

CUSTOM-HOUSE,
QUEBEC, 11th May, 1821.

Honorable Sirs,

The undersigned has received the letter of your Honorable Board of the 31st January last, in answer to a letter of the Acting Comptroller, of the 18th November, respecting the forms of general certificates to vessels arriving at, and leaving Quebec; and he has the honor to state, that, in consequence of your general order on this subject, of the 17th July, 1817, No. 13, the notice relative to these certificates, which was transmitted by your Honors, was suspended in the Custom-House for the information of the public; but it was at all times, and still is, left entirely to the option of the parties interested, to take, or leave, these certificates as they please; and it is presumed, that it is not your Honors' wish that they should be withheld in any case, where the parties expressly apply for them.

The undersigned was perfectly aware, that these certificates are defective, as pointed out by your Honors, in not specifying the several packages, with their contents landed, in the way they are inserted in the cockets, when they correspond therewith. But, on this head, he begs leave to state, that your Honors' order not having pointed out the form of the certificates that should be used, or the particulars it should contain, this became a subject for consideration with the Collector and the then Comptroller, the late Mr. Scott; and it appeared to them, that, under the circumstances of the department, it would be next to impossible to adopt any other than a general form, as it would have required the united labour of the several persons employed in the department, and an entire abandonment, for the time, of the other important duties of the office, to prepare such certificates, with a specification of packages. It was therefore deemed best, to prepare these general certificates in the form of which a copy is transmitted; and it was left to the party, in case any difficulty should occur, as to the landing of a particular packet, to apply at the Custom-house for a special certificate respecting it. This practice has, accordingly, in many cases, been referred to, and, it is believed, with much less inconvenience to those concerned, than would arise from the

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