

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

time by Sir Guy Carleton's putting an End to the Session in Consequence of Motions made in Council by Mr. Livius & others.<sup>1</sup>

The Business was in itself complicated & difficult, but it became more so from the Circumstance of many of the Officers of Government, whose Fees were to be Regulated, being Members of the Legislative Council. The Committee had many Obstacles to Surmount & particularly from the D. Surrogate of the Admiralty and the Attorney General. The D. Surrogate inserted that the Court of Admiralty in England had alone the Right to Regulate the Fees of the Vice Admiralty Court, where Parliament had not already done it,—This Matter was at last made easy by a Letter being produced to the Committee from the Secretary of the Treasury to Mr. Cramahé at that time Commanding the Province, acquainting him that the King had allowed the Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court at Quebec a Salary of £200 per Annum in lieu of all Fees.—

The Attorney General claimed the Fees taken in the Leeward Islands in Consequence of words incerted in Mr. Suckling's Mandamus (tho' that Attorney General's Fees are regulated in Gov<sup>r</sup> Murray's Order of Council in the Year 1765) and implied in Mr. Monk's Mandamus, which intituled him to all Fees taken by his Predecessors—. He was Supported in his Claim by Mess<sup>rs</sup> Finlay, Cuthbert, Alsop & Grant, who however willing they may be to Circumscribe the King's Authority in measures of General Utility to his Service & the Welfare of his People, are for carrying on to the greatest heighth his Prerogative to grant Letters Patent for the Emolument of Individuals tho' to the Oppression of the People—The Ordinance was Passed & received My Assent.<sup>2</sup> The Fees in general are by far too high, and more than the People of this Province can bear.—The Price of Provisions and other necessaries of Life have risen So much within these few Years that a greater Reduction of the Fees could not well have taken place at present. The Ordinance is to be in force for two Years. at the expiration of that time It is to be hoped that the Legislature will be enabled from Experience to make a more perfect List of Fees, more permanent & less burthensome to the People for the Officers of this Province, than the present one ag<sup>t</sup> which they nevertheless exclaim

There was an Ordinance passed & assented to, relative to the Maitres des Postes,<sup>3</sup> many Members were averse to the Legislative Councils interfering in that Business for the present as they wished during the Continuance of the War at least that it was annexed to the Quarter Master Generals Department, or to that of the Inspectors of the Corvées.—They Coincided nevertheless with the other Members who perhaps pushed it more with a view to the Benefit of an Individual than to any Advantage which might Accrue to the Public, Care however was taken that I, as Governor of the

<sup>1</sup> See Minutes of Leg. Council, v. D., pp. 25-44.

<sup>2</sup> The Ordinance is entitled, "An Ordinance For the regulation and establishment of Fees." Ordinances, 1763-91, p. 111.

<sup>3</sup> This Ordinance is entitled, "An Ordinance For regulating all such persons as keep horses and carriages to let and hire, for the accommodation of travellers, commonly called and known by the name of *Maitres de Poste*." Ibid. p. 123.