

Despatches.

a letter and of its enclosures which have been received from the Board of Treasury, representing that the new Customs' Bill, passed by the Canadian Legislature, contains no exemption of provisions or other articles imported into the Province for Her Majesty's Service.

I cannot conceal from Your Lordship that this departure from an acknowledged principle observed by every Possession of the Crown has appeared to Her Majesty's Government to be ungracious; and that we are unwilling to assume that the Legislature of *Canada* deliberately purposes to impose on the British Exchequer, a burthen which it has never hitherto been called upon to bear.

I trust, therefore, that at the next meeting of the Legislature, Your Lordship will use your best endeavours with a view to obtain the exemption desired by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, it being understood of course that Her Majesty's Government would readily consent to any arrangements which might be required in order to guard against abuse.

I have, &c.

(Signed,) STANLEY.

The Right Honourable
Lord METCALFE,
&c. &c. &c.

(Copy.)

TREASURY CHAMBERS,
16th April, 1845.

Sir,

With reference to my letter of the 17th August last, and to your reply of the 12th November following relative to the duties to which certain articles imported for the use of the Troops in *Canada* were liable under an Act of the Provincial Legislature, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, to transmit to you, to be laid before Lord Stanley, copy of a Report to this Board, from Commissary General Filder, dated 24th ultimo, with its enclosures.*

Lord Stanley will perceive that in the new Customs' Bill, which has been passed by the Legislature of *Canada*, no exemption has been made of Provisions or other articles imported or supplied for Her Majesty's Service, and that even the Victualling Stores sent from the Government Depot in this country, will be subject to a duty under the Act in question.

The principle of exempting from Customs' Duties, both Imperial and Colonial, all articles imported or supplied for Her Majesty's Service having been fully admitted, My Lords entertain no doubt that Lord Stanley will consider it right to instruct the Governor General of *Canada* to take such measures as His Lordship may see fit, with a view to the adoption of that principle in the Canadian Provinces.

If Mr. Filder is right in supposing that the House of Assembly objected to exempt certain articles imported into *Canada* for the use of Her Majesty's Troops from the payment of Duty, under an apprehension that the privilege might be liable to abuse, My Lords have to observe, that it does not appear that any such abuse has been practised, in other Colonies, in which the exemption is in full operation, and their Lordships cannot but suppose that arrangements which might be agreed upon between the Commissariat and the Custom House Officers, with the sanction and approval of the Governor General, would have the effect of preventing fraud in this matter.

* Customs' Duties—Resolutions to be moved by the Honourable Mr. Robinson, in Committee of the whole House, on Tuesday, the 25th of February, 1845—as amended in Committee of the whole, and agreed to by the House.

I am to request that the enclosure in Mr. Filder's Despatches. Report may be returned to this Board.

I am, &c.,

(Signed,) C. E. TREVELYAN.

(Copy.)

No. 1009.

COMMISSARIAT, CANADA,
Montreal, 24th March, 1845.

Sir,

Referring to my letter of the 8th July last, and to yours of the 2nd December last, I have the honour to report, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that a new Customs' Bill has been passed by the Legislature of this Colony, augmenting the duty on live Cattle from £1 to £1 10s. sterling per head, being about 24 per cent. on the cost of the animals, without containing any clause for exempting Cattle introduced for the use of the Troops from the operation of the Act.

The supply of Cattle in the Colony being unequal to the consumption, excepting possibly in some of the remote Districts too distant for the surplus to be available for the deficient Markets, the price of all meat furnished to the Troops, whether the produce of the country or imported, is affected by this measure to the full amount of the Duty.

A provisional Duty has also on this occasion been put on Flour, of 6d. sterling per barrel, in addition to the Imperial Duty of 2s.—without any exception being made in favour of supplies of this article, or other provisions included in the Act, when imported for the use of the Troops.

The Salt Meat for which I transmitted a demand on 8th May and is now I presume on its way from *England*, will consequently be subject to a duty of 2s. sterling per cwt.

Having perceived from the public papers that it had been stated in the House of Assembly in the course of the debates on this subject, that if the Cattle required for the use of the Troops were permitted to be imported free of Duty, the privilege would be liable to be abused for other purposes, I beg to observe that, with the co-operation of the Custom House Officers, there would I am of opinion, be no difficulty in preventing fraud on the part of the Contractors.

I have, &c.

(Signed,) W. FILDER,
C. G.

(Copy.)

No. 424.

DOWNING STREET,
30th August, 1845.

My Lord,

I enclose herewith, the copy of a letter from Sir William Burnett, suggesting the importance of employing in the rebuilding of those portions of *Quebec* which have been destroyed by the late calamitous fires, wood prepared according to his plan.

I also enclose the copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Admiralty, forwarding Reports from Officers of the Dock Yard at Portsmouth, of the result of Experiments made by them to test the efficacy of this invention of preserving timber from ignition, together with a statement from the Secretary of the Patentees, showing the cost per load, of preparing Wood for purposes of building.

In addition I enclose the copy of a letter from Mr. Jones, suggesting the applicability of this prepared Wood to the formation of roads in the Western Division of *Canada*, and proposing that a portion of