

TUESDAY, 10th FEBRUARY, 1829.

ries of the Officers exceed the amount of the Fees formerly levied, their Lordships further consider it proper, that, in those cases, the excess should not be defrayed by the Colony.

With these qualifications, however, their Lordships do not think it too much to expect, that, the Colonies should either acquiesce in the deduction from the Duties received in the Colonies of the adequate Salaries, now fixed for the Officers; or should themselves make a permanent provision for the Officers to that amount.

By the adoption of either alternative, the additional expense thrown on the Mother Country, will not be extravagant; and the Custom-House Officers, enjoying Salaries which must be admitted to be moderate, will still be placed in that state of independence which is essential to the discharge of their duty.

To place, in the clearest light, the views entertained by their Lordships, the Secretary of State has transmitted to the Lieutenant-Governor, the Schedule which is annexed; in regard to which, however, it may be right, that the House of Assembly should be apprised, that the actual expense of the Custom-House Establishment, according to the annexed document furnished by the Collector and Comptroller, exceeds the sum stated in the Schedule.

See papers
No. 3See papers
No. 4

The House of Assembly will permit the Lieutenant-Governor to express a hope, that he will not be considered by them to have characterized too favorably the substance of this Communication, and at the same time to intimate his sincere wish, that it may tend to an arrangement at once beneficial to the Colony, and satisfactory to His Majesty's Government.

Government House, 10th February, 1829.

P. M.

The several Papers annexed to said Message, were also read by the Clerk, and are as follows viz:

Papers annexed
to Message

[COPY—No. 1.]

*Provincial Secretary's Office,
Halifax, 9th February, 1829.*

GENTLEMEN,

In a Communication from the Lords of the Treasury, to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, a copy of which has been transmitted to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, it is stated, in order to illustrate the advantages that have accrued to the Colonies from the new Commercial system, that the sums levied in the several Ports in the shape of Fees on Shipping previous to the 6th Geo. IV. amounted to above £. 103,000, while the total of the new and reduced Salaries for the Officers of the Customs, proposed to be defrayed out of the Colonial Revenue, amount to no more than £. 73,000.

In this Province, however, it happens that the present charge upon it for maintaining its Custom House Establishment, is greater than it was previously to the abolition of fees. Their Lordships illustration therefore does not apply in this particular Colony, and His Excellency being desirous to know how this circumstance may be accounted for, I am directed to request that you will give me, for his information, any explanation on the subject that you may be able to afford.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient
Humble Servant,

(SIGNED)

RUPERT D. GEORGE.

*To the Principal Officers of
H. M. Customs, &c. &c. &c.*

COPY.