

I beg further to repeat what I before stated in reference to a former complaint of Messrs. Hunt and Henley, that the charge of partiality in the collection of duties is best answered by the fact, that after the "Volant" had left the coast, and I remained behind, alone and unassisted, I received from Messrs. T. and D. Slade the large amount of 120 £., the payment of which might and would have been effectually resisted had it not been that the agent was satisfied that duties had been collected impartially from all, and that no one had succeeded in escaping.

With reference to Messrs. Hunt and Henley's complaint that they were "compelled to pay duties of a most objectionable kind," viz., on lines and nets, salt, casks, and so forth, I have to state that the duties collected by me were only such as were prescribed by the Revenue Laws, the provisions of which I made their agent, Mr. Goodridge, fully acquainted with, by furnishing him with a copy of the Act, for his own convenience and information; and no such objection as that now taken by them was made at the time of paying the duties on said articles.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Winter,*

Collector, Labrador.

The Honourable the Receiver General,

&c. &c. &c.

St. John's.

Enclosure 2, in No. 11.

Receiver General's Office, St. John's,

26 February 1864.

Encl. 2, in No. 11.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to hand your Excellency, herewith, the Report of Mr. James Winter, collector of revenue at Labrador, respecting some charges made by Messrs. Hunt and Henley, to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, touching the manner in which that officer had discharged the novel and somewhat difficult duties of his office; and as it is in my power to corroborate his report to a great extent, I have much pleasure in doing it.

Your Excellency is aware that in the latter part of July last year I visited the Coast of Labrador in the steamer "Ariel." We arrived at Long Island on the 29th of that month, between which date and the 4th August we visited and communicated with the following settlements, viz.: South-east Cove, Curlew, Cape Nash, Gready, Black Island, Indian Tickle, Domino, Spotted Island, Black Tickle, Batteau, Sandy Islands, Seal Islands, Hawke Harbour, Venison Tickle, Snug Harbour, Tub Harbour, Dead Island, Triangle, Occasional Harbour, Ship Harbour, Francis Harbour Bight, Francis Harbour, Merchantmen's Harbour, Little Harbour, Murray's Harbour, Spear Harbour, Battle Harbour and Islands, Cape Charles, Henly Harbour, Chatteau, Red Bay, St. Modiste, and Lance-au-Loup.

The result of my observations, as far as they affect the present question, is that up to that date there was not, as far as I could ascertain, one American or Colonial vessel trading on that extent of coast. The only harbours in which there are fixed importing establishments are Long or Round Island, Gready, Indian Tickle, Venison Tickle, St. Francis Harbour, Battle Harbour, Henly Harbour, and Lance-au-Loup. A visit to the other harbours in quest of duties would not result in any benefit, the population being entirely fishermen from this land, supplied before leaving; and as the collector obtained much information from the report brought by us from the north (although it was our misfortune to miss each other), I conceive he was perfectly justified in passing such places until on his return from Sandwich Bay.

The entries passed for duties in the several harbours where there are fixed establishments show that they were visited; whilst there the collector could, and doubtless did, obtain sufficient information to guide him as to the necessity of visiting the adjacent coves and harbours. And as I have it, on good authority, that the number of traders on that coast during last year was much less than any former year—arising probably from the bad fishing of 1862, lateness of the commencement of the fishing 1863, and the determination of the Government to collect duties—I conceive, taking into consideration the delay, annoyance, and obstruction which the collector experienced, through the opposition which Messrs. Hunt and Henley caused him (for others were guided almost entirely by them in resisting), and the short time thus placed at his disposal, the duties of his office were carried out as efficiently as could be expected; and of those who escaped the payment of duties (if any), I have as yet heard of only one instance.

As regards the charge against the collector of exacting duties on the food, nets, &c. of the fishermen, I have to observe, that all duties collected at Labrador were under the Revenue Act of 1863. And since the Collector's return, his accounts have passed under the examination of the constituted authority, and found to be correct in every particular.

I have, &c.

(signed)

J. Bemister,
Receiver General.

His Excellency Sir A. Bannerman,

&c. &c.