

Department of Agriculture—Archives

1798.
December 12, Woolwich. Macarmick to King. Applies for payment of a moiety of seizures. Col. Cor., C.B., vol. 74, p. 271
- December 19, Whitehall. King to Isted. The contingent account exceeds the amount voted and is not accompanied by vouchers. Col. Off., C.B., vol. 1, p. 136
- December 29, Sydney. Miller to Secretary of State (Portland). Sends abstract of coal exports ; the increase in the quantity of coal raised. Plant is not attending to the measurement ; does not know if this leads to any deficiency. Ground opened for a new pit, which will eat out all the coal on the present level. The unfortunate effect of the stoppage by the President of the water level. Arrival of a good miner from Ireland, who could complete the work in time, were the President to allow it. Col. Cor., C.B., vol. 76, p. 25
- Enclosed.* Return of coal from Spanish River, between 1st July and 30th September, 1798. 29
1799.
January 3, Whitehall. King to Murray. Sends estimate for 1799-1800. Col. Off., C.B., vol. 1, p. 137
- January 10, Sydney. Ogilvie to Secretary of State (Portland). Did not think it necessary to repair Government House ; fitted up quarters for himself at a small expense and turned the upper part of Government House into a gaol for debtors and felons. The want of lawyers has caused distress ; Cossit and Miller in gaol for small debts, apparently on account of old dissensions ; suggests the appointment, with a small salary, of a Solicitor General, unconnected with the disputes. The business of the island is impeded by the improper site of the town of Sydney, which is nine miles from its staple, and the situation not suited for carrying on any trade to advantage ; points out a good site within the harbour, two miles from the mines and three from Bras d'Or. Sends returns of militia ; those in the vicinity could be easily assembled. The defences in ruins, except a block house ; four twelve pounders sent from Halifax, which he will have mounted to protect the harbour against vessels of small force. Is auditing Miller's accounts ; has authorized him to work on the level, but discontinued it, finding little could be done ; has no reason to think he has acted fraudulently, but a large sum had been spent with little result, Miller working under disadvantages ; a civil engineer of greater activity, accustomed to mining, is required. Suggests how the work could be carried on and the conditions to be inserted in a new lease. The confusion that will probably arise from the system of granting licenses for lands. Transmits memorial from Tryon Mathews, appointed Provost marshal by his father. The bad effects of so many offices being held by deputies and substitutes. Col. Cor., C.B., vol. 76, p. 39
- Enclosed.* Return of militia in the districts of Sydney and Arichat. The total number was : 1 colonel ; 2 lieutenant-colonels ; 11 captains ; 24 lieutenants ; 13 clerks ; 28 sergeants ; 526 rank and file. 51
- January 14, Whitehall. Secretary of State (Portland) to Murray. The sum voted for the school-master (£40) being considered sufficient, he does not intend to apply to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to continue the stipend. Col. Off., C.B., vol. 1, p. 137
- January 21, Whitehall. Same to the same. Agrees with Ogilvie that McKinnon was suspended from the Council without sufficient cause, but his conduct was not free from censure. To investigate the practice of giving permits to occupy Crown lands, that being contrary to instructions ; although the occupants, out of His Majesty's kindness, may not be dispossessed, yet they have no title to the lands. There is no good reason for granting the lessees of the coal mines the arrears of the two shillings from 1797. Before renewing the lease to Tremain & Stout, an inquiry should be made into the conditions on which the mines should be worked in future. The lessees, on the expiration of the lease, can only occupy the mines as tenants at will, subject to supervision. Col. Cor., C.B., vol. 76, p. 9