

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

## DRAFTS OF DISPATCHES TO SIR F. B. HEAD, 1835–1836.

## Q. 395—A.

1836.

January 1,  
Downing  
Street.

Glenelg to Head (No. 7). The Ordnance reports that the large arch of the bridge on the Ottawa is in a dangerous state. As it serves no military purpose the Ordnance, seeing that the tolls will not meet the expense of maintenance, has given orders to deliver the bridges to the Executive Government. Page 2

January 2,  
Downing  
Street.

The same to the same (No. 8). To examine into the claim of Alison, late paymaster of the 90th regiment, for a grant of land, and to inform him that in future letters to the Colonial Office should be sent through the Lieut. Governor. 3

January 4,  
Downing  
Street.

Same to the same (No. 9). In respect to the application from Phillipps for a pension, the only fund that could be drawn upon is the casual and territorial revenue, but under present circumstances he can place no new charge on it. He is to express regret that it is not at present in Glenelg's power to grant the pension. 4

January 5,  
Downing  
Street.

The same to the same (No. 10). The case of the claimants for losses during the war with the United States was one to which his attention was drawn on receiving the Seals of Office. Up to 1834 progress has been made towards liquidation, the amounts having been reduced from £182,180 to about £57,900. His Majesty's Government offered to contribute from the casual revenue £20,000 if the Assembly would raise an equal amount, and that the difference would be applied for to Parliament. The Assembly separated without adopting any measure in regard to the proposal. His desire in spite of this inaction to settle the claims, and has obtained from the Treasury leave to advance £20,000 from the casual revenue before the Assembly vote their share, but this is not to interfere with a general arrangement. 6

January 7,  
Downing  
Street.

Same to the same (No. 11). Has transmitted Parliamentary reports for which Duncombe has applied. 10

January 14,  
Downing  
Street.

The same to the same (No. 12). Has been considering the question of Indian expenditure, and the report of the committee of the House of Commons on the subject. After consideration thinks it would be a breach of faith to withdraw the presents from the Indians, a prospective title having been established. He (Head) is to have inquiry made as to the number of Indians living in the United States who receive presents, and to report under what circumstances they have received them. Whilst a sudden withdrawal from Indians living in Canada without a commutation would be unjust and impolitic, he cannot admit that they should be indefinitely perpetuated. Cannot pronounce a definite opinion on the proposal to commute the presents for money. Strong objections by Dalhousie to the proposal. Other opinions on the subject. The Treasury has sanctioned a payment in money, but he is to consider if commutation is to be for the good of the Indians, and only to be carried out with their free consent. Everything to be done should be for their permanent benefit. The propriety of a reduction of the expenditure for the Department of Indian affairs, as it bears an undue proportion to the whole cost, and as the work will be lessened by the commutation of presents by money or otherwise, a reduction could properly be made in the department. Routh to report on this branch of the question. 11

His abilities.