

# REPORT

Of the Committee appointed to inquire into the Admiralty Tariff of Fees.

Your Committee have given the subject all the time they could conveniently devote to it, and as the result of their inquiry, respectfully submit to your Honorable House the evidence taken before them, that your Honorable House may be in possession of the information given to your Committee in the prosecution of the duties assigned to them.

H. DUBORD, *Chairman*.  
G. O. STWART,  
W. BADGLEY.

*Hon. Henry Black* called in, and examined:—

Are you Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court?—I am.

From whom do you hold your Commission, and produce the same, or a copy thereof?—I hold the Office in virtue of Letters Patent issued by Her Majesty under the Great Seal of the High Court of Admiralty of England, bearing date the seventh of October, 1838, of which I produce a copy.

What is your yearly salary, and do you receive any fees?—The salary of the Office is two hundred pounds sterling per annum, at which it was fixed so far back as the year 1769. I have never received any fees, nor are any attached to the Office.

What is the tariff of fees received in the Vice Admiralty Court, and please produce the same, or a copy thereof?—There is no tariff of fees received in the Vice Admiralty Court. I produce a copy of the tariff of fees to be taken by the Officers and Practitioners of the Court for all acts to be done therein.

By what authority and at what time was that tariff established, and produce that authority, or a copy thereof?—It was established by Her Majesty with the advice of Her Privy Council, at the Court at Buckingham Palace, on the 2nd of March, 1848, pursuant to an Act of the Imperial Parliament (2 Will. 4, c. 51) specially passed for the regulation of the practice, and for the establishment of fees to be taken in the Courts of Vice Admiralty throughout the Colonial Possessions of the Crown. A copy of Her Majesty's Order in Council will be found annexed to the rules and regulations touching the practice to be observed in suits and proceedings in the several Courts of Vice Admiralty, and the table of fees produced by me.

Look at the account of the Registrar's fees in the suit of Lapointe against the Virginie, marked A, and say whether the charge of £10 15s. 6d. sterling, equal to £13 2s. 2d., currency, is correct?—The charges appear to be correct. They are certified to be so by the Registrar, whose accuracy I have no reason to doubt.

What would be the amount of costs in the Circuit Court for a similar case?—I have never had occasion to examine the tariff of the Circuit Court, and I am unable to say. If the object of this question be to draw a comparison between the Vice Admiralty Court and the Circuit Court, I may be permitted to add, that from the extensive nature of the jurisdiction of the Vice Admiralty Courts, as connected with the administration of one uniform system of Marine law throughout the Empire, no fair comparison could be instituted.

Look at the account of the Attorney for Plaintiff, amounting to £10 15s.