

The Difficulties attending the acceptance of the Proposal are the following—

FIRST, and in importance far beyond all others, is the Risk lest, by acquiescing in the Plan submitted, the right and privilege just referred to, in regard to taxation—and the appropriation of Duties,—should be impaired in the least point. This risk can only be guarded against by the most distinct and full declaration of the *right* to the *whole* duties, and to the sole disposal thereof.

SECONDLY. The Mode of granting the Salaries—Under other circumstances the Committee would long hesitate before they advised a relinquishment of any restraint the Assembly possesses over Public Officers. In this Province none, except the Judges, are permanently provided for; and these only from the necessity of securing their independence. All others, and even the Judges for their payments, depend on the Annual Enactments of this Legislature—But the case is different in respect to the Customs. The Fees were established by Acts of Parliament over which we had no controul; and were allowed by Officers in the Mother Country equally independent of the Assembly. This Legislature has it not therefore in its power to render the Officers of the Customs dependent on it for their yearly allowances; and perhaps, in reference to their other duties, it is not just that they should be so dependent. The only mode therefore of qualifying the permanent character of the required provision is,—to make it co-existent *only* with the *duties* from which it is to be derived.

THIRDLY. The heavy increase which the Salaries will make to the Civil List. This objection is doubtless deserving of great weight—and not lightly to be overlooked. The Fees, when levied, were paid by individuals—and, to a great extent, fell on those who were not inhabitants. The Salaries are to be paid out of the Revenue arising from the *consumption* of the taxed articles in the Province.

It is only by a comparison of the advantages resulting from the New System, with the inconvenience of a great and disproportioned Civil List, that the choice must be decided; and if made, as the Committee pre-