

The Returns from the Collectors of Light Duties are also in general very satisfactory; and your Committee have great pleasure in remarking, that all the Collectors of Customs, with perhaps one exception, have been prompt in remitting the several sums collected by them. Your Committee recommend that the Government be requested to require at an early day from the former Collectors of Light Duty in the several Ports payment of the balances and returns of collections made by them previous to the new Law coming into operation.

The Committee also beg leave to remark, that in addition to £280 11 9 admitted to be due by the late Treasurer, as charged in the Account of the Acting Treasurer, the further sum of £248 3 9, being balance paid to Isle of Sable Commissioners, is to be added, making together £528 15 6, from which is to be deducted £132 15 1, being amount of certain Warrants paid by the late Treasurer to 20th May, and not included in his Account Current, leaving a nett balance due of £396 0 5. As a Special Committee of the House of Assembly are now engaged investigating the transactions of that Officer, your Committee do not feel themselves called upon to make any comment on his Account as submitted. The Committee in auditing the Accounts submitted by the Commissioners of Sable Island, are compelled to notice the large sum expended during the past year, amounting to nearly £2,800. The Commissioners have handed in a written statement referring to this branch of the public service, which is annexed to this Report, to which, and the affairs of that Establishment generally, your Committee recommend the careful attention of the Legislature:

The Committee also submit a statement of monies drawn out of the Casualty Vote of last year, to be charged against any appropriations of the present Session for the Road and Bridge Service in the several Counties.

Committee Room, 13th February, 1846.

ALEX. STEWART, }
JOHN MORTON, } Committee
EDWD. KENNY, } of the
Legislative Council.

JAMES McNAB, Chairman.
JAMES D. FRASER.
JOHN ROSS.
JOHN HOLMES.

APPENDIX No. 16.

(See Page 31.)

(CIRCULAR.)

(COPY.)

Downing Street, 30th August, 1845.

MY LORD,—

The recent calamitous Fires at Quebec, have led Her Majesty's Government to consider the propriety of making known in the Colonies, where Timber is largely if not entirely employed in the construction of houses, the success which has attended the inventions in this country for the preservation of wood from ignition, as well as from dry rot.

I accordingly inclose for your information the copy of a Despatch, with its annexures, which I have this day addressed to the Governor of Canada on the subject. Although the circumstance which has led to the communication has a more direct relation to Canada, it may, to a certain extent, be considered applicable to the other Provinces, and I have to instruct you to adopt such measures as may appear best calculated to effect the object in view.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STANLEY.

Lieut. Governor the VISCOUNT FALKLAND.

Copy.