

I have been Registrar of the Vice Admiralty Court, since 1st January, 1842, and I performed part of the duties of that Office for several years previous to that date.

The number of Actions issued in

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Number of Actions.</i>	<i>Registrar's Fees. Amount.</i>
1833,	86	£277 8 2½
1834,	120	301 17 9
1835,	101	280 7 11

The above fees were received under the Tariff established by the King in Council, in 1832, abolished in 1836.

The number of Actions issued since 1839, is as follows:—

1840,	133	1842,	283
1841,	187	1843,	417
		1844,	336

during which latter years the Registrar has had an annual salary of £150, sterling, in lieu of all fees. This was considered a temporary arrangement to provide for the Registrar until a Tariff was made. This annual salary, I consider inadequate as a remuneration for the services performed, as will appear by the amounts received by the Registrar, under the late Tariff, during the years 1833, 1834, 1835, and the number of actions issued during those years, compared with the number of action issued during the subsequent years. This annual salary was granted on the recommendation of Lord Gosford, then Governor in Chief; and Lord Durham, Governor General of the Canadas, subsequently recommended an annual salary of £250 or £300, sterling,—I cannot be positive which sum. Lord Gosford's recommendation was acted upon before Lord Durham's Despatch was received in England.

Since January last up to the present time there have been forty-three cases finally disposed of on the merits. The great majority of cases brought before the Court of Vice-Admiralty is for the recovery of Seamen's wages. The Court sits regularly twice a week during navigation season, that is between 1st of May and the end of November, and frequently on other days, on special application from the parties.

During the remainder of the season the Court sits occasionally as the business requires.

It appears that since the fees have been abolished the number of actions issued have greatly increased.

In the following years the number of Judgments pronounced were as follows:—

	<i>Actions returned.</i>	<i>Judgment for Promoter.</i>	<i>Judgment against Promoter.</i>
1833,	...	8	8
1834,	32	7	9*
1835,	28	8	4
1842,	127	24	49
1843,	158	27	70†
1844,	127	20	23

I attribute the increase of business in this Court to the absence of a Tariff.

I have attentively examined the Table of Fees proposed by the Worshipful

* During these years, the Officers received fees in virtue of the Tariff since abolished.

† During these years, the Officers received no fees.