

*now fixed for the Officers; or should make a permanent provision for the Officers to that amount.* There being no Schedule with the Message, shewing what *those adequate salaries* are, that are said to be "*now fixed for the Officers,*" and "*must be admitted to be moderate,*" the Committee cannot ascertain on what Scale they are settled, or what proportion they bear to the required Duties, or to the allowances of Provincial Officers. They are equally in the dark as to the numbers or stations of the Custom-House Officers; and can only conclude that a considerable reduction has been made in the whole Establishment, by comparing the sum requested, with the amount hitherto annually retained;—the difference being nearly L3000 of saving to the Province. The Schedule accompanying the Message specifies L8301 3 8 sterling, as the now fixed allowance for the Customs, of which L1870 14 8 is to be provided by the Crown, and the remainder, being L6430 9s. sterling, by the Province; the excess of this sum over L5800 19 1, [stated by their Lordships to be the average of Fees for the three years, ending 5th Jan. 1826,] the Committee presume, was the average of the *Naval Officers Fees* during the same period. As these Fees then ceased, and the Committee find them noticed in no other place, they must therefore have been taken into the computation their Lordships have made of the *annual burthen* which the abolition of Fees removed at the close of 1825.

On the point most strenuously insisted on by this House—*Its sole right to appropriate all duties, taxes and impositions, levied from the people of this Province,* the Message is wholly silent—either from an acquiescence in that Position, or a desire to waive its discussion. The Committee incline to the opinion that their Lordships have conceded it. But whether they have or have not admitted this *Right*, it is manifestly one which this House ought not, under any circumstances, to compromise or relinquish. In other respects the Message appears to the Committee founded on fair and reasonable principles—and, on many points, deserving of the favourable consideration of this House.