

MISCELLANEOUS.

It is, perhaps, unnecessary I should here observe, that originally, I had not the assistance of an officer in the situation of Landing Surveyor, distinct from the officer performing the duties of Tide Surveyor, in collecting the Colonial Duties; and that had not the Honorable the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Customs allowed me, on my representation of the loss to which the Local Revenue was, in consequence, exposed, the aid of the Imperial Landing Surveyor, an officer whose office is ordered to be abolished on the expiration of the present quarter, I must at that time have discontinued my services to the Colony.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed)

J. M. SPEARMAN.

E. E. RUSHWORTH, Esq.

LETTER

from Mr. Canning, in reference to the duties performed by the Landing and Tide Surveyor.

CUSTOM HOUSE, 17th January, 1850.

SIR,—In conformity with your instructions, I beg to report that the duties performed by the Tide Surveyor at this port have been in accordance with his instructions, as far as they could be carried out, with one boat and crew. To give effect to them in every particular would require a much larger establishment, and a more extensive place of import than we possess. All, however, has been done that could be, to protect the Revenue of the Colony.

The following is a minute detail of the principal duties that have been performed; the minor ones, however, do not require any particular notice, some of which are therefore omitted in the present Report:—

That in the months of August, September, October, and November, the Tide Surveyor has been in attendance at the Custom House between 6 and 7 o'clock every morning, Sundays not excepted, and in the month of December at 9 o'clock, for the purpose of boarding vessels on their arrival, and placing on board such Tide-waiters as might be required for the protection of the Revenue, and that these duties are continued as required by the service until sunset each day, and sometimes later.

That he has kept a journal containing the arrival and departure of every vessel; shewing their name, name of the master, from or to what port, nature of the cargo, when boarded, name of officer, if any, appointed to the ship, date of appointment, date of discharge, number of days employed, and the attendant expenses; a daily transcript of the journal has been laid before the Collector every morning, for his information, in conformity with the 6th article of the Tide Surveyor's instructions.

That after a vessel's arrival, and the master has reported at the Custom House, it has been his practice, after preparing the Blue Book for the Tide-waiter, to proceed on board, and, with the assistance of the boatmen, strictly and carefully examine the hold, cabin, and all suspicious places, taking an account of the stores on board for the use of the vessel.

That from time to time, the vessels in the port have been visited by him to ascertain if the stores, left on board on the vessel's arrival, appeared to have been expended for the use of the ship.