

On Motion, the said Bill received the third reading.

Ordered, that the same do pass and be engrossed.

By Order, Mr. *McGregor* carried to his Majesty's Council the said Bill for their concurrence.

Mr. *Cameron* Chairman of the Committee appointed to wait on the Lieut. Governor with the Address praying that his Excellency would be pleased to forward the Address of this House to his Majesty, relative to the Quit Rents reported, that they had waited on his Excellency, and that his Excellency was pleased to reply that he would with much pleasure, forward the Address to his Majesty and recommend the subject thereof.

On Motion the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, to resume the consideration of the State of the Colony.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair,

The Attorney General took the Chair of the Committee,

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair,

The Attorney General Chairman of the Committee reported, That the Committee had agreed to a Report, which was read, and is as follows :

That it appears to your Committee upon clear proof, that seventeen several prosecutions by Bill of Information, were instituted in the Court of Chancery, in April 1820, against so many individuals in Prince Town Royalty, by express order of Lieut. Governor Charles Douglass Smith, personally delivered to the then Solicitor General, acting for the Crown, during the absence of his Majesty's Attorney General; and that, although the Solicitor General informed his Excellency that the whole of the Defendants might be included in one Bill of Information, the Lieut. Governor insisted upon suits being instituted against each individual, for the purpose of subjecting them respectively to costs; and that such suits were instituted for alleged intrusions and trespasses, by cutting wood on nine Pasture Lots in the said Royalty, said to be ungranted, containing in all about seventy-two acres, a proceeding, which under the circumstances hereinafter stated, appears to this Committee, to have been a most oppressive and unjust exercise of the powers entrusted to the then Lieut. Governor, and intended for the purpose of enabling him to take money out of the public Treasury, for his own benefit, and

that of Mr. Lane, the acting Registrar, Master, and Examiner, in Chancery, in addition to the fees, which the unfortunate Defendants would necessarily be compelled to pay to them in the proceedings.

That it also appears to your Committee that upon those express orders being given to the then Solicitor General, a calculation was made by him and the Registrar, Master, and Examiner in Chancery, of the probable costs that would accrue on one suit, proceeding as far as Injunction and Subpoena, and also on the seventeen separate suits, and submitted the same to the then Lieutenant Governor, whereupon a Letter was given to the Solicitor General by the Lieut. Governor in his own hand writing, without the advice of his Majesty's Council, directed to the Treasurer of this Island, ordering the said Treasurer to pay to the said Solicitor General any sum that he might require for protecting the rights of the Crown; and accordingly the Solicitor General received, for carrying on those particular suits, the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds (£150); which was expended as follows; viz.: To the Lieut. Governor as Chancellor, twenty-five pounds; to his son-in-law, the Honorable Ambrose Lane, as Registrar, Master, Examiner, and Secretary to the Chancellor, the sum of sixty-four pounds eight shillings and nine pence. For mileage and services of documents, the sum of fifty pounds seventeen shillings and seven pence; and to John Stowe, for services by order of the Chancellor, the sum of five pounds, independent of the sum of twenty-five pounds thirteen shillings and four pence paid by the Defendants to the Registrar, and the sum of six pounds eight shillings and a half-penny paid by the Attorney General on his return to the Island, for copies of these proceedings, to enable him to give an opinion on the subject.

That it is the opinion of your Committee that at the commencement of the said proceedings, the Lieut. Governor had taken no proper steps to ascertain whether or not the said Lands, or any part thereof, were claimed or held under Grants or Licences of Occupation; and that it appears to your Committee, by the evidence of Charles Wright, Esq. his Majesty's Surveyor General of Lands on this Island, that at the commencement of these proceedings, the lines and boundaries of the said Royalty, were in such a state of confusion and uncertainty,