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6th Session 13th Parliament, 3rd Victoria.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE,
ON THE
FINANCES OF THE PROVINCE.**

JANUARY, 1840.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE COMMONS HOUSE
OF ASSEMBLY.

R. Sissons, Printer to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

REPORT,

OF COMMITTEE ON THE FINANCES OF THE PROVINCE.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

CHARLES BOCKUS, Esquire, CHAIRMAN.
W. HAMILTON MERITT,
JAMES MORRIS,
DAVID THORBURN,
THOMAS McKAY,
GEORGE RYKERT,
COLIN C. FERRIE,
W. B. ROBINSON,
JOHN MARKS—Esquires.

Members of Committee.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF FINANCE,

Beg leave to submit the following Report :

THAT before entering upon the ordinary duty of examining the Public Accounts, your Committee feel bound to express their regret, that the many very useful suggestions of the Finance Committee of the third Session of the present Parliament, recommended by them after a laborious and thorough investigation into the nature of the Finances of the Province, and more particularly the form in which the Public Accounts are submitted to the Legislature, have not been carried into effect, but the same difficulties have presented themselves to your Committee, in investigating those Accounts, that were then complained of.

Suggestions of Finance Committee of 3d Session 13th Parliament, not attended to.

In calling the attention of your Honourable House to the Public Accounts, they will refer to them in the numerical order in which they are transmitted.

Order of reference.

No. 1—Is a statement of Revenue arising from duties collected at the Ports of Lower Canada, for the half year ending 1st July last, in which Upper Canada participates. Your Committee have only to remark, that the details of this account are not furnished to the Inspector General, of this province as will appear by the evidence of that Officer in his answer to question No. 1, hereto annexed.

Duties collected at the Ports of Lower Canada. Details not furnished to Inspector General.

No. 2—Is a statement of Revenue arising from duties on imports from the United States, from 1st January, to 30th September, 1839.

Duties on Imports from United States.

No. 3 and 4—Are statements of Revenue arising from licences issued to Hawkers and Pedlers, and to Auctioneers, and on Sales at Auction, from 1st January to 30th September, 1839.

Hawkers, Pedlers, Auctioneers and Sales at Auction.

No. 7—Is a statement of Revenue arising from duties on licences issued by Inspectors of Districts, from 5th January, to 5th October, 1839.

Licences issued by Inspectors of Districts.

In investigating those several statements, your Committee remark, that the amounts collected and the amounts paid to the Receiver General, do not correspond, in consequence of forty and sixty days being allowed to pay over balances, after making returns to the Inspector General—by this indulgence collections of the past, often appear in the receipts of the current year. Your Committee are therefore driven to rely wholly upon the correctness of the returns made by the Inspector General, as to the defalcations of Inspectors and Collectors—to obviate this difficulty, a bill is herewith submitted, to fix an uniform period for such returns being made—the necessity for such a measure

Collections and payments do not agree; The reasons.

Knowledge of Defalcations of Inspectors and Collectors, rest upon Inspector General's return.

Bill reported on the subject.

1840
(17)

will more clearly appear by reference to the answer of the Inspector General to question No. 2, hereto appended.

Tonnage duty on British Vessels.

No. 5—Is a statement of Revenue arising from Tonnage duty on British vessels, from 1st January, to 30th September, 1839.

A Proportion of tonnage not included in the return.

No mode to ascertain its correctness.

Increase in all sources of Revenue.

Your Committee are of opinion, that a considerable proportion of the tonnage of vessels subject to tonnage duty, is not included in the return; and by the evidence of the Inspector General, in his reply to question No. 3, it appears there is no mode at present by which to ascertain its correctness. Your Committee cannot, however, dismiss this part of their examination, without calling the attention of your Honourable House to the very gratifying increase in all the sources of revenue above referred to, as will appear by the following comparative statement of collections for the years 1838 and 1839.

Statement, &c.

Source of Revenue.	1838.			1839.			Increase—1839.			Decrease—1839.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Imports at Quebec.....	37691	3	11½	61678	16	3	23987	12	3¼	0	0	0
Do. United States....	13500	3	5½	14114	18	7	614	15	1½	0	0	0
• Duty on Shop, Still and Tavern Licences	6950	8	6	9648	13	8	2692	5	2	0	0	0
• Duty on Hawkers' and Pedlars' Licences.....	90	5	0	130	12	6	40	7	6	0	0	0
• Duty on Auctioneers' Licences, and Sales ...	381	17	0	670	16	4	289	3	4	0	0	0
• Tonnage Duty on British Vessels	225	5	2	334	18	9	109	13	7	0	0	0

* In consequence of these returns for 1839, being made only for three-quarters of a year, one-fourth of the existing returns has been added, to make up the above table.

By the above statement, the increase of 1839, over the previous year, is nearly equal to 50 per cent. which is an evidence that our country is recovering from the depression of the past few years.

Balances in hands of Collectors.

No. 6, is a statement of balances in the hands of Collectors of Customs, on 14th November, 1839.

Balances in hands of Inspectors.

No. 8, is a statement of balances in the hands of Inspectors of Licences, on 5th October, 1839.

Balances in hands of Inspectors in default.

No. 8, (a) is a statement of balances in the hands of Inspectors of Licences, on 5th December, 1839, being over due and in default.

Necessity of a uniform system in making returns.

Your Committee have only to remark, with regard to those statements, that they shew more clearly the necessity of an uniform system being immediately adopted, as to the time of making their returns, and paying the balances to the Receiver General. Your Committee gladly state, upon the evidence of the Inspector General, in answer to question No. 4, that sufficient security has been given by the several Inspectors and Collectors now in arrears, and that quarterly returns are regularly made to the Head of the Government, that steps may be taken for the dismissal of such officers, and the collection of any defalcation.

Sufficient security given by Inspectors and Collectors.

Abstract of Warrants.

No. 9, is an abstract of Warrants issued by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, on the Receiver General, from 1st January to 5th October, 1839.

Period of Warrants incomplete;

In calling attention to this account, your Committee have to refer to the incomplete period for which warrants are issued, and the confused manner in which the Detailed Accounts are submitted, rendering investigation difficult, and exceedingly unsatisfactory,—reference is more particularly made to the detail of expenses for subsistence and trial of State Prisoners, in which many charges appear exorbitant, but having been audited by the Executive Council, and paid, no means of remedy can be resorted to.

Detailed accounts very confused;

Many items respecting State Prisoners exorbitant, but no remedy.

No. 10, is a statement of the Receiver General's receipts and payments, from the 1st January to the 5th October, 1839. Statement of Warrants.

This account exhibits a condensed view of what the preceding accounts are the detail—any further remark under this head is therefore unnecessary. Condensed view of former Accounts.

No. 11, is an estimate of the Civil Expenditure of the Province, for the year 1840, exclusive of the appropriations by statute 1st Wm. IV. ch. 14, and 7th Wm. IV. ch. 1, and 109. Estimate of Civil Expenditure for 1840.

The first of these Estimates, is for the support of the *Government Office*, and the second, that of the office of the *Provincial Secretary and Registrar*. In noticing those Estimates, your Committee will beg to call the attention of your Honourable House to the change that has been effected in these Departments, by which a part of the duties of the Private Secretary, is performed by the Provincial Secretary—a change that, in the opinion of your Committee, cannot fail to give satisfaction to the public, by greatly facilitating the duties of those two offices. By the Estimate now under consideration, this change is effected without an increased expense to the Province, although the duties of these offices must naturally increase from year to year. Government and Provincial Secretary's Offices. Change in the Offices referred to: The change satisfactory Expenses not increased though the duties increase.

EXPENSE OF THOSE DEPARTMENTS, FOR 1839.

Grant for Government Office,	£2,168	<small>Expenses of these Departments in 1839 and 1840.</small>
Ditto Office of Provincial Secretary and Registrar,	500	
Excess of Contingencies of Government Office, for 1839, ...	1,572	
	4,240	

ESTIMATES FOR THOSE DEPARTMENTS FOR 1840.

For Government Office,	£2,103
For Office of Secretary and Registrar,	2,050
	4,153
Saving,	£87

The Estimate for the support of the *Executive Council Office* is noticed by your Committee, inasmuch as it specifies one clerk more than was provided for last year, and £25 additional for contingencies. Executive Council, increase.

For the *Receiver General's Office* is £20 additional in clerk's salaries over the grant of last year. Receiver General, increase.

For the *Inspector General's Office*, one additional Clerk at £170 is charged, and £100 additional for contingencies. Inspector General, increase.

For the *Surveyor General's Office*, one additional Clerk at £170 additional, and £25 less for contingencies. Surveyor General, increase.

For the *Adjutant General's Office*, £20 additional salary to the Clerk provided for last year, and £200 additional for contingencies: as also £379 15s. 6d. to cover an excess for contingencies for 1838 and 1839, is charged in the Estimates for the current year. Adjutant General, increase.

In the remaining Estimates of the same account, the following sums are additional over the grants of the previous year:— Additions in other Estimates.

Excess of Expenditure for Criminal Prosecutions for 1839,	£400
Repairs at Government House,	100
Arrears of 1839, (same service)	60
Additional as contingencies of Public Offices,	150
Repairs of East Wing, (new charge)	100
Furniture for Executive Council, (do.)	100
Clerk of the Crown and Pleas, (do.)	50
Do. Arrears of 1837, '38 and '39, (do.)	150

The remaining charges correspond with last year's grants:

except "new charges."

Your Committee would also remark that the remaining charges for the current, correspond in amount with the grants for such services of the preceding year, and though so great an excess appears in other items, it is due to state, that most of the estimates for the past year correspond with the present, except such as are designated as "new charges."

The total amount of this account is.....	£16,779	4	6
From which deduct to complete 1839.....	2,561	15	6
	<hr/>		
Leaving the supplies for present year	£14,217	9	0
	<hr/>		

Estimate of expenditure and resources for current year.

Committee have considered various propositions to meet deficiency.

Failure of Thomas Wilson & Co. chief cause of deficiency.

Receiver General effected an arrangement with Glynn, Halifax & Co.

£90,000 to be provided for.

Bill submitted, to fund £70,000 thereof in England.

Bill for sale of Bank Stock having passed, those two resources sufficient for present emergency.

Means must be found to meet interest on new loan, and to replace interest on Bank Stock.

If these suggestions are acted upon, no difficulty in meeting present engagements.

No. 12, is the General Estimate of the Expenditure and Resources of the Province, from 5th October, 1839, to 31st December, 1840.

In calling the attention of your Honourable House to this document, your Committee beg to state, that they have considered various propositions to meet the apparent deficiency of the current year, a deficiency that has arisen chiefly from the failure of the firm of Messrs. Thomas Wilson & Co., Agents for this Province, in London, by which unexpected event, the large sum of £55,000 Sterling was, for the time, rendered unavailable.

In order to replace this sum, for the purpose of paying interest on debentures, as they became due in England, the Receiver General was compelled to effect an arrangement with Messrs. Glynn, Halifax & Co., Bankers, of London: by this arrangement the Province has become indebted to that house, and also to Messrs. Baring, Brothers & Co. for similar services, to the extent of £67,517. To pay this sum, together with the further one of £23,183, due for interest on our public debt, making in all £90,700 to be provided for, your Committee recommend that £70,000 of it should be funded in England, and have prepared a Bill, which they herewith submit, for the purpose of carrying that object into effect: and having already passed a bill to authorise the sale of £25,000 Stock, owned by the Province in the Bank of Upper Canada: these two sources will, they trust, be amply sufficient to meet the present emergency.

In making this arrangement, your Committee are aware that means must be found to meet the interest that will accrue on the loan of £70,000; and to replace the sum of £2,000, which would have been received on the Government Bank Stock, had it not been sold.

If the foregoing suggestions, for funding £70,000 in England, and selling the £25,000 Bank Stock, are acted upon, there will be no difficulty in meeting the engagements for the current year, as will more clearly appear by the following statement, shewing the expenditure and resources of the Province, predicated upon the foregoing arrangement:

Expenditure.	Currency.			Resources.	Currency.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Amount required to complete the service of 1839.....	25000	0	0	Balance in Receiver General's hands, on 5th Oct. 1839..	22128	0	0
Interest on Public Debt, including Premium on Exchange, Administration of Justice, and support of Civil Government, 1st Wm. IV. c. 14.	63000	0	0	Balance in hands of Collectors, on do.	6987	0	0
Do. do. 7th Wm. IV. c. 1	7223	0	0	Balance in hands of Inspectors, on do.	1168	0	0
Do. per Estimate No. 11, to complete service of 1839...£ 2501 15 6	3000	0	0	Import Duties—quarter commencing 1st Oct. 1839...	5000	0	0
Do. do. for 1840, 14277 9 0				Duties on Licenses, do. 5th do.	400	0	0
				Bank Stock Dividend, for 1839, This Province's proportion of Import Duties, collected at the Port of Quebec.....	1000	0	0
Contingent expenses of the Legislature	16779	4	6	Import duties in Upper Canada, Duties on Licenses to Importers and Distillers.....	62000	0	0
Officers of the Legislature....	5000	0	0	Canal Tolls	16000	0	0
Receiver General's salary....	890	0	0	Tonnage Duty on British Vessels	9000	0	0
Inspector General's do.	778	0	0	Harbour Dues, at the Port of Toronto.....	1250	0	0
Vice-Chancellor's do.	406	0	0	Licenses to Hawkers and Pedlars.....	300	0	0
Common Schools	1250	0	0	Licenses to Auctioneers, and Sales at Auction	700	0	0
District do.	9300	0	0	Militia Commission Fees and Fines, for exemption from Militia Duties	500	0	0
Militia, and other Pensions...	1400	0	0	Interest on Loans to Private Companies, due 1st June, 1839..... £4635 8 9			
Maintenance of Light-houses..	3200	0	0	Do. due 31st Dec. 1840..... 2587 10 0			
Adjutant General of Militia, and Assistant	2500	0	0	Interest on grants for Macadamized Roads, now due£ 3841 6 9			
Clerk of the Crown in Chancery	885	0	0	Do. will be due 31st Dec. 1840, 11358 13 4			
Agricultural Societies.....	75	0	0	Sale of Debentures to meet debt to Messrs Baring, Brothers & Co. and Messrs. Glynn & Co.	20200	0	1
Provincial Penitentiary, £5000	1000	0	0	Sale of Bank Stock	70000	0	0
Gratuity to Deputy Warden	300				25000	0	0
Books for Provincial Library..	5300	0	0				
Militia Courts Martial.....	80	0	0				
Estimated amounts due to Messrs. Baring & Co. and Messrs. Glynn, Halifax & Co. on account of payment of interest on Debentures negotiated in London, including the dividends payable on 1st January, 1840, and premium on Exchange,	300	0	0				
Interest on additional £70,000, now authorized to be issued							
Surplus							
	£249205	13	10		£249205	13	10

Expenditure & resources predicated on the foregoing arrangement.

By the above statement, it will be seen, that your Committee have altered the estimate of expenditure, in the item of "Contingent expenses of the Legislature," which they have reduced from £7,500 to £5,000, believing the latter sum quite sufficient to cover the actual expenses of the current year. In the estimate of resources, they have increased the estimate of "this Province's proportion of import duties, collected at the port of Quebec" £7,000, making the estimate for the current year £62,000, only £321 3s. 9d. over the actual receipts of the past year; and when they reflect that the increase the past year over the previous, is £23,987 12s. 3d., they are of opinion an increase for the current year might, with propriety, be calculated upon. Your Committee have, however, refrained from relying upon such increase.

Committee have reduced estimate for contingencies of the Legislature—

And increased estimate of Duties at Quebec.

Increase of receipts for past year over the previous.

Increase of receipts for present year might have been calculated upon.

Your Committee have also increased the estimate of "duties on licenses, for the sale of spirituous liquors and for distilling," £1,000; and "on auctioneers' licenses and sales" £100; which, from the receipts of the past year from those sources, they are fully warranted in doing.

Estimates of duties on Spirituous Liquor licenses, and Auctioneers' licenses, increased.

It will also appear, that £7,222 13s. 9d. will be due on the 31st December next, for interest on loans to private companies, who are bound, by certain

Interest on loans to private Companies—

statutes, to pay the same regularly; and also that a further sum of £20,200 0s. 1d. will, at the same period, become due for public money advanced to pay interest on moneys expended for Macadamized roads. Your Committee cannot refrain from expressing their surprise that these large sums should have been allowed to accumulate, and be estimated for under the head of "Interest on the public debt"—when, by a reference to the Acts under which these moneys were granted, it will appear that such should not have been the case; and they trust steps will be taken, without delay, to relieve the ordinary resources of the country from a burthen which the Legislature never contemplated imposing upon them.

And on moneys advanced for Macadamized Roads.

These should not have been estimated for as part of the public debt.

Steps should be taken to remove this burthen.

Debt not so large as to cause despondency.

Good faith may be kept with public creditors.

The present state of finances not the fault of the Legislature.

A sum greater than the debt, expended in developing the resources of the country.

From the preceding review of the finances of the country, and its resources, your Committee trust they have demonstrated that so far from the Province labouring under an amount of debt sufficient to cause a feeling of despondency in those who take an interest in its welfare, they have shown by the proposed arrangement, that good faith may be kept with the public creditors, and provision made for the ordinary expenses of the Government, for the current year. In this account, your Committee can assure your Honourable House they have assumed nothing for fact, but after careful and anxious examination; and if large sums have been abstracted from the funds of the Province, to meet demands which should have been paid by local assessments, and other sources, provided by statute, your Committee submit that it was not the fault of the Legislature. We feel it due to the present House of Assembly, as well as those which preceded it, to make this statement, because, while we admit that the public debt of Upper Canada is a large one, we have shewn that a sum greater than the total amount of the present debt of the Province has, within a few years, been appropriated towards developing the resources of the country, and in constructing works calculated to add to the comfort and prosperity of its inhabitants.

Your Committee would here, in support of their statements, briefly notice the works on which large sums of public money have been expended, viz.:

Canals,	£712,703
Harbours,	24,500
Roads and bridges,.....	119,696
Macadamized roads.....	189,511
Surveys, preparatory to public improvements,	5,143
Light-houses (and support),.....	21,407
Provincial Penitentiary,	37,600
Parliament buildings,	11,000
Hospitals,.....	4,600
	1,126,160

Works on which large sums have been expended.

To which may be added the following items of a public nature:—

War losses,	180,450
Trial of State prisoners, and other charges incident to the rebellion,	14,183

Total..... £1,320,793

Tolls on Welland Canal rapidly increasing.

Of these works, the Welland and Saint Lawrence Canals are the most prominent, and calculated, when completed, to be of the greatest importance to the country. The Welland Canal has for some years been in use, and yielding a return which, though small, is rapidly increasing—the amount of tolls last year having been £12,835 0s. 9½d., or nearly double that of any former season; and your Committee are satisfied, that were that work permanently finished, on the scale recommended by the present House of Assembly, its cost, however great, would soon cease to be a burthen on the revenues of the country. The same result, your Committee believe, would follow the completion of the Saint Lawrence Canal; and as their benefits will be felt equally in Lower Canada with this province, your Committee rely with confidence on their receiving

the early attention of Her Majesty's Government, and of the United Legislature, should the anticipated union of these Provinces take place.

It now only remains for your Committee to lay before your Honourable House the total amount of the present debt of the Province, where payable, and the rate of interest payable thereon, which is as follows:—

Debentures outstanding, payable in Upper Canada, bearing an interest of					
6 per cent,.....	£137,662	12	2		
Do. do. do. 5 per cent,....	61,240	0	0		Debentures out Standing.
Do. do. do. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, ..	5,000	0	0		
				203,902	12 2
Do. payable in London, Interest at 5					
per cent,.....	£869,650	0	0		
Less, amounts unsold, in the hands of					
Baring & Co.....	42,000	0	0		
Sterling.....	£827,650	0	0		
Add $\frac{1}{2}$ for Currency,....	91,961	2	3		
				919,611	2 3
Sum now contemplated to be funded in London, at 6 per cent,				70,000	0 0
Currency,.....	£1,193,513	14	5		

To this must be added, if negotiated, the sum of £111,241, being the balance authorised to be raised by a statute of last session, but which has only recently received the Royal Assent.

The total amount of the public debt, therefore, on the 31st December, 1840, will, (should the Receiver General succeed in funding the £70,000, as also in disposing of the Debentures for the £111,241, as referred to above) be—
 £1,304,754 14s. 5d. Total amount of public debt, on 31st December, 1840.

The annual interest accruing upon this sum for 1841,					
is, Currency,.....	£67,358				Annual interest accruing on debt.
10 per cent. premium on that part payable in London, is	5,574				
				72,932	
To which may be added, the annual charge for Administration					
of the Government,.....				48,820	Administration of Government.
To which may be added, annual miscellaneous Grants,.....				5,291	Miscellaneous.
				£127,043	

RESOURCES TO MEET SUCH EXPENDITURE.

Revenue on Commerce,.....	£78,000				
Do. on Licences, and other internal resources,	22,000				Resources.
Interest on £28,750, loaned to private Companies,	1,725				
Do. on £66,000, advanced to complete Welland Canal,					
7th Wm. IV. ch. 92,	3,960				
Do. on £189,571, advanced on Macadamized Roads,..	11,258				
				117,043	

Annual deficiency, £10,000

In this statement, your Committee have not estimated for the sum remaining in the hands of Messrs. Thomas Willson & Co. amounting to about £65,000, nor the balance which we have shewn should be in the Receiver General's hands at the close of the current year. Remaining in hands of Thomas Willson & Co.

Your Committee feel it their duty, before closing their Report, to notice the sum of £25,000 remaining of the sum of £50,000 granted for Roads and Bridges in 1836: this money is much wanted in every section of the Province, and its not having long since been forthcoming has caused great inconvenience and loss to many of the Commissioners appointed to expend portions of it. These persons have many of them petitioned your Honourable House for relief, stating that, in full reliance the money would be paid when called for, they gave out Great inconvenience and loss sustained by withholding the money granted for roads.

contracts for work which was duly performed, but that the Contractors, except in cases where the Commissioners paid the money from their own resources, have, up to this hour, received nothing for their labour. Your Committee can only bring this passing subject before your Honourable House, and rely on every exertion being made to obtain the residue of the grant referred to as soon as possible.

Present engagements of Province should be met.

Committee advises that Hon. J. H. Dunn be sent to England.

In conclusion, your Committee would suggest to your Honourable House, that prompt means should be adopted to carry into effect the measures recommended by them for the purpose of meeting the present engagements of the Province, and to provide for the carrying on the most important of our public improvements; and they unanimously concur in advising that the Honourable John Henry Dunn, Her Majesty's Receiver General, should be sent to England, where alone we can hope to realize the benefit anticipated from the proposed measures, with the least possible delay. With this view, your Committee report an Address to His Excellency the Governor General, requesting that he will be pleased to grant that officer the necessary leave of absence, to enable him to proceed to England on the business of the Province.

All which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES BOCKUS,

Chairman.

COMMITTEE ROOM, HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
29th January, 1840.

