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LOWER CANADA.

FURTHER PAPERS

RELATIVE TO

THE AFFAIRS OF LOWER CANADA.

(Presented to Parliament by His Majesty's Command.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
27 February 1837.

LOWER CANADA.

FURTHER PAPERS

RELATIVE TO

THE AFFAIRS OF LOWER CANADA.

(PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY HIS MAJESTY'S COMMAND.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of Gosford to the Right hon. Lord Glenelg,
&c. &c. &c.

Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec,
23d January 1837.

MY LORD,

AS any information respecting the Financial position of this Province must, under existing circumstances, be useful to your Lordship, I think it right to put you in possession of the probable state of the Public Treasury on the 1st of May next, as respects the Debts and Credits of the Local Government.

	£.	s.	d.
It appears, then, that there is due for Salaries, up to the 1st of October 1836, a sum of	50,744	-	-
For Pensions, to the same date	2,138	-	-
For Contingencies of the various Offices, to the same date, including £.3,753 for Postages of the Civil Secretary's Department	21,857	-	-
Advance from the Military Chest in 1834	31,000	-	-
Amounting to	105,739	-	-

For which Sum the General Revenues of the Province are liable, and to which must be added the following items, hitherto paid out of the Land and Timber Fund, that became due on the 31st ultimo:—

Balance of Salary and Per Centage due to the late Commissioner of Crown Lands to the 1st July 1836	£.1,719	14	4
Acting ditto - ditto, for Six Months, to 31st ultimo	300	-	-
John Davidson, Retired Allowance, for two years, as late Surveyor General of Woods and Forests	500	-	-
Commissioner of Escheats, for two years' Salary	900	-	-
Agent for Emigrants, Salary for one year	400	-	-
Ditto - - - for Contingencies	277	-	-
Pensions	625	-	-
	4,721	14	4
Sterling - £.	110,460	14	4

The probable amount of the further debt which will be due from the Local Government in respect to the Public Service, up to the 10th of April next, one of the half-yearly days for settling Public Accounts, will be

Probable Amount which may be called for, to the same date, to meet special Appropriations under Provincial Acts	26,500	-	-
	5,200	-	-
Sterling - £.	142,160	14	4

FURTHER PAPERS RELATIVE TO LOWER CANADA.

	£.	s.	d.
On the other side of the Account it appears that there is at present in the vault, under three locks, and in the custody of the Receiver General - - - - -	87,025	-	-
To be shortly paid in by the several Collectors of Customs, on closing their accounts to the 5th instant - - - - -	33,190	-	-
Outstanding on Bonds, payable by the 1st of May next - - - - -	21,777	-	-
Payable by the British American Land Company in March next - - - - -	6,000	-	-
From other sources - - - - -	1,000	-	-
Sterling - £.	148,992	-	-

From this Statement your Lordship will perceive that on the 1st of May next there will be a balance in the Public Treasury, after payment of all demands on it up to that date, of the sum of £. 6,831. 5. 8. sterling.

While on this subject, I enclose for your Lordship's information a comparative Statement of the Provincial Revenue for the two last years, showing the Decrease and Increase in the several items of which it is composed, and I regret to find that the gross Revenue of 1836 is less than that of 1835 by £. 24,052, currency; the respective amounts being £. 205,910. 19. and £. 181,858 currency.

The principal Decrease last year, as your Lordship will observe, occurs under the head of Importations from the West Indies, upon which the diminution is £. 43,472. This arises chiefly from the quantity of spirits distilled in the two Canadas, which being mixed with West India Rum, in the proportion of about one-third of the latter, is now generally consumed by the inhabitants, instead of the genuine Rum hitherto used. From the greater cheapness of the home manufacture, which is untaxed, it is to be expected that the importation of spirits from the West Indies will continue annually to decrease, until it reaches the minimum quantity required to flavour the produce of the native distilleries.

The only head exhibiting any increase worth noticing, is that of Dry Goods, chiefly imported from England, on which the amount of Duty received in 1835 was £. 33,721, and in 1836, £. 45,195, currency; showing an excess in favour of the latter year of £. 11,475, currency.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your most obedient Servant,

Gosford.

(Enclosure.)—COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the GROSS ORDINARY REVENUE of the Province of Lower Canada, for the Years 1835 and 1836, —Quebec, 23d January 1837.

HEADS OF REVENUE.	GROSS AMOUNT IN CURRENCY.						INCREASE.			DECREASE.			CAUSES OF INCREASE OR DECREASE.
	1835.			1836.			1836.			1836.			
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
Casual and Territorial Revenue	5,209	12	3 ½	3,432	7	6 ½	-	-	-	1,777	4	9	Mutations in King's Domain less in 1836.
Duties under Imperial Act 14 Geo. 3. c. 88.	47,602	16	10	28,432	6	2	-	-	-	19,170	10	8	This decrease is chiefly on West India Spirits, &c.
Licenses for retailing Spirituous Liquors, ditto	2,866	-	-	3,918	-	-	1,052	-	-	-	-	-	Increase of population.
Duties on Tobacco under provincial Act 41 Geo. 3.	6,433	11	3 ½	6,168	5	10 ½	-	-	-	265	5	5	
Licenses on Billiard Tables under - ditto	62	10	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	37	10	-	
Fines and Forfeitures - - - - -	220	10	9	322	15	- ½	102	3	4 ½	-	-	-	
Duties on Wines, under provincial Act 33 Geo. 3.	2,509	14	4	1,929	18	10	-	-	-	579	15	6	Decrease, chiefly on West India produce.
Duties on Wares and Merchandize, under 35 Geo. 3.	42,723	11	8	35,248	8	-	-	-	-	7,475	3	8	
Licenses for retailing Liquors under - ditto	2,974	-	-	4,002	-	-	1,028	-	-	-	-	-	
Duties under 53 & 55 Geo. 3, continued by Imperial Act 3 Geo. 4. c. 119.	33,721	2	-	45,195	6	7 ½	11,475	4	7 ½	-	-	-	{ - - This is an ad valorem Duty on Dry Goods, the im- portation of which, chiefly from Great Britain, has increased.
Duties under provincial Act 55 Geo. 3. continued by ditto	41,341	11	11	24,514	10	11	-	-	-	16,827	-	-	Decrease, chiefly on West India Spirits.
Duties under Imperial Act 3 & 4 Wm. 4. c. 59.	11,688	14	4	11,954	12	3	265	17	11	-	-	-	{ - - The Tolls were collected only for part of 1835, under a temporary Act, which had expired.
Tolls on Lachine Canal - - - - -	1,500	4	7	4,896	19	11 ½	3,396	15	4 ½	-	-	-	Increased number of Emigrants in 1836.
Duties on Shipping under provincial Acts 45 & 51 Geo. 3.	4,579	14	5	4,654	19	5 ½	75	5	- ½	-	-	-	
Duties on Passengers, under 6 Wm. 4. c. 13.	2,441	14	2	5,873	19	2	3,432	5	-	-	-	-	
Duties under Imperial Act 4 & 6 Geo. 3. c. 52.	35	10	6	23	10	6	-	-	-	12	-	-	
Tonnage Duty for support of a Mariners' Hospital, under Act 6 Wm. 4. c. 35.	-	-	-	1,264	-	-	1,264	-	-	-	-	-	{ - - The Act under which this Duty is levied, was only passed in the Session of 1835-6.
TOTAL, Currency	205,910	19	3 ½	181,858	-	4 ½	22,091	12	- ½	46,144	11	-	

Note.—This Statement does not include any of the Revenues arising from the sale of Crown Lands, or Licenses to cut Timber.