

That it appears the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, by instructions dated in March, 1852, have virtually transferred the whole control of the Customs Department to the Colonial Government, and that the accounts of that Department have, since July, 1853, under those instructions, been audited and passed by the Auditor-General, while the Governor has, of his own authority, determined the nature and amount of the various charges incident to the collection of the import duties of the Colony.

That, inasmuch as by the 63rd clause of the Constitution Act, notwithstanding such transfer had been virtually made, as aforesaid, before the passing of the Act, the regulation and audit of the said costs and charges is still reserved to the Lords of the Treasury, it appears to this House to be necessary, in order to carry into legal effect such transfer (so far as the same may be done without Act of Parliament), that the Lords of the Treasury should issue directions to the Governor, requiring him to be guided in the regulation and audit of the said costs and charges, by the concurrence with his Excellency of the other branches of the Legislature, in order to the same being brought into the Appropriation Act.

That, in the opinion of this House, it is highly advisable that in any measure proposed to be submitted to Parliament for altering the Constitution Act, a clause should be introduced absolutely transferring to the General Assembly the control of the Customs Department, with the regulation and audit of the costs and charges thereof.

That, pending such instructions by the Treasury, or such alteration in the Constitution Act, this House do, by resolutions, determine what, in its opinion, ought to be the nature and amount of the said costs and charges, and do respectfully address the Governor, praying that his Excellency will be pleased to adopt such resolutions for the guidance of the Executive Government.

That, in order to enable this House to exercise such control over the said costs and charges, it will be the duty of the Responsible Ministers to take steps for placing the Customs Department upon an economical and efficient footing, and to lay before the Assembly, in its next session, full and detailed statements of such costs and charges, in order that the House may exercise a proper control over the same.

That, upon the understanding that such course will be taken, this House does not object to the proposed expenditure on the Customs Department, amounting to £13,240 3s.

Question, That the foregoing resolution be adopted by this House, put and passed.

- (9.) Harbour Department, New Plymouth:—That the sum of £300 be paid to the Provincial Treasurer, towards the expenses of the Harbour Department of New Plymouth, in consideration of the benefit derived from the Customs establishment there, from that Department.

Question, that the foregoing resolution be adopted by this House, put and passed.

- (10.) Contingent expenditure on Natives.—That, on consideration of his Excellency's Message No. 28, the sum of £500 be granted to his Excellency for general contingencies, such sum to be expended at his Excellency's absolute discretion for Native purposes, subject only to an account of such expenditure being laid before the Houses of Assembly.

Question, That the foregoing resolution be adopted by this House, put and passed.

17. Adjournment:—On motion of Mr. D. Bell the House adjourned at twenty minutes past one o'clock.

## NOTICES OF MOTION AND ORDERS OF THE DAY.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1856.

### ORDER OF THE DAY.

1. Estimates of Expenditure for the year ending 30th June, 1857—to be further considered in committee.

### NOTICES OF MOTION.

1. Mr. Fox to ask the Government whether any instructions have been given to the Resident Magistrate at Wellington, to pay over to the Provincial Government certain arrears of fees received in his Court, in accordance with the instructions of the General Government in force at the time of their receipt. And, also, whether the Government has instructed that officer to pay over such fees accruing for the future.

2. Mr.