

COPY OF TREASURY MINUTE, DATED 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 1850.

My Lords refer to the arrangements respecting Customs establishments in the American and West Indian Colonies, directed by their Minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> December, 1847, 29<sup>th</sup> July, 1849, and 29<sup>th</sup> January last; and to the provision made in those Colonies by substitution, in lieu of the establishment which had previously been employed under the management of the Board of Customs in the collection of both Imperial and Colonial duties, of such officers only as are required for ensuring due observance of the Imperial laws, relating to the navigation and trade, irrespective of any arrangements or appointments having reference to the collection of Colonial duties, or to enforcement of local laws and regulations; and my Lords being of opinion that it is advisable that analagous arrangements should be adopted, as regards the settlements in Australia and New Zealand, and likewise as regards other Colonies where the collection of Customs duties, is made under authority of local Legislative enactments, or special orders of Her Majesty in Council, to raise revenue for the service of the Colonial Government, or for other local objects, they direct that a letter be written to the Commissioners of Customs, adverting to the views above stated, and desiring the Commissioners will report to my Lords what portion of the business transacted by the present establishments, at the stations hereafter specified, it will be necessary to make provision for, with a view to the above mentioned Imperial objects, and what officers it will be necessary to retain for that purpose, in cases where it may not be expedient to employ officers belonging to the Colony—

In the several Australian Colonies,

New Zealand,  
Ceylon,  
Mauritius,  
Cape of Good Hope,

Natal,  
St. Helena,  
Sierra Leone,  
The Gambia,

Also desire the Commissioners will report the names of the officers constituting the actual establishments under their direction in the Colonies in question, with their several periods of service and rates of salary, showing what claims these officers, if at present reduced, might have to retired or redundant allowance from the funds of this country. Also desire the Commissioners will report whether the adoption of the arrangements above adverted to, will render it necessary or expedient that any alteration should be made in the Orders in Council, whereby trade is at present regulated and duties are levied at the Cape of Good Hope and Natal, or Sierra Leone, the Gambia, and St. Helena.

## COPY OF EARL GREY'S DESPATCH.

DOWNING STREET,

8<sup>th</sup> August, 1850.

SIR,

1. I herewith transmit, for your information and guidance, the copy of a minute\* of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, relative to the Customs establishment in the Colony under your government. From that Minute you will perceive that the Customs Establishments in

and in the other Colonies therein mentioned, are, with the exception of such officers as may be specially retained for Imperial objects, to be considered henceforth as Colonial establishments; and consequently, that, as vacancies may occur, the appointments will be liable to reduction or modification as may be found expedient with reference to the requirements of the local trade and revenue. In recommending any such changes you will, however, take especial care to avoid arrangements that would place officers prematurely on the Retired List.

2. It is necessary that I should explain to you the considerations which have led to the adoption of this arrangement.

3. Previously to the repeal, by authority of the Act of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Victoria, chapter 94, of the duties which had been levied on the Colonies under the Act 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Victoria, chapter 93, for regulating the trade of the British Possessions abroad, establishments were maintained in almost all the Colonies, under the directions of the Board of Customs in this country, and holding appointments as officers under that Board. These establishments were also, in most cases, employed for the collection of Colonial duties, under Colonial laws; the expense of them was in general defrayed partly from the Colonial revenue, partly from that of this country, and the retirement or superannuation of the officers was provided entirely from the latter.

4. The repeal before adverted to, of the Possessions' Act duties, has been followed, in the North American and West Indian Colonies, by the removal of those Home Customs establishments, and the substitution for them of one or two officers only, with appointments from the Lords Commissioners of

\* Minutes in Treasury Letter of 5<sup>th</sup> July, 1850.