

Canadian
Pamphlets
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Ontario. Parliament. House of
Assembly. Address of assembly...

The Hon.
William Allan
to be

ADDRESS OF ASSEMBLY.

To His Excellency SIR GEORGE ARTHUR, *Knight*
Commander of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic
Order, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of
Upper Canada, Major General Commanding
Her Majesty's Forces therein, &c. &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Commons of Upper Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the careful investigation which has been made into that branch of the public service, connected with the Offices of the Provincial and Private Secretary, and for the zealous desire shewn by Your Excellency to put those Departments upon an effectual footing.

We beg leave to inform Your Excellency, that we are of opinion, that a similar investigation, and close scrutiny into the business, conduct and organization, of every other Public Department in the Province, will be productive of great advantage to the public service.

We therefore pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to employ some fit and disinterested person or persons, to make such an investigation and scrutiny as would enable them to report on the state of each Department, and to recommend such changes in the system of conducting the public duties, as they may think will be beneficial; and that their report should be transmitted to the Legislature at the next Session; and we assure Your Excellency that we will make good the necessary expenses attending such proceeding.

ALLAN N. MACNAB,
SPEAKER.

Commons House of Assembly,
Ninth day of May, 1839.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S ANSWER.

GENTLEMEN :

This Address is most gratifying to me, and I shall, with great readiness, endeavour to comply with your wishes, by instituting an early investigation into the state of the several Public Departments under this Government, in order that a particular report of their actual conditions, with suggestions for such changes and improvements as they may appear to be susceptible of, may be laid before the Legislature at the next Session.

COMMISSION.

UPPER CANADA.

GEO. ARTHUR.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of *GOD*, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, *QUEEN*, Defender of the Faith, &c. &c. &c.

To the Honourable *Robert Baldwin Sullivan*; the Honourable *William Allan*; the Honourable *Augustus Baldwin*; the Honourable *William Henry Draper*; the Honourable *Richard Alexander Tucker*, Members of our Executive Council, in and for our said Province of Upper Canada; the Honourable *Robert Sympson Jameson*, Vice Chancellor of our Court of Chancery, in and for our said Province; the Honourable *John Henry Dunn*, our Receiver General, in and for our said Province; the Honourable *John Macaulay*, Inspector General of Provincial Accounts, in and for our said Province; the Honourable *John Simcoe Macaulay*, Member of the Legislative Council, in and for our said Province; the Honourable *Levius Peters Sherwood*, the Honourable *James Buchannan Macaulay*, the Honourable *Jonas Jones*, the Honourable *Archibald McLean*, Justices of our Court of Queen's Bench, in and for our said Province; *Christopher*

Alexander Hagerman, Esquire, our Attorney General, in and for our said Province; *Charles Chichester*, Esquire, Colonel in our Forces; *Henry Sherwood*, Esquire; the Reverend *John McCaul*, Principal of Upper Canada College; the Reverend *Henry J. Grasett*: *Samuel B. Harrison*, Esquire, Civil Secretary to our Lieutenant Governor of our said Province; *William Hepburn*, Esquire, Registrar of the Court of Chancery, in and for our said Province; *James Hopkirk*, Esquire; and to all to whom these Presents shall come—

GREETING:

WHEREAS the Honourable the Commons House of Assembly, of our Province of Upper Canada, did, by their Address to our Lieutenant Governor of our said Province, pray that he would be pleased to employ some fit and disinterested person or persons to investigate the business, conduct and organization, of the several Public Departments in our said Province; and that the person or persons so employed should report on the state of the said several Departments, and what changes in the system of conducting the public business in the said several Departments would, in the opinion of such person or persons, be beneficial: which Report, the said House of Assembly further prayed, should be laid before them, at the next meeting of the Provincial Parliament:

NOW KNOW YE, that we, in compliance with the said Address to our Lieutenant Governor of our said Province, and reposing trust and confidence in your loyalty,

integrity and ability, have constituted and appointed, and by these Presents do constitute and appoint you, the said *Robert Baldwin Sullivan, William Allan, Augustus Baldwin, William Henry Draper, Richard Alexander Tucker, Robert Sympson Jameson, John Henry Dunn, John Macaulay, John Simcoe Macaulay, Levius Peters Sherwood, James Buchannan Macaulay, Jonas Jones, Archibald McLean, Christopher Alexander Hagerman, Charles Chichester, Henry Sherwood, John McCaul, Henry J. Grasett, Samuel B. Harrison, and William Hepburn*, to be our Commissioners, to investigate the business of the several Departments of our said Province, and the system of conducting the public business in the same, and the organization thereof, and to report to us upon the said several matters, and whether, in your opinion, any change may be made in the system of conducting the public business in the respective Departments of the Government, which would be to the advantage of our Subjects;—hereby charging and commanding all persons to be aiding and assisting you, our Commissioners as aforesaid, in the performance of the duties, by these our Letters Patent, assigned to you.

AND KNOW YE FURTHER, that we do hereby give full power and authority to you, our Commissioners as aforesaid, to call before you all and every such person and persons as you, our Commissioners as aforesaid, may think proper; and to send for and examine all such papers, records and documents, of every description, as you, our Commissioners as aforesaid, shall

judge necessary, with a view to obtain such information as you may deem requisite for your guidance and assistance in investigating the several matters and things as aforesaid, in the respective Departments of the Government.

AND KNOW YE FURTHER, that reposing trust and confidence in the loyalty, integrity and ability, of you, the said *James Hopkirk*, we have constituted and appointed, and by these Presents do constitute and appoint you, the said *James Hopkirk*, to be the *Secretary* to our Commissioners as aforesaid, hereby enjoining you, as such, to fulfil and perform all such lawful duties and commands as you, the said James Hopkirk, may from time to time receive from them, the said Robert Baldwin Sullivan, William Allan, Augustus Baldwin, William Henry Draper, Richard Alexander Tucker, Robert Sympson Jameson, John Henry Dunn, John Macaulay, John Simcoe Macaulay, Levius Peters Sherwood, James Buchannan Macaulay, Jonas Jones, Archibald McLean, Christopher Alexander Hagerman, Charles Chichester, Henry Sherwood, John McCaul, Henry J. Grasett, Samuel B. Harrison, and William Hepburn, as our Commissioners as aforesaid.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of our said Province to be hereunto affixed.—
Witness our trusty and well-beloved SIR GEORGE ARTHUR, K.C.H. Lieutenant Governor of our said Province, and Major General Commanding our Forces therein, at Toronto, this twenty-first

day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine, and in the third year of our Reign.

G. A.

By Command of His Excellency.

C. A. HAGERMAN,
ATTORNEY GENERAL,

R. A. TUCKER,
SECRETARY.

L E T T E R .

(Copy.)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
22nd *October*, 1839.

SIR,

In accordance with the address of the House of Assembly, during the last Session, I have this day caused a Commission to be issued, under the Great Seal, directed to certain Commissioners, of whom you are one, to inquire into and investigate the several Departments of the Public Service.

Being anxious that proceedings should, at as early a period as possible, be taken under the Commission, I transmit the Commission to you, and have caused the several members of the Commission to be notified

to meet at the Council Chamber, on Friday morning next, at 10 of the clock in the forenoon, in order that the Commission may be opened, and the course of business determined upon.

I can only add the earnest desire I feel, and which I beg to impress upon all the Commissioners, that the utmost despatch should be used, which is consistent with a careful discharge of this important duty, so that the Reports may receive my consideration, and be prepared for the House of Assembly at its meeting.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) GEO. ARTHUR.

The Hon. R. B. SULLIVAN,

S.c. S.c. S.c.

MINUTE.

WITH a view to institute such an inquiry into the business, conduct, and organization of the various Public Departments of this Province, as was requested by the House of Assembly, in its Address, at the close of the last Session, and for the information and satisfaction of the Government, the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to issue a Commission, and to appoint the following Committees from the Board of Commissioners so constituted :—

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE.

Committee No. 1.

MEMBERS :

THE PRESIDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

THE HONOURABLE AUGUSTUS BALDWIN.

HIS HONOUR THE VICE CHANCELLOR.

HENRY SHERWOOD, ESQUIRE, Q. C.

To this Committee is assigned the inquiry into the duties of the Inspector General of Public Accounts, and the system pursued in his Office.

The Committee will ascertain—

First.—The particular nature and extent of the business which is, and for some time past has been, transacted in this Department.

Second.—Whether the business be such as should properly devolve on this office, or whether any portion of it might be beneficially transferred to other Departments; or, on the other hand, whether any additional duties might be advantageously assigned to this office.

Third.—Whether the system of Accounts pursued in this office be satisfactory, or whether it be capable of improvement in any respect.

Fourth.—Whether the different public Accountants transmit their Returns to this office punctually, at regular stated periods; or, if not, whether a suf-

ficient power at present exists, for compelling a prompt and regular transmission of accounts.

Fifth.—Whether the information necessary for a strict scrutiny into all money transactions, be promptly afforded by public Accountants, and whether any improvement of the present form of rendering accounts to the Inspector General, or in preparing the Public Accounts of the Province, be requisite.

Sixth.—Whether the Inspector General has sufficient means of ascertaining that the several Collectors and Receivers of the public Revenue, faithfully and truly account for all monies for which they are responsible.

Seventh.—Whether there be means of knowing that due diligence is observed by the respective Officers, in the collection of duties on imports, and on shop, tavern, stills, and other licences; as also in punishing such persons as may be detected in attempts at fraudulent evasions of the Revenue Laws.

Eighth.—Whether returns be daily made, of fines levied by the warrants of Magistrates, and paid to the Receiver General, for the public uses of the Province, by virtue of any law now in force.

Ninth.—Whether the returns be made to this office, of fines levied under the authority of statutes enjoining their appropriation to local purposes; or if not, whether there be any means by which the Executive Government may learn periodically, the amount of fines so levied, and ascertain and check the manner of their application, to the ends prescribed by statute.

Tenth.—Whether the accounts of monies expended by Commissioners appointed under Acts of the Legislature, be duly examined at this office.

Eleventh.—Whether the rents of Ferries and Mill-seats, which should be regularly paid to the Receiver General, be returned in any form of account to the Inspector General.

Twelfth.—Whether returns of fines, estreats, &c. be duly made to this office, by Sheriffs, Clerks of the Peace, &c.; or if not, whether there be any other means of checking and controlling the receipts and payments of this class of public Accountants.

Thirteenth.—What means exist, whereby payments made from time to time by Receivers of public money, may be verified as the full amount for which they ought severally to account.

Fourteenth.—What balances remain due by Collectors, Inspectors, and all other Public Accountants, after the lapse of the period within which they should have been accounted for, according to existing laws and regulations.

Fifteenth.—Whether, under the sanction of Legislative enactment, and for the purpose of placing Public Accountants beyond the possible temptation of seeking private advantage, from the use of public monies, temporarily accumulating in their hands, it might or might not be expedient to conclude an arrangement with one of the Chartered Banks, by which that institution would become the sole deposi-

tory of public monies, and the medium of payment of all public debts.

Sixteenth.—Whether it be practicable to simplify the public accounts, by reducing the number of distinct funds, among which, as now classified, the receipts and payments on account of revenue and expenditure are distributed.

Seventeenth.—Whether the method hitherto pursued, of issuing a separate warrant for each payment, might or might not, on account of the public service, be advantageously modified, so far as relates to fixed and regular heads of expenditure;—a single warrant, for instance, being issued to the Chief Officer of a Department, for the aggregate amount of all sums required at a particular period, and payable to the individuals of that Department.

Eighteenth.—Whether the office of Inspector General, as at present organised and constituted, be adequate, or more than adequate, to the effectual examination and control of all the accounts and returns of public receipts and disbursements, rendered to this Department.

Nineteenth.—Whether the salaries allowed in this Department are sufficient, or more than sufficient, as a compensation for the duties performed; and whether there be any necessity for an increase, or a reduction of the assistance, at present afforded.

Twentieth.—Whether every item of receipt and expenditure, in which the public have any interest,

be regularly and duly brought under the review of this Department ;—if not, the Committee will state the particulars of any failure or omission, with their suggestions thereupon.

As the object of the appointment of the Commission is to investigate generally, all matters of public interest connected with the several Departments, this Committee will understand, that they are not restricted to limit their inquiries by the strict letter of the foregoing queries ; but that, in the full spirit of the same, they are to pursue any course of investigation which may appear to them expedient.

RECEIVER GENERAL'S,
AND OTHER OFFICES.

Committee No. 2.

MEMBERS:

THE HONOURABLE WILLIAM ALLAN.
THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY.
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.
THE HONOURABLE J. S. MACAULAY.
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE JONES.
HENRY SHERWOOD, ESQUIRE, Q. C.

THIS Committee will inquire into the present state of the undermentioned offices, and the nature of the duties performed in each of them, viz. the offices of—

- 1st—The Receiver General of the Province ;
- 2nd—The Commissioner of Crown Lands ;
- 3rd—The Surveyor General of Woods and Forests ;
- 4th—The Secretary of the Clergy Corporation ;
- 5th—The Surveyor General of Lands ;
- 6th—The Chief Agent for Emigration.

The Committee will direct its attention to the following points :

First.—The manner in which public monies, including fees, are received and accounted for, at all the above-mentioned offices ; the present state of the receipt, and the manner of appropriation of such monies.

Second.—The checks, whereby the accuracy of the money transactions in each of those offices is tested ; and the method (if any) whereby they may be rendered more effective.

Third.—The balance in the hands of each of the above-mentioned officers, under every head of service, and its place of custody : that is, whether it be in the personal custody of any officer of each Department, or placed in some Bank, as an official deposit, or as an ordinary one, blended in a common account with private funds, or kept in some other place of supposed security.

Fourth.—The out-standing accounts which may be due, or about to become due to the Crown, or to any public trust or institution ; whether the same may arise from sales of lands, interest due on sales, rents of lands, or any other source whatever.

Fifth.—The names of the Accountants who may be in default, and the amount and cause of such default; whether the arrears in such cases be in course of liquidation and collection; and whether proper means have been taken to prevent, as far as possible, the recurrence of similar irregularities, by means of strict checks, and (~~with reference to the sale or lease of lands~~) by a close adherence to established regulations.

Sixth.—The system generally, upon which the Receiver General's Office is conducted: more especially with respect to the distribution of business among the Clerks of that Department—in which, it is obvious, that the duties of Cashier and general Book-keeper should rigorously be kept separate and distinct from each other.

Seventh.—The mode adopted in the management of the Public Debt, and whether the issue and redemption of Debentures be conducted by the Receiver General upon the most correct, convenient and satisfactory, method. ~~X~~

Eighth.—The system generally pursued in the office of the Surveyor General of Lands; and whether any modification of it be expedient under present circumstances, for promoting the convenience of Settlers, and facilitating the general transaction of business, connected with that Department.

Ninth.—Whether any improvement be, or be not, practicable in the mode of conducting that branch of service, now entrusted to the Secretary of the Clergy Corporation.

Tenth.—Whether the salaries allowed in the several Departments hereinbefore specified, be sufficient, or more than sufficient, as compensation for the duties performed; and whether there be any necessity for an increase or a reduction of the assistance at present afforded.

As the object of the appointment of the Commission is to investigate generally all matters of public interest, connected with the several Departments, this Committee will understand, that they are not restricted to limit their inquiries by the strict letter of the foregoing queries; but that, in the full spirit of the same, they are to pursue any course of investigation, which may appear to them expedient.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Committee No. 3.

MEMBERS:

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE MACAULAY.
 THE RECEIVER GENERAL.
 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.
 THE CIVIL SECRETARY.

THIS Committee will consider the constitution of the Executive Council; and after a due investigation of the business and duties of that Body, will report—

First.—Whether the Council, in its constitution, be adapted to the transaction of the business which now devolves on it ; or whether any change in that respect, be practicable and expedient.

Second.—Whether any additional duties should devolve on this Board ; or whether, on the other hand, any duties now performed by it, should be transferred to other Departments of the Public Service.

Third.—Whether, in particular, the Council, in its character as a Board of Audit, be, in all respects, suited to present exigencies, and the increasing pressure of public business.

Fourth.—What may be the nature and description of the accounts, and claims upon the public chest, which are usually submitted to the Council for final audit ; whether they previously undergo due investigation, in every other Department ; and if not, whether such previous investigation be desirable, and in what manner it may be most satisfactorily performed.

Fifth.—Whether it be expedient to make any change in the mode and form of submitting matters of public business, to the final review and determination of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Sixth.—Whether the accommodation provided for the Council, be sufficient for the convenient discharge of its duties.

Seventh.—Whether the salaries allowed in this Department be sufficient, or more than sufficient, as compensation for the duties performed ; and whether there be any necessity for an increase or reduction of the assistance at present afforded.

As the object of the appointment of the Commission is to investigate generally all matters of public interest connected with the several Departments, this Committee will understand, that they are not restricted to limit their inquiries by the strict letter of the foregoing queries ; but that, in the full spirit of the same, they are to pursue any course of investigation, which may appear to them expedient.

N.B.—The vacancy occasioned by the death of the late Clerk of the Executive Council, will remain open, until the Committee shall have reported how far, in their judgment, the Council, under its present organization and system, can efficiently dispose of the important details of business which must continue to claim its attention.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Committee No. 4.

MEMBERS :

HIS HONOUR THE VICE CHANCELLOR.

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE MACAULAY.

WILLIAM HEPBURN, ESQUIRE.

THIS Committee will take up two subjects : *First*—They will endeavour to ascertain the present condition, both in a moral and political point of view, of the different Tribes, forming the Indian population : also, what lands or annuities of any kind they possess ; and, *Secondly*—They will consider what alteration and amendment may be beneficially introduced in the mode of conducting the Indian Department.

With respect to the *First* division of this subject, the Committee will ascertain, as far as it can be done, the number both of those Indians who are settled amongst the white population in this Province, and those who are resident in the uncultivated portions of the British Empire, on this Continent.

Second—The Committee should endeavour to ascertain the number of births, deaths and marriages, among the various Tribes, during the last few years : with a view to determine, from such data, how far an

increase or a decrease of population may have been the effect of civilization.

Third.—What are the distinguishing characteristics of the different Tribes, in regard to habits, manners, customs, &c.; and what are the chief difficulties to be overcome, in the way of improving their social condition.

Fourth.—Among which of the Tribes there exists the greatest degree of similarity, so as to warrant the conclusion that they would associate amicably together, if settled in one locality.

Fifth.—The present state of these settlements of Indians in the midst of the white population: with reference particularly to the benefit or injury to which the Indian character is subjected by proximity to the whites; whether any change in the system of establishing settlements of Indians amongst the whites, might, or might not, be beneficially made.

Sixth.—The present state of the Indian Settlement at the Great Manatoulin Island, both as regards the actual comfort and advantage, and the probable future prospect of their advance in civilization, by means of their settlement on that Island.

Seventh.—The means of subsistence possessed by the unsettled Indians, and the best manner of engaging their attention to agricultural and commercial pursuits, particularly the manufacture of sugar, and the curing of fish, to an extent beyond what may be wanted for their own consumption; and to facilitate their means of doing so.

Eighth.—Whether it might be desirable to take any steps to prevent improper advantage being taken of the Indians, by Traders and others with whom they have dealings; and what is the effect of the communication of the Indians with the Fur Traders in the north-west parts of Upper Canada.

Ninth.—What is the extent of the present means of affording education and religious instruction to the Indians. Which of the Tribes have shewn the greatest aptitude in benefitting by the instruction afforded them.

Tenth.—What measures would appear best adapted to effect the education of the Indian youth generally, and particularly with a view to the dissemination of Christianity amongst the unconverted Indians, by means of Teachers of their own race, educated by the whites.

Eleventh.—By what means might the Government, with propriety, lend assistance in furtherance of the Missionary system.

As to the INDIAN DEPARTMENT, the Committee will consider—

First.—The system adopted in paying the annuities to the several Indian Tribes; and whether it be not susceptible of improvement.

Second.—The mode of taking care of the Indian Reserved Lands, at present adopted, and whether great alterations and improvements might not be effected, much to the advantage of the Indians.

Third.—The course to be adopted with respect to squatters upon Indian Lands, whether altogether without authority, or under colour of recognized titles obtained from individuals amongst the Indians; and how far the Act recently passed will be likely to afford efficient protection to the rights of the Indians.

Fourth.—Whether any, and what, alterations may be beneficially introduced in the mode of proceeding, at present adopted, as regards the annual Indian Presents.

Fifth.—The present course of conducting the business of the Indian Department, and whether in many respects beneficial alterations might not be made.

Sixth.—The present system of paying monies on account of the Indians, by warrant of the Governor, directed to the Commissariat Department, alone, without any check on the part of any other Department of the Government; and whether some system of check might not be advantageously introduced.

Seventh —Whether the salaries allowed in this Department are sufficient, or more than sufficient, as a compensation for the duties performed; and whether there be any necessity for an increase, or a reduction of the assistance, at present afforded.

As the object of the appointment of the Commission, is to investigate generally all matters of public interest connected with the several Departments, this Committee will understand, that they are not restricted

to limit their inquiries by the strict letter of the foregoing queries ; but that, in the full spirit of the same, they are to pursue any course of investigation, which may appear to them expedient.

EDUCATION.

Committee No. 5.

M E M B E R S :

THE REVEREND JOHN McCAUL, D. D.

THE REVEREND H. J. GRASETTI.

THE CIVIL SECRETARY.

'THIS Committee will ascertain the state of all School-funds ; the extent to which they may be made available for their legitimate objects ; and will state the amount of such additional aid as may be requisite to carry into effectual operation, an enlarged scheme of popular Education.

They will examine into the past and present state of Education throughout the Province, and into the efficiency of the means for promoting it which have been heretofore employed.

They will frame such a plan as will appear to them to be the best calculated to afford the best possible kind of Education to the community, at the least possible expense ; and will prepare the same, so as to

allow of a bill which shall embody it, being submitted to the Legislature at their next meeting.

They will institute an inquiry with reference to the constitution of King's College University, and also to the lands forming its endowment—the revenue derived from them, and the objects to which it has been applied; stating also, how, in future, it may be most beneficially employed.

As the object of the appointment of the Commission is to investigate generally, all matters of public interest connected with the several Departments, this Committee will understand, that they are not restricted to limit their inquiries by the strict letter of the foregoing queries; but that, in the spirit of the same, they are to pursue any course of investigation, which may appear to them expedient.

S H E R I F F S,
AND CLERK OF THE CROWN AND PLEAS.

Committee No. 6.

M E M B E R S :
THEIR HONOURS THE JUDGES.

THIS Committee will inquire into the manner in which the duties of these important offices have been performed.

They will consider whether any alteration is required in the amount and description of the security furnished by the Sheriffs, under the existing law, for the due performance of their duties.

They will further consider, whether the monies of Suitors coming into the hands of Sheriffs, or their Officers, when not promptly paid over to the parties to whom they belong, might not advantageously be placed in deposit in one of the Chartered Banks, instead of being left in the Sheriff's possession.

They will ascertain if monies collected by the Sheriffs on behalf of the Crown, are regularly and promptly transmitted by them to the Receiver General; and if not, they will suggest such arrangements as will best insure punctuality and exactitude.

They will inquire into the mode and expense of conveying Prisoners from one place to another; and will suggest any measures of improvement that may seem to them expedient.

In connection with the duties of the Sheriffs, the Committee will report generally upon the state of the public Gaols, and the system of discipline pursued in them.

As regards the Office of Clerk of the Crown and Pleas, the Committee will inquire into the nature and extent of the duties appertaining to it; and will report any changes of arrangement which they may think advisable.

They will consider also the extent and nature of the emoluments; the assistance necessary for the efficient performance of the duties of the Office; and the advisability of substituting fixed Salaries for Fees, as the mode of remuneration.

As the object of the appointment of the Commission, is to investigate generally all matters of public interest connected with the several Departments, this Committee will understand, that they are not restricted to limit their inquiries by the strict letter of the foregoing queries; but that, in the spirit of the same, they are to pursue any course of investigation, which may appear to them expedient.

COURTS OF REQUEST,
AND COMMISSIONERS OF THOSE COURTS.

Committee No. 7.

MEMBERS:
THE LAW OFFICERS.

This Committee will examine the constitution of these Courts, in their present state, and consider their efficiency as at present constituted; and whether some alteration in the law might not be made, by which they would be rendered more useful to the community.

Whether some mode of investigating the conduct of the Commissioners, upon complaints being made against them by the public, might not be rendered effective.

Whether it would be practicable or beneficial to do away with the present system of compensating the Commissioners by fees, and to substitute a fixed but moderate annual stipend, levied either by assessment on the District, or by a tax on each suit, collected by the Clerk, and paid to the Commissioners by the Treasurer of the District; or whether an improvement in the system could be effected in some other and better manner.

Whether it might be practicable to provide for the recovery of small debts in a manner more consistent with the fixed principles of law and equity, by dispensing with the services of the numerous Commissioners, now sitting in the Courts of Request, and by substituting a system of occasional Circuit Courts through each District, by the Judge of the District Court, with summary powers of decision to the extent of £10, and liberty of appeal to a Jury, at the ensuing regular term of District Court, in all cases above £5— or by some other system.

As the object of the appointment of the Commission is to investigate generally, all matters of public interest connected with the several Departments, this Committee will understand, that they are not restricted to limit their inquiries by the strict letter of the foregoing queries; but that, in the spirit of the same,

they are to pursue any course of investigation, which may appear to them expedient.

MILITIA.

Committee No. 8.

MEMBERS :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE McLEAN.

COLONEL CHICHESTER.

HENRY SHERWOOD, ESQUIRE.

THIS Committee will inquire generally into the state of the Militia Service ; the effect of the present Militia Laws ; and will suggest any improvements, of which, as it may appear to them, those laws may be susceptible.

They will inquire into the extent and nature of the duties pertaining to the office of Adjutant General of Militia, with a view to consider whether any, and if so, what improvements, may be introduced in the method which has been hitherto pursued, of conducting the business of that Department.

The Committee will further ascertain, whether regular Returns are made to the Adjutant General, of fees and fines paid and levied under the Militia Law ; and whether they appear to be duly paid to the

Receiver General, and accounted for to the Inspector General.

They will also ascertain whether the salaries allowed in this Department are sufficient, or more than sufficient, as a compensation for the duties performed; and whether there be any necessity for an increase or a diminution of the assistance at present afforded.

As the object of the appointment of the Commission is to investigate generally all matters of public interest, connected with the several Departments, this Committee will understand, that they are not restricted to limit their inquiries by the strict letter of the foregoing queries; but that, in the spirit of the same, they are to pursue any course of investigation, which may appear to them expedient.

(Signed) GEO. ARTHUR.

By His Excellency's Command.

(Signed) S. B. HARRISON.

LIST OF COMMITTEES.

No. 1.—Inspector General's Office.

MEMBERS:

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