

1844, of which a schedule is subjoined, it will be apparent that a material reduction of expenses might be effected, and the public service greatly facilitated were it to be carried into effect. The charges of the Customs' department are too high for the amount of revenue now collected by it; and the collection of the provincial duties at St. John could be very well added, which now engross a large portion of the time of the Provincial Treasurer, to the prejudice of his primary duties, compelling him to reside at St. John, instead of at the seat of Government. One objection of the Assembly to a measure of such obvious benefit, which would effect at once a reduction of expense, and afford facilities to merchants who are obliged to transact business at two offices, would appear to be the disturbance of a number of out-port officers, who, under the regulations of the Customs' department, might not be admissible to employment, and whom the Assembly are indisposed to pension. In some cases, the offices are held jointly by the same person under both departments; and if the regulations were not to be strictly applied in such cases, and the provincial officers appointed to the Customs, the difficulty would be obviated and an important measure facilitated.

The removal of the Treasurer to Fredericton would enable him to render valuable assistance to the Government, and during the session to the Legislature, in financial matters: at present, he can with difficulty spare a day from his office at St. John, to attend at Fredericton on the most urgent occasions. On the passing of an Act to give effect to such an arrangement, I think the Treasurer, who receives £480 sterling a-year, under an annual grant of the Assembly, should be placed on the Civil List, and on the retirement of the Auditor and Receiver-General, occasion might be taken to improve the audit department, and to reduce that of the Receiver-General, transferring its duties to the Treasurer.

The establishment of the Customs amounts to £7,080 8s. 4d. sterling, employed in collecting, in 1843, £12,880 18s. 5d., net revenue; in 1844, £19,367 18s. 7d.; and in 1845, £22,774 5s. 3d. The establishment of the provincial Treasurer amounts to £3,929 15s. 10d., although the whole expenses of the department is stated in the account at only £3,592 7s. 1d. Besides the general duties devolving on the Treasurer in paying numerous warrants, and in keeping the provincial accounts of receipts and disbursements which are annually made up for the Legislature, his department is charged with the collection of the provincial duties, which in the last year

Ordinary Provincial Revenue,	£47,734	14	2
Export Timber Duty,	18,146	4	8
Lighthouse Duty,	4,009	9	8
Sick and Disabled Seamen's,	1,844	9	7
Pass. and Emigrant,	1,235	2	0
Loan Act,	7,708	9	0

	£80,738	9	1
Deduct Commission,	1,444	2	5
Net Revenue,	£79,294	5	8

amounted to £79,294 6s. 8d., including collections under special Acts. It may be observed, however, that the out-door establishment of the Customs is chiefly employed in protecting the revenue at St. John and some other ports; and in any general revision, it might be desirable to increase the efficiency of this branch, unless a considerable reduction should be made in the duties of import, which, if simultaneously effected with the establishment of inland warehouses, whereby the payment of duties on winter supplies might be deferred, advantages would be given to the fair trader, which would not only promote the trade of the country, but augment the revenue by reducing the temptation to smuggling. The high salary of the present collector, £1,200 sterling, per annum, would admit of being reduced to his successor; and on the retirement of the collector at St. Andrews, the establishment at that port, where there is very little trade, might be reduced, provision being made for warehousing at Fredericton, St. Stephens, Dorchester, Miramichi, Dalhousie, and other places. From the experience of the collector of St. Andrews in the warehousing department, he would be well calculated to superintend the warehousing arrangements. The advantages of extending this system throughout the Province were pointed out in my Despatch, No. 71, dated the 25th July, 1843; and I hope that any amendment which may be required in the statute to facilitate the extension of the system throughout the province may be effected. The opportunity which it would afford to the inhabitants of the interior, and especially the farming and lumbering classes, to supply themselves from the depôts that would be formed, without resorting to the smuggler, or depending on supplies sent up the rivers by merchants at the end of the summer season, and before the navigation is closed for the winter, would be of incalculable advantage to the country.

PENSIONS.

On the subject of pensions, it is much to be regretted that no provision was made for the superannuation of judges and of old and deserving officers, when the Crown revenues were transferred to the province. The interests of the public service would be greatly promoted if such a fund were to be established by an Act of the Assembly, which would provide for the limitation of the number and amount of pensions to be granted, and the conditions and terms of service which should entitle the functionaries to claim them. A large sum is annually granted by the Assembly, in numerous small grants, to widows of old soldiers, and others, the details of which have not been inserted in the Blue Book, but the amount is included under the head of Charities in the General Account.

POPULATION.

These returns are taken from the census of 1840; and, assuming from the previous census in 1824 and 1834 an increase at 5 per cent. per annum, the population may be estimated in the present year at 206,601; some abatement from this estimate should be made for emigration to the United States in the last five years.

ECCLESIASTICAL RETURN.

In the Established Church of England some additional churches have been opened, and clergymen ordained to them by the Bishop of Fredericton, and measures are in progress to obtain more general support to the Church from the members of the communion throughout the province, by the organization of a society, and the raising of subscriptions within the diocese. Some churches have also been specially endowed, through the liberal support of wealthy persons in aid of the contributions of the congregations.