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COMMISSIONERS OF ARBITRATION, (SLAVERY ABOLITION ACT.)

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 5 March 1840;—for,

- A RETURN of all Persons appointed to be Paid Commissioners of Arbitration under the Powers of the Act 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 73, stating their Names, Dates of their Appointments, the Salaries and Emoluments to be paid to each of them, and the Payments made to them respectively on account thereof; the Dates of the said Payments, and the Authority under which such Payments have been made.
- RETURN of any other Office (if any) in the Public Service held by each of the said Paid Commissioners of Arbitration, specifying the Date of Appointment to each Office respectively, the Salaries and Emoluments payable, and the Salaries and Emoluments paid in consequence of such other Office; together with the Dates of Payment in each case.
- COPY of any WARRANT or WARRANTS by which any Payment may have been made to Mr. Stephenson, as Commissioner of Arbitration, since the appointment of Mr. Stephenson to be a Commissioner of the Board of Excise.
- COPIES of any Communications from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Glenelg, to the Board of Treasury, or to the Board of Arbitration Commissioners, in reference to the appointment of Mr. Amyot to be a Paid Commissioner of Arbitration.
- COPIES of any Communications from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Board of Treasury, or the Board of Arbitration Commissioners, in reference to Mr. Stephenson continuing to receive Salary as a Paid Commissioner of Arbitration, since Mr. Stephenson's appointment as a Commissioner of the Board of Excise.

(Lord Granville Somerset.)

COPY of any MINUTE of the BOARD of TREASURY in respect to the Payment of any Sums of Money to Mr. Stephenson, as a Commissioner of Arbitration, since the appointment of Mr. Stephenson as a Commissioner of the Board of Excise, and in respect to the duration of the said Commission of Arbitration.

(Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 19 March 1840.

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RETURN relating to the Commission of	SLAVE	COMPENSATION,	appointed under the A	~4
3 & 4	Will. 4,	c. 73.		·L

NAMES of Paid Commissioners.	Date of Appointment.	Payments made to each on account of Remuneration for Services.	Dates of Payments under Authority of Treasury Letters.	If holding any other Office in the Public Service.
James Lewis, esq Hastings Elwin, esq H. F. Stephenson, esq.	7th Oct. 1833; by Commission under Great Seal.	£. 1,000 each Ditto Ditto Ditto Ditto Ditto Ditto - Ditto -	23 Feb. 1835 6 Nov. 1835 11 Oct. 1836 15 Nov. 1837 30 Nov. 1838 14 Dec. 1839	H. R. H. the Duke of Sussex, Ranger, February 1821 : 52

James Lewis, Hastings Elwin, Henry Frederick Stephenson.

TREASURY WARRANT.

Consolidated Fund.

By virtue of an Act 5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 45, intituled, "An Act to carry into further execution the Provisions of an Act passed in the Third and Fourth Years of His present Majesty, for Compensating Owners of Slaves upon the Abolition of Slavery:" These are to authorize and require you to transfer from the general fund of the Exchequer at the Bank of England, to the credit of William Sargent, esq., the Paymaster of Civil Services, or to the credit of the Paymaster of Civil Services for the time being, the sum of 4,000 l. for the purpose of defraying the charges and expenses in and about the execution of the Commission appointed under the Act of 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 73, the said amount* being in part of the sum of 150,000 l., the portion at the rate of 15s. per cent. of the interest on the sum of 20,000,000 l. granted by the last recited Act, which is to be set apart to defray the said charges and expenses, pursuant to the 7th section of the said Act of 5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 45; and you will place the same in your accounts as a charge upon the revenues composing the Consolidated Fund for the quarter ending 5 January 1839.

Whitehall, Treasury Chambers, 28th November 1838.

(signed)

R. Steuart. J. Parker. Seymour.

To the Comptroller-General of Her Majesty's Exchequer.

* By way of imprest and upon account.

TREASURY WARRANT.

Consolidated Fund.

By virtue of an Act 5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 45, intituled, "An Act to carry into further execution the Provisions of an Act passed in the Third and Fourth Years of His present Majesty, for Compensating Owners of Slaves upon the Abolition of Slavery:" These are to authorize and require you to transfer from the general fund of the Exchequer at the Bank of England, to the credit of William Sargent, Esq.,

Esq., the Paymaster of Civil Services, or to the credit of the Paymaster of Civil Services for the time being, the sum of 4,360 l. 4s., for the purpose of defraying the charges and expenses in and about the execution of the Commission appointed under the Act 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 73, the said amount being in part of the sum of 150,000 L, the portion at the rate of 15s. per cent. of the interest on the sum of 20,000,000 l. granted by the last recited Act, which is to be set apart to defray the said charges and expenses, pursuant to the 7th section of the said Act of 5 & 6 Will. 4, c. 45; and you will place the same in your accounts as a charge upon the revenues composing the Consolidated Fund for the quarter ended 5 January 1840.

Whitehall, Treasury Chambers, 16 December 1839.

(signed)

T. Baring, H. Tufnell. Thos. Wise.

To the Comptroller-General of Her Majesty's Exchequer.

The direction for making the payments to the Commissioners will be found in the Treasury Minutes of 20 November 1838, and 13 December 1839.

Gentlemen,

Colonial Office, 15 October 1838.

THE appointment of Henry F. Stephenson, Esq. to be a member of the Board of Commissioners of Excise having created a vacancy among the salaried Commissioners at your Board, I have the honour to notify to you that this vacancy is to be filled by Thomas Amyot, Esq., who will be entitled to draw salary as a Commissioner of Slave Compensation from the date on which Mr. Stephenson relinquished that office.

I have, &c.

(signed)

Glenelg.

The Commissioners of Compensation.

Colonial Office, 28 August 1839.

In reference to the letter which I addressed to you by the direction of Lord Glenelg, on the 15th of October 1838, on the subject of the appointment of Mr. Amyot to succeed to Mr. Stephenson as one of the salaried members of your Board, I am directed by the Marquess of Normanby to acquaint you that his Lordship has ascertained from Lord Glenelg that the arrangement in question originated in a misapprehension as to the fact that Mr. Stephenson's appointment as a Commissioner of Excise had induced him to resign his office as a Commissioner of Compensation.

Lord Normanby further learns from Lord Glenelg, that it had been his purpose to withdraw the letter in question, although that purpose was unfulfilled

when he resigned the seals of this Department.

Under these circumstances, Lord Normanby now instructs me, on the request of Mr. Stephenson, to inform you that my letter of the 15th of October 1838 is Qy. Lord Glenelg's.

withdrawn.

I have, &c.

(signed) Jas. Stephen.

The Commissioners of Compensation.

COPY of TREASURY MINUTE of 20 November 1838.

READ letter from Mr. Stephen, dated the 3d instant, transmitting, by direction of Lord Glenelg, in reply to the communication from this department of the 26th ultimo, respecting the probable duration of the proceedings of the Commissioners of Slave Compensation, copy of a letter from the Commissioners, stating that the completion of their duties depends entirely upon the diligence and activity of the parties interested in applying for awards; and that with a view to give every facility in their power to the claimants in the cases still remaining

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for decision, they have given notice of an arrangement, by which the contested cases in each colony may be brought under their consideration every week.

My Lords resume the consideration of the application from the Commissioners for a further issue of remuneration for their services, referring to the Minute of this Board of 25 July 1836; and as it appears that the Commissioners have continued to make very satisfactory progress in the settlement of the numerous contested claims to the compensation for slaves, submitted for their decision, and have also proceeded with their awards of the undistributed compensation, as the requisite returns and information respecting the claims to it have been received from the colonies, my Lords consider them to be entitled to further payment.

Prepare warrant, authorizing the issue out of the growing produce of the Consolidated Fund, of the sum of 4,000 l., on account of that portion of the interest on the grant for Slave Compensation, which has been reserved to defray expenses relating to the distribution thereof; and let an Exchequer credit be given at the Bank of England to the Paymaster of Civil Services for the said amount.

Acquaint the Paymaster of Civil Services with these directions, and desire that upon the said credit becoming available, he will pay over the amount to Henry Hill, Esq., as an issue by way of imprest, and upon account, for the service of the Commission of Slave Compensation.

Acquaint the Commissioners of Slave Compensation with the directions given for this issue to their secretary, and with reference to their application of 12th ult., state to them that my Lords are pleased to authorize the payment thereout of the several sums of 1,000 *l*. each to James Lewis, Hastings Elwin, and H. F. Stephenson, Esquires, Commissioners, and to Henry Hill, Esq., their secretary, in further remuneration for their respective services.

Write to Mr. Stephen, and with further reference to the communication from this department of the 26th ult., and to his reply now before the Board, request he will acquaint Lord Glenelg that my Lords, having had every reason to approve of the very satisfactory manner in which the Commissioners of Slave Compensation have continued to execute the duties confided to them, have authorized a further issue of remuneration to the stipendiary members of the Commission and their secretary. Also request Mr. Stephen will at the same time observe to Lord Glenelg, that my Lords are apprized, by a statement which has been submitted to them of the proceedings of the Commission up to the 1st of August last, that of 44,623 claims to compensation, the Commissioners had already awarded the amount due in 43,587 cases, and that of 4,550 cases, in which the title to the sum awarded had been disputed, and counter claims lodged with them, they had adjudicated upon 3,853 cases; and there consequently only remained 1,036 claims on which the Compensation had not been awarded, and 697 counter claims to be adjudicated upon; and, with reference to the progress thus made in the business of the Commission, my Lords have to suggest for Lord Glenelg's consideration, whether the number of Stipendiary Commissioners may not admit of reduction in the early part of the ensuing year; and likewise, as the Commissioners state that the final completion of their duties depends entirely on the diligence and activity with which the parties interested in the unsettled claims may apply for adjudication, my Lords would further request Lord Glenelg to consider whether any steps can be taken to expedite the proceedings of these claimants.

COPY of TREASURY MINUTE of 13 December 1839.

READ letter from the Commissioners of Slave Compensation, dated 8th October last, transmitting a statement of the business of that Commission to the 5th August last; by which it will appear, that up to that date the sum of 19,654,953 l. 9s. has been awarded upon 43,564 claims, leaving the sum of 345,046 l. 10s. 9 & d. upon 834 claims still to be adjudicated. The Commissioners at the same time request that such an issue of money may be assigned to them and their secretary, by way of remuneration, as may seem meet to my Lords.

Read also letter from Mr. Stephen, dated 31st October last, transmitting a copy of a letter from Mr. Amyot, requesting that an issue may be made to him

of the sum of 360 l. 4s., being the amount required to make good the deficiency of fees in the Colonial Registry Office for the last quarter.

My Lords have also again before them the letters from Mr. Stephen, of 3d November and 17th December 1838, with the enclosed communications from the Commissioners of Slave Compensation, respecting the progress and probable termination of the business of the Commission.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, calling the Board's attention to the subscription of Mr. H. F. Stephenson's name, as one of the Commissioners of Slave Compensation, to the application for remuneration in respect of the duties of that Commission now before my Lords, observes to the Board, that in consequence of arrangements which had been made by the Commissioners for transacting the business of the Commission, it was found to be desirable on Mr. Stephenson's appointment to the Board of Excise, that he should continue to give his assistance in completing such awards of compensation and adjudications on litigated claims for compensation as had reference to those portions of the business which had previously been under his more immediate superintendence; and that as Mr. Stephenson, in consequence of the reduced number of cases remaining to be disposed of, had found it compatible with his other official duties to afford such assistance, he had given the requisite attendance for the purpose at the meetings of the Commission during the past year, and has further communicated to the Chancellor of the Exchequer his intention of continuing to perform this duty until the business of the Commission is concluded, without any further additional remuneration for such services as he may hereafter render in this respect.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer also suggests to the Board, with reference to the Report submitted by the Commissioners, of the progress they have made in their awards and adjudications during the past year, and to the statements in their letters to the Under Secretary of State of 31st October, and 10th December 1838, with respect to the probable period at which they then conceived the business of the Commission might terminate, and the circumstances which tended to protract their proceedings, that it has now become expedient that steps should be taken for bringing those proceedings to a close, and discontinuing any further expenditure on account of the Commission after the termination of another year, and for causing such notice to that effect as may be necessary to be duly promulgated in all the late slave colonies.

My Lords concur in this suggestion, and having considered the statement accompanying the application of the Commissioners for remuneration, and the progress thereby shown to have been made towards the completion of the compensation awards, and also in adjudicating on the numerous cases of litigated compensation which have been submitted for their decision, instead of that of the colonial courts or other judicial tribunals, my Lords consider the Commissioners and their secretary to be entitled to a further issue of remuneration.

Prepare warrant for the issue to the Paymaster of Civil Services, out of the growing produce of the Consolidated Fund, on account of the portion of interests on the Slave Compensation, which has been reserved for paying the expenses of the distribution of the sum of 4,360 l. 4 s., and let authority be given to the Paymaster to pay thereout to Henry Hill, Esq., the Secretary to the Commission, the sum of 4,000 l., as an issue by way of imprest, and upon account, for defraying the expenses of the Commission; and to Thomas Amyot, Esq. the sum of 360 l. 4 s. to defray expenses of the Slave Registration department, and to be accounted for as Her Majesty's Secretary of State may direct

Write to the Commissioners of Slave Compensation, apprizing them, with reference to their letter now before the Board, of the direction given for the issue to their secretary, and that my Lords are pleased to authorize the payment thereout of the several sums of 1,000 *l*. each to James Lewis, Hastings Elwin, and Henry F. Stephenson, Esqrs., Commissioners, and to Henry Hill, Esq., their secretary, in further remuneration of their respective services.

Further, apprize the Commissioners that my Lords have proposed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State that steps should be taken for enabling the Commissioners to close their proceedings at the expiration of the ensuing year, and for causing due notification of this intention to be promulgated in each of the late 142.

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slave colonies, on which subject they will receive instructions from the Secretary of State.

Write to Mr. Stephen, acquainting him, for the information of Lord John Russell, that my Lords have directed the issue to the Commissioners of Slave Compensation and their secretary of the further amounts of remuneration above specified, and with the understanding that Mr. Stephenson, in consideration of the appointment he now holds in the public service, will continue to give his assistance for completing the awards and adjudications before adverted to, without any further additional remuneration.

At the same time forward to Mr. Stephen copy of the statement submitted to this Board in the letter from the Commissioners, and, with reference thereto, request Mr. Stephen will call the attention of Lord John Russell to the observations respecting the progress and probable termination of the business of the Commission, in the letters addressed by the Commissioners to Mr. Stephen on 31st October, and to Sir George Grey on 10th December 1838, and that he will state to his Lordship that it appears to my Lords to be expedient, both as regards the causes which are therein represented to protract the proceedings of the Commission, and the state of the funds which have been assigned for defraying expenses incident to the distribution of the compensations, that a period should be fixed for closing those proceedings; and that my Lords have therefore to propose to Lord John Russell that due notice should forthwith be transmitted to all the late slave colonies, that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government that the functions of the Commissioners shall terminate on 31st December 1840, and that a period antecedent to that date shall, at the same time, be named by the Commissioners, at which they will cease to receive or entertain any further claims or applications regarding the compensation; and Mr. Stephen will further observe to Lord John Russell, that my Lords will hereafter be prepared to make such arrangements in regard to any claims for compensation that may be left outstanding after the expiration of the ensuing year, as the nature and amount of them may appear to require.

Further state, for the information of Lord John Russell, with reference to Mr. Stephen's letter of 31 October last, that my Lords have given directions for the advance applied for in the letter from Mr. Amyot, therein forwarded to this Board; and likewise request Mr. Stephen will observe to Lord John Russell, that it has appeared to my Lords, on adverting to the purpose for which the establishment of the Slave Registration Department has been retained since the abolition of slavery, that the diminished amount of business remaining for that establishment to transact, may now admit of the reduction, if not the entire discontinuance of the expenditure for it; and Mr. Stephen will move Lord John Russell to favour my Lords with his opinion as to the steps that should be taken for this purpose.

Whitehall, Treasury Chambers, 17 March 1840.

R. GORDON.

COMMISSIONERS OF ARBITRATION, (SLAVERY ABOLITION ACT.)

RETURN of all Persons Appointed to be PAID COMMISSIONERS OF ARBITRATION under the Act 3 & 4 Will. 4; Payments made to the Commissioners; other Offices held by them, &c.

(Lord Granville Somerset.)

(Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
19 March 1840.

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