

Imputers for the Charge of Trade, upon the quantity of Produce Imported, and Tonnage of Shipping up to this Day. Mr George Hibbert laid before the Meeting Copy of an Act for preventing the Desertion of Seamen from British Ships.

Resolved, That each Member of the Committee to whom the Consideration of the same was referred, be furnished with Copies of said Act; as also Mr Sewell for their Remarks; and that he be requested to attend the said Committee to be summoned to meet at Mr Alderman Hibberts Muscing Lane, on Wednesday Evening the 12th December, at 12 o'clock precisely -

At a Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants relative to the Marine Police Establishment, held at the Marine Society's Office January 4th 1799.

Present

Beeston Long Esq^r in the Chair.

Mr Wedderburn

Mr Bosanquet

Mr S. Turner

Mr Alderman Hibbert

Mr Harrison

Mr Colquhoun presented to the Committee a Draught of a Memorial which in consequence of the Recommendation of the 30 November, he had prepared and which the Chairman judged it advisable immediately to transmit to the Duke of Scotland

To His Grace the Duke of Portland His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department

The Memorial of the Merchants of London, trading to the West Indies

Sheweth, That under the particular auspices of Your Grace a Marine Police Institution was established on the second day of July, in the present Year for the prevention of that enormous pillage and Plunder which in a certain degree has pervaded every species of commercial property, loaded or discharged in the Port of London, but which was more particularly injurious to the Interest of the West India Planters and Merchants from the nature of the Commodities imported and the facilities which were afforded in the disposal of whatever was pilfered or stolen by which not only Your Memorialists, and their Constituents, but also His Majesty's Revenues of Customs and Excise have suffered a very great Loss annually.

That the Marine Police Institution for which the Commerce of the Port of London, and particularly the West India Planters and Merchants are under such peculiar obligations to Your Grace, has even under all the disadvantages which attended a new Experiment, and without that Legislative aid which it naturally required, appears to Your Memorialists from various facts and Circumstances which they have had occasion to investigate to have produced advantages to the Commerce and Revenue of the Port of London of the greatest magnitude, holding out as soon as it shall be properly matured and aided by apposite Legislative regulations, the fairest prospect not only of eradicating that extensive and enormous pillage and plunder by which the Commerce and Revenue of the Port of London has been so long afflicted, but also of improving the morals of a great body of people whose habits have become

become so loose and criminal as to render the application of a plan of prevention a measure of sound political wisdom independant of all other considerations

That under a System where the Property requiring to be protected is of such unparalleled magnitude spread over the River Thames for several Miles as well as upon the Quays, and Wharfs an extensive civil Force has been found to be indispensably necessary and it became the Province of the superintending Magistrate to adopt such modifications as experience should suggest for the purpose of arranging this force, and of rendering it efficient at the least possible expence, and the result has been that independant of the Judicial department the expence of which Your Grace was pleased to determine should be defrayed by Government, the following expences have or will be incurred in the course of the Year which do not apply exclusively to West India Property, but extend protection in a certain degree (as appears by the detections which have taken place) to every species of property upon the River Thames forming at the same time a great preventative System against illicit trade as well as against River Sillage, Piracy and Plunders

Total Expence annually.

1. The Expence of the present Establishment of River Guards consisting of 9 Boats commanded by Old Ship Masters and attended by 18 Watermen who ply on the River in rotation both by Night and by day from London Bridge, to Greenwich, and who make a diurnal report of their progress to the Magistrates at the Marine Police.

2 The Expence of Coals, Candles, and Incident's applicable to this Department the Marine Office being open by Night, as well as by Day as a general rendezvous for the Police Lawyers on Duty

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1000. 0. 0

Amount brought up.

1900. 208

3 The Expence of remunerating Persons who give Information useful to the Police of the River in general, whether in detecting offenders, or in preventing crimes estimated at 300. 0. 0

Total Expence applying to the general protecting of the River, and to the Revenue, and not exclusively to the West India Trade. £ 2,200. 0. 0

The Memorialists would humbly submit to Your Grace whether the above estimated Charge of Two Thousand two Hundred Pounds per Annum in addition to the judicial department, but also the first expence in purchasing the Lease of the present Marine Police Office, and in repairing and fitting up that large and commodious Building for the general protection of the Commerce and Revenue of the Port of London, together with the Furniture, Fire Arms, Cutlasses, Boats and their Apparel and Furniture and also the Books and Articles attached to the judicial department should not be discharged by Government, and the said House Furniture Arms, Boats, and other Articles under noted become the property of the public namely.

1 The Lease of the Buildings featured repairs and Improvements (8 Years) 832. 6. 10

2 The furniture purchased for the office 154. 12

3 The Fire Arms Cutlasses Constables Staffs &c 127. 16

4 The Boats 10 in number with Oars and other Furniture 209. 1

5 To Books Scales Weights Seals Stationary Printing and other Articles connected with the judicial department 94. 3. 6

being expences which will not occur again

Total Expence of fitting the Office and purchasing the Lease only subject to a Ground Rent of £10. a year 1447. 19. 4

and which expence while it saves the Rent estimated at £100 a Year will not occur in future

But while Your Memorialists offer these propositions

propositions to Your Grace's consideration whereby an Expence is to be incurred by Government they would humbly represent that such expence is likely to be refunded many times over by an increase of Revenue, a considerable pecuniary sacrifice must still be made by the West India Planters, Merchants, and Ship Owners, since the whole remuneration of the Marine Police Constables on board of Ships while under discharge, and also the Wages of those who are or may be stationed as police Guards upon the Lighters, and at the different Quays are proposed to be paid under the direction of Your Memorialists independent of any Aid from the Public viz) namely.

1st The Expence of Public Constables on board of 350 Ships in the course of a Year at 5^s a day while under discharge at 2^s 6 a day after the first 10 Days while the discharge is suspended making an average estimated at £. 11. 10 for each Ship including the expence of Clerks and officers in this department. 4,025. 0. 0

2nd The expence of from 25 to 30 Marine Police Constables superintended by 3 Surveyors employed upon the Quays, and in the Lighters while the West India Ships are under discharge at 2^s 6 a day and 2^s 6 Night for each Constable who are released every 6th hours. 975. ---

Estimated of Annual sum at Total £ 5000. ---

That when the Benefit to the Public are completed which must result from supporting the energy of an Establishment which has operated already so powerfully under every disadvantage in the suppression and prevention of Crimes, the Memorialists can entertain no doubt of the good disposition of Government to place it on the most respectable footing, not only with respect to pecuniary energy, but also by such Legislative regulations as shall tend to give due effect to the exertions of the Magistrates in the Execution of a design perhaps the most important which was
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ever undertaken in the department of Police, and unquestionably the most useful inasmuch as in the operation of the System must arise a gradual diminution of that species of Criminality which is the most liable to extend its influence and to spread broad and wide, since the mind is not impressed with that degree of moral turpitude, which attaches to other offences in their nature not more injurious to Society.

Your Memorialists therefore with a view to ^{those important objects} the improvement of the morals of the numerous classes of Labourers in different occupations on the River Thames, and on the Wharfs and Quays in the Port of London, who have been gradually contaminated inured in habits of Plunder. The preservation of commercial property and the increase and protection of His Majesty's Revenue Most humbly pray That Your

Grace would be pleased in conjunction with the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to establish such an arrangement with respect to the pecuniary resources of this new and useful Institution, as shall be most likely to secure to it not only that energy which shall be necessary to give full effect to the Design as now systematized and matured, but also to promote and support the passing into a Law a Bill ~~XXXXXX~~ with a view to the general improvement of the police of the River Thames, and to remove these various obstructions which at present embarrass and cripple the exertions of the Magistrates in the detection and punishment of offenders, and in the prevention of Crimes, in the fullest confidence that by adopting the Measures which are now humbly proposed the improvement of His Majesty's Revenue independant of every other Consideration would

would not only reimburse the expence incurred but produce a considerable surplus which but for such an Institution could never flow into His Majesty's Exchequer.

Also Heads of a Bill for legalising a Marine Police office.

Resolved,

That the said Memorial be confirmed and that the particular provisions in the said Bill be taken into Consideration as soon as the result of the Application to the Chairmen of the respective Commercial Bodies be known.

Resolved,

That it is expedient to transmit a Copy of the Proposal for raising a Fund from the whole Trade of the Port of London for the purpose of establishing a General Marine Police Office to the Chairmen of the different Commercial Bodies, with a circular Letter from the Chairman requesting that they will be pleased to collect the Opinions of their respective Bodies, and to communicate the same to him as early as possible, it being very desirable that an Act of the Legislature should be obtained in the present Session of Parliament for carrying into effect a Purpose so salutary.

Resolved,

That under the Reliance that the Approbation of those Bodies may be speedily obtained to the said Proposal it is expedient to postpone at present the Introduction into Parliament of the Bill for legalising a Marine Police Institution in order that the Provision for the Maintenance thereof

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thereof, by a Tonnage Duty on the respective Classes of ²⁰⁹ Shipping frequenting the Port, may make a part of the said Bills.

Resolved, That this Committee, ^{being} deeply impressed with a high sense of the singular Advantages which appear to have resulted to the Commerce of the Port of London in General, but particularly to the West India Planters and Merchants, in the protection afforded to their property, by the exertions of the Marine Police Institution, as well as by the General System established for the prevention of Pillage and Plunder, arising out of the measures for detection pursued by the Magistrates presiding at the Marine Police Office & by which in the opinion of this Committee great and extensive benefits have also resulted to His Majesty's Revenue

Resolved, That Copies of the above Resolution be transmitted with the Proposal above mentioned to the Chairmen of the respective Commercial Bodies.

At a Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants, relative to the Marine Police Establishment, held at the Marine Society's Office March 5th 1799.

Deerston Long Esq^r in the Chair,

Mr. C. Posanquet

Mr. Harrison

Mr. W. Vaughan

Mr. Henry Jackson

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed

Mr. Deerston Long reported that Mr. Ches. Posanquet and himself had attended the Duke of Portland and

and conversed with him on the subject of the Memorial presented to him by the Committee, and his Grace expressed himself perfectly ready to support the Establishment, and promised to apply to the Chancellor of Exchequer that a further part of the Expence of the Institution might be defrayed by Government. Mr. Weston Long likewise acquainted the Committee that Mr. Wickham had informed him that at present it was not expedient for Government to bring in a Bill for the permanent Establishment of the Marine Police Office or for raising a Fund to extend the benefits of it to the other commercial Bodies.

Resolved, That in consequence of the above Communication the Chairman be requested at the next Meeting to take the Opinion of the West India Merchants on the future Establishment of the Office

Resolved, That Mr. Colquhoun be requested to furnish the Committee as soon as he can conveniently with an Account of the whole Expence of the Establishment of the Marine Police Office from the first Institution to the 25th of this Month (March), and likewise a Calculation what may be the probable Expence for another Year confined only to the West India Trade

Resolved, That the above Resolutions be communicated to Mr. Colquhoun

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Resolved,

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Resolved

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants, held
at the Marine Society's Office London 8th March 1799

Present

Deeaton Long Esq^r in the Chair

Mr Harrison

Mr Higgin

Mr Austable

Mr Vaughan

Mr Blackman

Mr Plummer

Mr Taylor

Mr Allan

Mr S. Bosanquet

Mr Turner

Mr Mulloan

Mr Keighley

Mr Adams

Mr DeFello

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read,
and confirmed

Mr Deeaton Long acquainted the Meeting
that upon the departure of the Convoy the 3^d January last, Sir
Richard Neave and himself had applied to the Admiralty
and the Lords Commissioners had agreed to appoint a Convoy
to sail the end of that Month

The Resolutions of the Marine Police
Committee of 5th Instant being read

Resolved, That this Meeting think it advisable
to continue the support of the Establishment of a Marine Police
Office, and whenever Mr Colquhoun has furnished the Account
of the Expence of the Institution this Meeting will be ready
to take into Consideration on what footing in future it shall be
carried on

Resolved, That Application be made to the Lords,
Commissioners

1799
April 21. Letter under Convoy of Lucia & Dyes Agents
22. Set back 3. 1/2
24. Set back for Portsmouth.

Commissioners of the Admiralty requesting that the next Convoy may be appointed to sail from Portsmouth for the West Indies on the 27th of this Month, waiting 24 Hours after the Wind comes fair for the Ships from the Downs, and that it be particularly requested that the Ships destined for the Island of Jamaica may be immediately dispatched under Convoy on their Arrival at the Leeward Islands, without delay, which is of great Importance to enable them to avail themselves of the Homeward bound Convoy, on the 20th July, and that another Convoy be appointed to sail from Portsmouth, in the Month of May, and that it be permitted to call at Madeira

As it appears upon Enquiry at the Post Office that the Packet for this Month is not ready at Portsmouth to take the Letters to the West Indies

Resolved, That Application be made to His Majesty's Post Masters General requesting that a Cutter or Schooner of War may be immediately dispatched with the Letters for Barbados, and Jamaica and to return with the Letters from Jamaica, as the advices they may contain may be of great Importance relative to the sailing of the Fleets homeward bound.

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At a Meeting of the West India Merchants, held
at the Marine Society's Office April 9. 1799.

Present

Deeblon Long Esq. in the Chair

Mr Lushington

Mr Adam

Mr Lyon

Mr Taylor

Mr Thomas Neave

Mr Alderman Hibbert

Mr Medderburn

Mr Duffell

Mr Plummer

Mr Stewart

Mr Graham

Mr Rennie

Mr Milligan

Mr Francis Baring

Mr W Vaughan

Mr Bosanquet

Mr Hankey

Mr Deeblon Long Reported, that Mr. Manning, Mr Lushington, Mr George Hibbert, and himself, waited on the Commercial Commissioners, agreeably to appointment, on Monday the 8th Instant, and had a Conference with them to the following Purport

Mr Deeblon Long stated, that Questions had occurred respecting the Statements of Income to be delivered in by the West India Planters, and Merchants, which a reference to the Letter of the Act was insufficient to solve; and that therefore this Conference had been requested, in order that certain principles might be laid down, on which all might proceed. He briefly noticed the chief heads of Deduction which the Planters would expect to be allowed, and on behalf of

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the Merchants, claimed some allowance for bad and doubtful Debts. Mr George Tibbert, in further explanation of Mr Long's statement, read and explained the two following papers, the one relating to the Planters, the other to the Merchants.

For Planters

Credits Net Proceeds of all Goods received in Britain, and sold by the different Factors. }

Produce sold in the Islands, or otherwise disposed of must also be brought into the account, if the whole of the Contingencies & of the Estates be brought forwards as a deduction.

Losses and Averages recovered from the Underwriters Drawbacks and Bounties on Goods shipped.

Remittances, if any, from Agents or Attorneys in the West Indies, for Balances, if any have arisen there in favor of the Planter beyond the Island Contingencies.

Debits

Supplies from England, Scotland, Ireland, or America, being such only as are requisite to keep up, but not to increase the Capital of the Estates Costs of Insurance Out and Home.

Contingencies in the Islands, comprising Repairs and Island Taxes, whether paid for in the Islands by Produce, if such Produce be accounted for, or paid for by Bills on Britain, being such only as are requisite to keep up, not to increase the Capital of the Estates.

Debts Continued

Interest upon Debt, Surtaxes, and Annuities
Commissions and petty Charges

The above Deductions, in toto, can only be brought
forwards in cases where the whole of the Produce of the Estate is
accounted for, then the proportion only of the above Charges, which
is applicable to the Part so remitted, to be allowed in deduction

Merchants

Where an Account of Capital has been created, previous
to the present Bill, under an Idea of Compensation for doubtful
and bad Debts outstanding, the Interest of the Capital
standing on that Account Not to be stated as part of Income,
or where it has been an established Rule to carry a certain annual
Sum to an Account apart, in order gradually to form a Fund for
such Compensation, that annual Sum to be allowed as a deduction
from Income

Where no such Account has been created, a
deduction on the principal of such Account to be allowed, if
the Merchant shall be ready to state bona fide, and to make
Oath if required, that the Allowance demanded is barely such
as he would make if the Debts in Question were at that rate
actually to be sold.

Mr. Manning explained that many Planters
were not furnished with their West India Accounts, he supposed,
that, if, after delivering in their Statements without reference
to such Accounts, a Demand for Contingencies, affecting the
Income of the Year delivered in, should appear from the West
Indies, it might be allowed in the latter Installments of the
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present Year; or at least, from a deduction from the Income of the subsequent Years.

Mr. Manning, and Mr. Lushington both claimed the attention of the Commissioners to the Statements which might be delivered in by Planters concerned in the Islands of Grenada, and St. Vincent, so lately ravaged by the Enemy and by intestine Combinations, and which might appear very low, compared to others from Islands that had been more prosperously circumstanced; and they expressed a presumption that the Capital invested in Properties which, owing to the said calamities, had not been able to pay the Interest of what they owed, would not be expected to be rated as production of Income.

It was asked, whether the Commercial Commissioners would receive Statements from Trustees, Agents &c. but it was at the same time observed, that Agents acting under particular Commissions, and not representing completely a British Subject abroad, although they might, under the Act, state any Income they received on account of such Person abroad, could not, with any Propriety, make a payment thereon, the whole Concerns of the Proprietor not being in their Hands, and it being therefore impossible they should know to what deductions such Income was liable. Lastly, it was stated, that, on the 10th Instant being now at hand it would be impossible for Planters and others, who had waited the Issue of this Conference, and were at a Distance, to give in their Statements on that Day.

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The Commissioners observed upon the Papers delivered in by Mr Albert, that any Income arising from West India Properties, which was not remitted to Great Britain in one Shape or other, and received there, was not within the reach of the Act, but, in explanation, it appeared, that, whenever Produce disposed of in the Islands was applied in reduction of the Amount of Contingencies, it would exactly apply as if remitted Home, the deduction for Contingencies being lessened thereby; and it was understood that the whole of the Contingencies of any West India Property could not be admitted as fair deductions, unless the whole of the Produce of such Estate was accounted for. They also objected to making any Deductions under the Head of Contingencies, unless such arose from Expenses incurred in or from Bills drawn in Britain, alleging, that any Debt remaining for Contingencies in the Islands would of course be drawn for, and form a part of the deduction in a subsequent Year. They acquiesced in the propriety of making due allowances for the Statements from the unfortunate Islands of Grenada, and St Vincent, and granted, that Capital advanced upon properties which were under such Circumstances as not to pay the Interest of their Debts, could not be counted as production of Income.

They appeared to be ready to allow such deduction as, previous to the passing of this Act, had been established in Commercial Houses as a Compensation for bad Debts, but expressed a Doubt whether they could take Cognizance of such deductions, if made in Contemplation of the Act leaving any Case, so circumstanced, to speak for its self. They admitted,

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most clearly, that any fair deduction, which did not now appear, from Vouchers not being in Possession, might hereafter be brought forwards, and either be allowed in deduction from the latter Instalments of the present Year, or admitted as a deduction in the Year following.

The Commissioners declared they were ready to receive Statements from all Trustees, Agents &c for Property connected with the West Indies.

Finally, they stated, that a Doubt having occurred whether they had the Power of extending the time for the Delivery of Statements of Income, they could not, by any Authority of theirs, engage to grant farther time, but that, so far as they were competent, they should be glad to grant to the 20th Instant for that purpose, and they expected that their power, if not found already sufficient would be specially increased, so that they might be enabled to do so.

They promised also a written Answer to the Papers delivered in by the Deputations.

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A Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at
the Mason Society's Office April 10. 1799.

Present
Deeston Long Esq. in the Chair.

Mr Lyon
Mr G Hibbert
Mr Simpson
Mr Neave

Mr Adam
Mr Lushington
Mr Stewart
Mr Jackson
Mr Wedderburn

Mr Milligan
Mr Plummer
Mr Vaughan
Mr Decker

Sir Francis Darino
Mr Webster
Mr Keightley
Mr Goulden

Mr Deeston Long produced a Letter from
Mr Marsham, enclosing the written answer of the
Commercial Commissioners to the Propositions of the
Deputation, from the West India Merchants, which being
read.

Sir I have the Honor to transmit to you
the answers of the Board of Commercial Commissioners for
the City of London and its vicinity, to the Propositions
submitted to it by the Deputation from the West India
Merchants, and Planters.

Austin-Triars

Office of Commercial Commissioners
April 9. 1799.

Deeston Long Esq.

I am, with much respect
Your obedt humble servt

Thomas Marsham

Planters

Planters Credits

Nett Proceeds of all Goods received in
 England, and sold by the different Factors }
 Nett Proceeds of any Goods sold in the Islands,
 unless the Proceeds have been paid away in
 Contingencies, and have lessened the amount thereof,
 Losses and Averages recovered from the Underwriters,
 Drawbacks and Bounties on Goods shipped
 Remittances (if any) from Agents, or Attorneys in
 the West Indies, for Balance, if any has arisen
 beyond Contingencies.

Debits

Supplies from England, Scotland, Ireland or
 America, being such only as are requisite to keep
 up, but not to increase the Capital of the Estates
 Costs of Insurance Out and Home

Contingencies in the Islands, whether paid for in
 the Islands by Produce sold there, or by Bills on
 England, being such only as are requisite to keep up, not
 to increase, the Capital, and in which are to be
 included Island Taxes.

Interest on Debt, Scurture, and Annuities
 Commissions and petty Charges

Answer— The Board see no objection to Statements
 of Income estimated and delivered in according to
 this Scheme.

N^o 2. - Question for Merchants.

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Where an Account has been created previous to the present Bill, under an Idea of compensation for doubtful and bad Debts outstanding, the Interest of the Capital standing on that Account, not to be stated as part of Income.

Where no such Account has been created, a deduction on the principal of such Account may be allowed, if bonâ fide the Merchants shall be ready to state, and, if required, to make Oath, that such Allowance is barely such as he would make if the Debts in Question were at that rate actually to be sold.

A In general, the Board is inclined to permit the amount of Income to be made out in the manner that has been customary by the House returning its Statements, previous to the passing of the late Act, but it is not prepared to give a decided Acquiescence as a general Rule to the Propositions, suggested by Mr Hibbert, for making Allowances for bad debts incurred by Merchants.

N^o 3.

Where Interest in Money advanced has been in Arrears in the Islands of Grenada, and St Vincent, from the late Misfortunes in those Islands, and such Interest, when it shall be received, to be considered taxable as Income.

A Arrears of Interest up to the time of passing of the Act should be considered as Capital.

N^o 4.

Whether Contingencies paid for in the Islands, by Produce sold there, or by Bills in England, not deducted. The

Year, can be deducted, the next Year?

A To be allowed to be deducted when actually drawn for by Bills in Great Britain

no 5

a Planter, resident in the West Indies, where he has habitually resided, and has no Intention of returning at present, consigns his Produce to London, is he liable to pay on the Proceeds of such Produce

A - He is to pay

Resolved, That the Report of the Deputation and the answers of the Commissioners, be printed, for the use of the Members of this Body and of the Planters, and that a Copy thereof be sent to the Commissioners.

A Meeting of the West India Merchants held at the Marine Society's Office London 23 April 1799

Present

Deepton Long Esq in the Chair

Mr Aldr Lushington

Mr Allan

Mr Adam

Mr Anderson

Mr Milligan

Mr Sumner

Mr Neave

Mr Aldr Herbert

Mr Vaughan

Mr Stewart

Mr Astabie

Mr Deepton Long acquainted the Meeting that he had just received the following Letter from,

M^r

Mr Marsham Secretary to the Board of Commercial ²²³
Commissioners of the City of London, being read as follows

Meeting of the Commercial
Commissioners April 19. 1709

Whereas an Answer, was given on
the 9th of April to one of the Questions laid before this
Board, by the deputation of West India Merchants
respecting West India Planters not residing in Great
Britain, and a doubt having been raised whether the
Answer so given was justified by the Act of Parliament,
which has induced this Board to take the Opinion of the
attorney and Solicitor General thereon, and those Opinions
having been obtained and read, declaring such Persons not
liable to the Income Tax, unless their Property remitted
to Great Britain, shall have been there so laid out as to
produce an Income

Resolved, That the Secretary do write a Letter to
Mr Weston Long to inform him of the Acquiescence of
this Board with these Opinions, and to transmit herewith
a Copy of the Case, and Opinions.

Signed, Tho^s Marsham Secy
Case

(Copy)

By the 2^d Section of an Act passed in the
present Session of Parliament for granting to His
Majesty

Majesty certain Duties upon every species of Income amounting to £60 and upwards, It is amongst other things enacted.

That during the terms therein mentioned there shall be raised, levied, collected and paid annually unto and for the Use of His Majesty, his Heirs, and Successors, throughout the Kingdom of Great Britain, upon all Income arising from Property in Great Britain belonging to any of His Majesty's Subjects, although not resident in Great Britain: And upon all Income of every Person residing in Great Britain, whether any such Income shall arise from Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, wheresoever situate in Great Britain, or elsewhere, or from any kind of personal property, or other property whatever, the several Rates and Duties therein mentioned.

By the 8th Section of the same Act it is provided and enacted

That no Person who after the passing the said Act, shall actually be in Great Britain for some temporary purpose only, and not with any view of establishing his residence therein, shall be chargeable with the Duties imposed by the said Act as a person actually residing in Great Britain, but shall be chargeable with the Duties of a certain Act passed in the 38th year of His present Majesty's Reign therein mentioned and referred to (Viz. Triple Assessment Act)

By the 10th Section of the first mentioned Act,
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It is enacted That any Subject of His Majesty whose ordinary residence shall have been in Great Britain, and who shall have departed from Great Britain, and gone into any parts beyond the Seas for the purpose only of occasional Residence at the time of the execution of the said Act, shall be deemed notwithstanding such temporary absence, a Person chargeable in respect of his Income as a Person actually residing in Great Britain, and shall be charged accordingly upon the whole of his Income, whether arising from Property in Great Britain, or Elsewhere

By the 38th Section of the same Act, It is amongst other things Enacted.

That the assessors shall give Notice to every Householder, to prepare and deliver within Fourteen Days after the Service of such Notice, a List containing the proper Name of every Person, not resident in Great Britain who shall have or be entitled to any Income chargeable by Virtue of the said Act, which shall be in the actual Receipt of such Householder, as Trustee or Agent Receiver &c and shall at the same Time make out, and deliver a Statement in Writing of the Sum, which he proposes should be contributed in the behalf of such Person, for whom such Householder is in the actual Receipt of any Income, as being not less than the just proportion of the annual Income of such Person chargeable by Virtue of the said Act

By the 38th Section of the said Act

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It is provided, and enacted amongst other Things
 That no Bodies Politick or Corporate, Companies
 be shall be chargeable in respect of any Income which
 according to the Rules of such Corporation, Companies &
 shall be applicable to the Payments of any annual
 Dividends or Interest to arise and become payable
 to any Individual Members of such Corporations
 or Public Companies, or to any other Person having
 any Share in any Capital Stock or other Property
 belonging to such Corporations or Public Companies,
 nor in Respect of which any Dividend or Interest
 shall according to such Rules become payable,
 provided that such Persons to whom such Dividends
 or Interest shall be payable, shall be Chargeable in
 Respect thereof, according to the Amount thereof, and
 the Rates in the said Act specified, as and when the
 same shall be received by them respectively, other
 than and except Dividends and Interest the
 Property of Persons, not the Subjects of His Majesty
 and not resident in this Kingdom"

By the 10th Section of the said Act
 It is enacted

That any Income arising from
 Property in any of the British Plantations in

America, and Imported into Great Britain from thence
may be stated, ascertained, and assessed to, before and by
the Commercial Commissioners acting for London.

Bristol, Liverpool, and Glasgow, in the same manner
as if such Income had arisen from Trade, or Manufacture
carried on in such Places respectively.

By the 10th Section of the said Act it
is enacted

That any Income received in Great
Britain and arising from Property of any Person or
Persons, in such Plantation as aforesaid, which shall
not have been Imported into Great Britain may be
stated, ascertained, and assessed, in like manner as
aforesaid together with the Income of the same Person or
Persons, arising from such Property which shall have
been Imported as aforesaid, in case any such Income
arising from Property Imported as aforesaid shall be
stated to such Commercial Commissioners in order to
be assessed and Charged under the said Act."

And in the 17th Case in the Schedule annexed
to the said Act, the following Rule is laid down for
estimating Income arising out of Great Britain,

That such Income shall be taken at

The full amount of the actual Annual Assessment received in Great Britain. either estimating such Receipt in the first Year of being Charged or according to the Average of the Three Years preceding at the Election of the Person charged.

The Communal Commissioners for the City of London and its Vicinity request the opinion of His Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor General whether under the foregoing clauses, or upon the general Construction of the said Act

A Person being a Subject of His Majesty residing in the West Indies, or in any of the American Plantations, and who is an habitual Resident there, without any present intention of coming to this Country, is liable to pay the Income Tax on the Proceeds of his Plantations assigned to this Country, and whether; The Agent of such person is compellable to return a Statement of any part of such proceeds, and of what part, as the Income of the Person for whom he acts as Agent?

The latter Question depends on the first, and we think that a Subject of His Majesty, resident in the British Plantations, under the Circumstances stated, in the first Question, is not chargeable with the Tax upon the Income arising from his Plantations, although the produce of such plantations shall be assigned

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consigned to this Country for Sale, and consequently that the
Agent of such Person is not compellable to return a Statement
of such Proceeds, as an Income taxable under the Act. If the
Proceeds should be laid out in the purchase of Stock in the
public Funds, or otherwise placed at Interest in this Country,
the Dividends or Interest arising from such application of
the proceeds, would be an Income arising from Property in
Great Britain, belonging to a Subject of His Majesty,
and taxable as such; and the Agent who should be in
the Receipt of such Dividends or Interest must return
such Income as chargeable with the Tax

(Signed) John Scott
John Mitford
Limehill Inn 18 April 1799.

Resolved, That the Determination of the Commercial
Commissioners of the City of London, consonant to the opinion
of the Attorney, and Solicitor General stating that Persons
resident in the British Plantations are not liable to the
Income Tax, unless their Property admitted to Great Britain
shall have been there laid out, so as to produce an Income, and
the Attorney and Solicitor General having declared that the
Income of such Persons arising from Property in Great
Britain is taxable as such, and that the Agent who is in
Receipt of the Dividend or Interest which constitutes
that Income, must return the same as chargeable with the
Tax, it is necessary to inform the Commercial Commissioners
That Agents for Persons residing in the West Indies being for
the

the most part, Agents, only for particular purposes not acquainted with the whole concerns of those for whom they act, can in any such case only return the Income they may be in Receipt of according to the foregoing Determination, but cannot state whether the whole or any part thereof may be really Nett Income to the Proprietor in the West Indies, or if so what deductions he might under the Act be entitled to make therefrom

Resolved, That Mr Beeston Long be requested to transmit the foregoing Resolution to the Commercial Commissioners.

A Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at the Marine Society's Office April 30th 1799.

- Present
- Beeston Long Esq. in the Chair
- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Mr Bosanquet | Mr Higgin |
| Mr Jackson | Mr W Vaughan |
| Mr Mitchell | Mr Renny |
| Mr Allan | |

The Minutes of the last Meeting, with the Letter from Mr Marsham enclosing Papers from the Commercial Commissioners, and the Resolutions of that Meeting being read

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Letter from Beeston Long
 6th April 1799
 Under the
 Order of the
 Board of
 Commissioners

Resolved, That the Deputations who waited upon the Commercial Commissioners, take such Measures as they may think necessary in the Business.

Mr Beeston Long stated that the Convoy had sailed from Portsmouth the 24 Instant; and it might therefore be necessary to appoint the time of departure of the next Convoy Outwards.

Resolved, That Application be made to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for a Convoy to sail from Portsmouth for the West Indies, with the first fair Wind after the 10th of June waiting 24 Hours for the Ships from the Downs, and that the Convoy have liberty to call at Madairag.

a Letter from Mr Ogle Chairman of the Committee of Wharfingers, communicating a proposed increase Scale of Rent, and Wharfage on produce landed and Hoisted at the Legal Quays, having been read

Resolved, That Mr Ogle's Letter, and the Scale therein contained be referred to a Committee to consider of a Report thereon to the next Meeting.

Resolved, That Mr Beeston Long, Mr Vaughan Mr. Jackson Mr Allan, Mr Turner, Mr George Gilbert and Mr Bosnquet be of the Committee.

Resolved, That James Inglis Esq. be elected Member of the Meetings of West India Merchants.

Letter from Portsmouth
6th November 1799
Mr de la Conroy
of the Admiralty

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Meeting
Papers
Resolution
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At a Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants
to whom was referred the Consideration of the Applications
of Wharfingers for an Increase upon the Rates of
Wharfage and Rent at the Legal Quays, held at the
Marine Society's Office London 3 May 1799.

Present

Dr Weston Long Esq in the Chair.

Mr Henry Jackson

Mr Allan

Mr Bosanquet

A Letter from Mr Oole Chairman of the
Wharfingers enclosing a Scale of increased Rate of
Wharfage and Warehouse Rent being read

Resolved, That the West India Merchants having
so lately as the 9th July 1794 agreed to an increased
charge for Lighterage and Warehouse Rent, this Committee
are of Opinion that the Rates allowed are an adequate
compensation to the Wharfingers for the Damage run in
the Lighters as well as for the increased size of the Casks
in the Warehouses

Resolved, That it appears to this Committee that
the demand of the Wharfingers for additional Wharfage
is an increase of 50 p cent on a large proportion of the
Sugar imported, and of double on all Casks exceeding
14 - and considering the very high Charges at present.

on all Goods imported into the Port of London, this Committee
submit to the Meeting how far the additional Charges should
at present be agreed to.

At a Meeting of the West India
Merchants, held at the Marine Society's Office May
8th 1799

Present

Mr Alderman Herbert in the Chair,

Mr Allan

Mr Nicolai

Mr Turner

Mr Jackson

The Report of the Committee appointed
for the purpose of considering the Wharfingers application of
the 22nd Ult. being read

Resolved, That this Meeting approves of the same
but considering what the Wharfingers have urged respecting
the increased Importation of very heavy Casks and thinking
it reasonable that the Charges of the Port, should bear as
just as possible a proportion to the size and value of the
Packages Imported, is of opinion that, if it would obviate
the Complaints of the Wharfingers on that head, and
induce them to waive their late inadmissible demands,
it might be reasonable to propose that the Wharfage on
Casks of Sugar weighing on delivery 12 and upwards
should in future be one halfpenny $\frac{1}{2}$ on all other
Articles and Packages as at present, and that the Warehouse
Rent in future should be One farthing $\frac{1}{4}$ of Week
on all Casks weighing upwards of 5 on delivery, those

of that Weight, and under remaining at 2^d of Week as
 at present this Proposition the present Meeting consider
 as worthy Consideration but that it should not be
 imparted to the Wharfingers unless confirmed by
 another and fuller General Meeting.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants
 held at the Marine Society's Office May 22. 1799.

Beeston Long Esq^r in the Chair -

Mr. Aislabe

Mr Alderman Hibbert

Mr. Turner

Mr Long

Mr Milligan

Mr Mitchell

Mr. Beeston Long reported that the Lords
 Commissioners of the Admiralty had signified their
 Intentions of appointing a Convey agreeable to the request
 of the 30th April.

Resolved, That the following Gratuities be given
 to the Marine Society
 Twenty Guineas for the Use of the Committee Room
 Three Guineas to Mr Newby Secretary
 Two Guineas to Mr Walker Messenger

An Estimate of the Average Expence of the
 Marine Police Office for one Quarter amounting to
 £875 being laid before the Meeting, and likewise

2^d of Week as
Meeting considered
did not be
returned by

Merchants
22. 1799.

Gibbert

the Lords
asked their
to the request

to be given

Committee Room

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a State of the Expences of the Establishment for the ¹⁷⁹⁵
last Year.

Resolved, That this Meeting being sensible of the
benefit resulting to the West India Trade from the Establish-
ment of the Marine Police Office are of opinion that £2000
should be applied as their proportion of the Expence of that
Institution

That in consideration of the continued Expence
of the Marine Police Office it is expedient to raise under the
denomination of Trade upon the present Year (except being
from 25th March 1799 to 25th March 1800 One Shilling
of Cask of Sugar, Tunchion of Rum, Bag of Cotton, and
1000 lbs Weight of Coffee, and in proportion on all other
Articles of West India Produce, and also Two pence per
upon the Shipping employed in the West India Trade.

Resolved, That the above Resolution be transmitted to Lord Penrhyn

Resolved, That upon full Consideration of the
application from the Wharfingers at the Legal Quay dated
the 22nd Ult and of the Resolution of the Committee appointed
to report upon the same. It appears to this Meeting that the
Demand made by the Wharfingers of an Increase to the Tonnage
of this Port after so recent a regulation and addition thereto
as was made in the Year 1794, and at a time when the Port
is suffering by their excess, is particularly unseasonable and
Impolitic, but at the same time willing to obviate present
and future Complaints as to the increased Size of Casks and
in Confidence that thereby the Wharfingers may be contented
to

to withdraw their present Demands - this Meeting agrees to propose to the Wharfingers - that in future the Rate of Wharfage on Casks of Sugar weighing 12 and upwards should be One Halfpenny ^{per} upon the weight delivered, and on all other Articles and packages as at present and that the Warehouse Rent in future should be One Farthing ^{per} of Week on all Casks weighing upwards of ^{and} Calculated on Delivery; those of that weight and under remaining at Two pence of Week as at present. - and that the Chairman be requested to impart this Resolution to the Chairman of the Wharfingers in reply to his Letter of the 22^d Ult^o.

Mr George Hibbert from the Committee appointed 7th September last, to consider of the Act for preventing the desertion of Seamen from British Ships Reported, That your Committee finding upon enquiry that the Provisions of an Act of the 3^d Geo. 3 c 73 of His present Majesty entitled "an Act for preventing the desertion of Seamen from British Merchant Ships trading to His Majesty's Colonies and Islands in the West Indies" have not been sufficient to control the exactions of the Seamen in the West Indies, who still continue to obtain large Sums of Run Money home, to which they sometimes contrive to add double Wages. The source of the Evil your Committee believe to be out of the reach of the British Legislature, as on a Ship's arrival at any of the Islands, it is the Custom

of

of the crew to desert, leaving the Cargo to be worked out at a great
Expense by hired Negroes, the deserted Seamen are entertained
by the Masters of Grog Shops, and petty Taverns, and are kept
in a continual state of Intoxication, to the destruction of their
Health and Morals, until a Fleet is on the point of sailing
when these Crisnps availing themselves of the necessities of
the different Captains, dispose of the Seamen on exorbitant
Terms at so much of Mans.

That it therefore appears to your Committee that
the Act of the British Parliament must in respect to the Evil be
a dead Letter, unless followed up by wholesome and well adapted
Regulations in the West India Islands, some such a ready quest,
but are not perhaps strictly enforced

Your Committee have subjoined the substance
of what in their Opinion if passed into Law, and diligently
executed in the respective Islands, would tend effectually
to prevent the desertion of Seamen, to preserve their valuable
Lives and Morals, and to promote Economy and dispatch in
the Shipping business

That every Seaman found on Shore
after 9 o'clock at Night, or in the Day time, except it be on the
Ships duty, or found travelling through the Country without a
Ticket from his Captain or from a Magistrate shall be liable to
be taken up, and to be carried before a Magistrate, by whom
(unless he agrees to return with the Ship from which he deserted)
he may be committed to Goal or passed without delay on
board a Man of War the Reward for apprehending every
such Seaman to be £5 - which together with the Fees

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(if incurred) shall be paid by the Captain of the Ship to whom
he be handed over, and by him to be deducted from such Seaman's
Wages or Run Money the Magistrates Certificate to be a
sufficient Voucher for the same

That every Person convicted of harbouring or
concealing a runaway Seaman shall pay a Fine of £10 -
(One half to the Informer) and suffer Three Months
Imprisonment, and if a Publican lose his License

That every Seaman found on Shore
with a false or forged Ticket shall pay a Fine of £10
(One half to the Informer) and at the discretion of the
Magistrate shall suffer Three Months Imprisonment
or be sent without delay on board a Man of War, the
Fine to be deducted by the commander to whom he may
be handed over from his Wages.

That any Person who may be convicted
of forging a Seaman's Ticket, shall if a Publican lose
his License (not to be renewed) suffer 6 Months
Imprisonment, and pay a Fine of £50 - One half
to the Informer

Resolved, That this Meeting agrees in the
Report of its Committee, and that the said Report
be communicated to the Agents of the different West
India Islands requesting that they will by the earliest
convoiances recommend to the respective Legislatures
in the West Indies the adoption of such Regulations
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Laws as have been suggested by this Meeting together
with such other measures as they shall find best
calculated to stop the progress of so enormous an evil

That in the List of Articles imported of
West India Produce, Coffee and Cotton be included

At a Meeting of the West India
Merchants held at the Marine Society's Office June 18th

1799

Present

Samuel Turner Esq in the Chair.

Mr Allan

Mr Adam

Mr Milligan

Mr C. Pisanquet

Mr Aislabie

Mr Wedderburn

A Letter from Mr Edward Cole Chairman
of the Wharfingers of the Local Quays, dated 12th Instant
being read, requesting an Increase of Wharfage and
Warehouse Rent

Resolved,

That the same be referred to the Consideration
of a Meeting, to be especially convened at this Place on
Friday next 21st Instant, at Twelve o'clock precisely.

Resolved, That nearly the whole number of Ships
intended to constitute the Fleet for the West Indies for which
the present Convoy was applied for being still detained in the
River by contrary Wind only - Mr Long be requested to apply
to the Lords of the Admiralty that the sailing of the Convoy
may be delayed until the said Ships shall be able to get
round

179 the foregoing
Thursday 25 June 1799

round to Portsmouth, and that it be requested to allow
the Fleet to remain a Week at Madeira, for the
purpose of delivering the Goods destined to that Island,
and of taking their Wines on board.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants
held at the Marine Society's Office June 25 1799

Present

Breaston Long Esq^r in the Chair

Mr. Adams

Mr. Porsanquet

Mr. Turner

Mr. Breaston Long Reported that he had
received an Answer from Mr. Nepean acquainting him that
the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty had given
Orders relative to the Convoy, in consequence of the
Resolutions of the last Meeting, and likewise Reported
that the Bill for ascertaining the Average price of
Muscovado Sugar would be repealed this Session.

The Committee having taken into
consideration the proposals made by the Wharfingers
for an Increase of Charges. a Deputation from the
Wharfingers attended, and Mr. Ogle explained to the
Committee that the Rate of Rent proposed by the
Committee

at One farthing per T. of Week would be left on baskets of and
10 and under, than the Rate now paid. Mr Ogle having
been asked whether an alteration in the proposal of the Committee
so far as relates to the Rent of baskets under 12 would satisfy
the Wharfingers, ^{Mr Ogle replied} that no lower Rate would be acceded to
by the Wharfingers and Proprietors of Warehouses on the
Legal Quay, than that proposed by them.

Resolved, That a special Meeting be called for
Friday next, finally to determine on the demands of the
Wharfingers

Mr Preston Long read some Letters from Mr.
Colquhoun relative to the Marine Police Office

Resolved, That Mr Colquhoun be requested
to attend the Meeting on Friday next at this Office to
consider of the Establishment for the ensuing Year
calculated for the protection of the West India Trade.

A Meeting of the West India Merchants
held at the Marine Society's Office June 28th 1799

Present

Mr Preston Long Esq. in the Chair	Mr Plummer
Mr J W Adams	Mr Manning
Mr Wedderburn	Mr Harrison
Mr Bosanquet	Mr Allan
Mr Turner	Mr Aslabie
Mr Graham	

The Minutes of the last Meeting

were read and confirmed

The chief part of the Ships intended to take the benefit of the Convoy destined for the West Indies having now got round either to the Downs or Portsmouth

Resolved, That Application be made to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty requesting that the Convoy now at Portsmouth may be ordered to sail with the first fair Wind after the 30th Instant waiting 24 Hours for the Ships from the Downs, and that the Chairman be requested to inform Mr. Nepean in answer to his Letter of the 25th Instant that the Merchants of London, have not occasion for a Convoy from Cork at this Season of the Year.

It having been stated by the Wharfingers since the last Meeting of this Committee that they sustain a great Loss both in Wharfage and Ware house Rent by the increased Size of the Casks of late Years which induces them to be extremely urgent for the proposed Increase.

Resolved, That an Offer be made to the Wharfingers of the following Rates to be paid in future on Sugar landed at the Legal Quays.

For Wharfage one Shilling per Ton on Casks of all description

For Rent Insurance of Ton of Weeks on the Delivery
Weight

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At a Meeting of the COMMITTEE of WEST-INDIA MERCHANTS,
held at the Marine-Society's Office, in Bishopsgate-Street,
on Friday, the 28th June, 1799,

MR. COLQUHOUN, superintending Magistrate of the MARINE POLICE-OFFICE, laid before
the Meeting a Report, containing specific Details relative to the Organization, Management,
and Effect, of the MARINE POLICE-INSTITUTION during the last Twelve Months; together
with various other Documents, explanatory of the System which has been pursued for the Protection
of West-India Property against the excessive Plunder and Depredations which formerly prevailed;
and the Committee, being anxiously solicitous that the Benefits, which were derived wherever Ships
and Lighters were placed immediately under the Charge of the Institution, should hereafter be
extended generally to the Whole of the West-India Trade,

RESOLVED,

That, with a View to remove those Prejudices and Misconceptions, which have hitherto tended
to impede the full Efficacy of the Design, the following Statement, accompanied by Propo-
sitions for the Delivery of Ships' Cargoes by the MARINE POLICE-OFFICE, be printed
and sent to the Merchants and Ship-Owners trading from the West Indies to the Port
of London.

The MARINE POLICE-OFFICE, established in June, 1798, has a twofold Object: To procure a
speedy and regular Discharge of West-India Ships by registered and approved Lumpers, under the
Control of the Office; and to protect the Property in every Stage of the Discharge, from the
Moment the Ship arrives at her Moorings to the final Delivery of the Goods at the King's Beam,
by Means of a Civil Force attached to the Police-Department.

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were read and confirmed

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It having been stated by the Wharfingers since the last Meeting of this Committee that they sustain a great Loss both in Wharfage and Warehouse Rent by the increased Size of the Casks of late Years which induces them to be extremely urgent for the proposed Increase.

Resolved, That an Offer be made to the Wharfingers of the following Rates to be paid in future on Sugar landed at the Legal Quays.
For Wharfage one Shilling & Sixpence on Casks of all description.

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*In Short Suspence of Ten Weeks on the Delivery
Weight.*

At a Meeting of the COMMITTEE of WEST-INDIA MERCHANTS,
held at the Marine-Society's Office, in Bishopsgate-Street,
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The MARINE POLICE-OFFICE, established in June, 1798, has a twofold Object: To procure a speedy and regular Discharge of West-India Ships by registered and approved Lumpers, under the Control of the Office; and to protect the Property in every Stage of the Discharge, from the Moment the Ship arrives at her Moorings to the final Delivery of the Goods at the King's Beam, by Means of a Civil Force attached to the Police-Department.

The Efficacy of the System adopted for the Attainment of these Ends being universally admitted, it is unnecessary to enlarge upon it: — To the Expense only attending its Execution Objections have been started; — and on this Score much Misconception and unjust Prejudice have prevailed. — The Amount of the Rates, as settled last Year by the West-India Committee, has, in some Instances, been complained of as an exorbitant Charge for Lumping; and, in others, as a still more unreasonable Remuneration for Protection from Plunder: But it should be recollected, that both these Services are included in the Charge, and it is presumed are effected without any increased Expense to the Ship-Owner; who, on the contrary, derives Protection for his Ship, her Tackle, and Stores, from the River and Quay Guards, to which Expense he contributes Nothing.

The Lumping-Rates have been ultimately settled on the lowest Terms for which honest Labour can be procured for daily Wages. A Ship-Owner could not therefore obtain it at a cheaper Rate, unless in Cases where an adequate Indemnification for the Abatement can be obtained by the Plunderage of the Cargo. — The Remainder of the Expense incurred for Ship-Constables cannot be deemed an additional Burden, since those furnished by the Office are only efficient Substitutes for very inefficient Watchmen, who were, or ought to have been, employed, according to the established Usage of the Port, and at nearly the same Rate of Wages.*

On the Subject of Plunder, it seems unnecessary to bring forward the Evidence, heretofore adduced, to prove the Extent and Magnitude of the Evil; it is sufficient for the present Purpose to repeat, that, in many Instances, the Master-Lumpers were deeply implicated in the Crime, by pocketing the Sums for which they contracted to lump out, and allowing their Men to remunerate themselves by Plunder. The Committee, therefore, does not consider it possible to make a fair Comparison of the Expense of working out a Ship, under the former and present Systems, by a simple Reference

* In this View of the Case, it must be admitted, that neither the Expense of Lumping nor Ship-Constables can be considered as any new Charge; and ought not to be blended with the actual Expenss of the Police-System; since Lumpers and Watchmen must be paid for, whether there be a Police or not.

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At a Meeting of the West India Merchants held
at the Marine Society's Office July 4. 1799

Beeston Long Esq^r in the Chair

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| Mr Proddington | Mr Rucker |
| Mr Manning | Mr Gowland |
| Mr Francis Paring Esq ^r | Mr Auslabie |
| Mr Jackson | |

The Minutes of the former
Meeting were read, and confirmed

A Letter from Mr Dawson on
behalf of the Wharfingers of the Legal Quay being read

Resolved, That, that Subject having been fully
considered at the last Meeting, this Committee must
adhere to the Proposal then made for extra Wharfage
and Rent, which considerably exceed the former Charges

A Letter from the Duke of Portland
being read, and it appearing on a Conference with
His Grace that Produce had been shipped from S.
Christophers, and Antigua in American Ships in
consequence of the deficiency of British Vessels and
that the American Ships were at Liberty to proceed to
any Port they thought fit

Resolved, That it appears to this Committee
that

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permitted Neutral Ships to carry the Produce of the West
India Islands, to any other Port or Place except in Great
Britain, further than is at present allowed by Law would
prove highly Injurious to the Interest of the West India
Merchants, and ought to be resisted.

That the British Shipping engaged
in bringing the Produce of the Islands to this Country
has been found in general sufficient for the purpose.

That Instances are very rare when
Produce has remained in the Islands; after the departure
of the Ships of the Season. In such cases however the British
Merchants have been enabled to dispatch an additional
Quantity of Tonnage at an early Period in the ensuing
Season to bring Home the Surplus Produce of the last

That the above Resolution be transmitted
to His Grace the Duke of Portland

Resolved, That Mr Beeston Long and Mr
Manning be requested to procure a Copy of the Ship
Letter Bill, and the West India Importation Bill
lately introduced into the House of Commons, and that
they be requested to take such Measures on the subject of it
as they may think expedient.

Resolved, That Richard Sharp Esq be elected
Member of the Meeting of West India Merchants.

A Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at
the Marine Society's Office July 9. 1799.

Present

William Manning Esq. M.P. in the Chair

Mr Adam

Mr Doddington

Mr Bosanquet

Mr Jackson

Mr Vaughan

Mr Allan

Mr Aislacie

Mr Lyons

The Minutes of the last Meeting
were read, and Confirmed

Mr Manning laid before this Meeting
Copies of the Letter carrying Bill, and West India
Importation Bill; which had been transmitted to
Mr Preston Long, by Mr Rose

A Conference having been held with the
Wharfingers on the Subject of Warehouse Rent

That it appears expedient to this
Committee to accede to the demand of the
Wharfingers for Rent on Sugar at Sevenpence
per Ton, per Week.

A Communication having been received from
a deputation of Wharfingers respecting the demand
of the Lightermen

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Resolved, That it is contrary to precedent, in this
Committee to enter into any Negotiation with the Lightermen
and that they consider it as the peculiar province of the
Wharfingers to make such arrangements as are necessary
on this subject. but this Committee are willing to increase
the Charge paid to the Wharfingers for Lighterage
to any Rate not exceeding Two Shillings & Ten on
Sugar, and a proportionate Increase on other Articles
of West India Produce for the present Year.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants
held at the Marine Society's Office July 26. 1799

Present

Sir Richard Weaver Bart. in the Chair

Mr Davidson

Mr Alderman Hibbert

Mr Mitchell

Mr Milligan

Mr Bosanquet

Mr J Neave

Mr Turner

Mr Wedderburn

Mr Plummer

Mr Roddington

The Minutes of the last Meeting
were read and confirmed

A Petition from the Gangmen of the
Legal Quays being read

Resolved, That the Gangmen be informed that
this Meeting has determined to ask a conference with
the

Chairman of the Wharfingers at the Legal Quays with a view to adjust with him the Rates of Landing, Hoisting and Weighing should any Alteration therein appear to be necessary as well as all other Rates yet unsettled at the Legal Quays.

Resolved, That with a view to the adjustment of the Rates abovementioned as well as the still existing extra demands for Lighterage, and that it may be known what prospect the Merchants have of Accommodation for the Produce recently arrived from Jamaica Mr. Ogle the Chairman of the Committee of Wharfingers at the Legal Quays be requested to confer with this Meeting at the Marine Society's Office on Tuesday next at 12 o'clock precisely.

Mr. Beeston Loring having reported that he had learnt at the Admiralty that the Outward Bound West India Fleet is detained by order of Government.

Resolved, That the Chairman be requested to represent to the Lords of the Admiralty the very great Inconvenience to the Ships Outward bound and to the Islands where they have been long and anxiously expected arising from the long delay they have already experienced by contrary Winds, and earnestly to request

that they may be permitted to depart as soon as their Lordships shall judge that it may be done with a due regard to their Safety.

A Letter from Mr Colouhour respecting the Sweepings and Scrapings in West India Ships being read

Resolved, That it appears to this Meeting that its Interference in respect to Sweepings and Scrapings would in many Cases be wholly nugatory, but upon the whole might establish a dangerous precedent and that any Income which might possibly be thence derived could not with propriety be applied otherwise than to the use of the Mercantile Fund raised for the general purposes of the West India Trade

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants held at the Marine Society's Office London 30 July 1799.

Deiston Long Esq^r in the Chair

Mr Adam

Mr Plummer

Mr Graham

Mr Porsanquet

Mr Wedderburn

Mr S. Turner

Mr Doddington

Mr Alderman Gilbert

Mr Long

Mr Ogle Chairman of the Wharfingers of the Legal Quay attended, and upon a Conference with him It was Resolved,

That this Meeting having at the

the time when the additional Rates for Lighterage and Warehouse Rent were ascertained to and settled with the Wharfingers at the Legal Quays understood that the other Charges on West India Produce at the Legal Quays were to continue as before, or that the Wharfingers themselves would ^{state} the grounds upon which any alteration therein become necessary is of opinion that it is incumbent upon the Wharfingers to undertake the discharge of West India Ships at a Lighterage of Two Shillings & Ten for Sugar, and additional Rates of Lighterage on other Goods as have been proposed by those Wharfingers who possess Lighters, and it being the determination of this Meeting to treat with the Wharfingers alone concerning the Rates of business to be done under their Control and at their Risk, any advances upon the Gangmen's Rates, if necessary, must be settled with them.

A Meeting of the West India Merchants held at Beeston Long Quay Bishopsgate Street London 9th August 1799. Present

Beeston Long Quay in the Chair

Mr Harrison

Mr C. Borsariquet

Two Letters from Mr Ogle

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Gentlemen

Resolution

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single Chairman of the Wharfingers being read, of which
the following are copies.

Ralphs Quay
August 1. 1799

Gentlemen; I have had the Honor of laying your
Resolution of the 30th Ult. before a Meeting of the Wharfingers
of the Legal Quay; and I am desired in reply thereto, to
request the favor of you to cause the proceedings that took
place between you and them at the periods when the Rates
for Wharfage on Sugar was fixed at One Shilling per Ton,
and for the light Goods as specified in my Letter on the subject
under date the 22nd of April last, and for Warehouse Rent,
Seven pence per Ton per Week, when it will be clearly seen
that it was not in the contemplation of the Committee to
subject the Wharfingers to any extra Charge whatever,
either for Lighterage, or for Labor in the Gangmen's department
in fact it was not in the nature of the Business possible, because
the increase demanded by these Parties exceeded considerably
what the Wharfingers agreed to accept in duties for Wharfage,
and Warehouse Rent; I have stated this merely with a
view to elucidate that fact.

The Wharfingers have therefore with due
deference

Resolved, That they will not in future pay any
higher Rate for Lighterage than is allowed them
to charge by the Committee of West India Merchants,
it not appearing to them to be either just, or reasonable.

reasonable that they should, more particularly when individual Merchants are at this Moment entering into Contracts with various Lightermen to pay them the advances demanded.

The Wharfingers earnestly request your immediate answer, which will of course govern their proceedings in respect to the Lightermen, who collectively and individually refuse to work under Two Shillings and Sixpence per Ton, for Sugar, and for Light Goods agreeably to your Resolution of the 30th Ult.

Conformably to your desire the Wharfingers at their Meeting, took into consideration the request made by the Gangmen, for a rise of their Rates, for landing and loading, or Hoisting and Weighing West India Produce, and they desire me to submit to your Consideration and for your Approbation the following Rates as in their Opinion under all the existing circumstances just and reasonable viz

	Casks	Landing	Loading	Weighing	Total
Under 8		3	3	4	10 ^s
8 to 14		6	6	6	18 ^s
14 and upwards		7	7	7	21 ^s

Per Lot or Board of Sugar 2^s

No rise whatever to take place on the light Goods.

I have the Honor to be

To the Committee of Merchants with the greatest Respect
Your most Obedt^l
Humble Serv^t

Edu^d Gale
Chairman of the Wharfingers

Sir

I have had applications from several of the Jamaica Merchants, requesting that I would intreat the Committee of West India Merchants, to take their case into their consideration to day, and to determine thereon, by granting them that relief they have solicited, and which has been recommended by the Attorneys, at the Legal Days, as in their Opinion, just and reasonable.

With respect to the demand of the Lightermen since I had the honor of addressing you upon the subject, I find that most of the West India Merchants (having ships consigned to them) have agreed to pay 2/6 per Ton, for Sugar, and 3 Light Goods, as settled by your Resolution of the 30th July, indeed it so very general that it does not appear to me that any good purpose will be answered by the Committee leaving the matter longer in dispute. I trust therefore that the Committee will have the goodness to determine finally thereon to day, and favor me with their Resolution in order that the Business of the Port of London may not be any longer interrupted.

"With the greatest Respect"

Ralphs Quay
Friday 9th August 1799.

I have the Honor to be
Your most obedient Servant
Edw^d. Ogle Chairman

Resolved, That this Committee consider the demand of the Lightermen of Two Shillings and Six pence per Ton, for Lighterage of Sugar, as unreasonable and exorbitant, and they

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they cannot therefore sanction any farther charge than their former offer of Two Shillings per Ton for Sugar, which, even in the opinion of the Wharfingers themselves, was thought an adequate compensation.

This Committee will therefore consider it as a Matter of Compulsion if Individuals are obliged to submit to any charge beyond Two Shillings per Ton and must beg leave to decline entering into any further discussion on the Subject.

This Committee expect that no unnecessary Delay will take place in the delivery of the Ships lately arrived from the West Indies, particularly as they have recently submitted to a great increase in the Rates of Wharfage, and Warehouse Rent.

Resolved, That this Committee are willing for the present, to accede to the following Terms for Landing, Hoisting, and Weighing Sugar, but they can by no means assent to any new Charge for Lashing of Sugars.

Casks of Sugar	Landing	Hoisting	Weighing	Total
Under 8	3	3	4	10 ¹⁰
8 to 14	6	6	6	18
14 and upwards	7	7	7	21

Resolved, That the foregoing Resolutions be transmitted to Mr Ogle, Chairman of the Wharfingers.

15. The above Resolutions were printed, and generally circulated, also subjoin'd Resolutions 128 for the 1799 allowing for Lashing of Sugars, 6^d per Ton, 9^d July. F. Petit Serjeant's Opinion that the above Rates allowed from 24th of June 1799.

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A General Meeting of the West India Merchants, held
at the Marine Society's Office London 12 September 1799.

Present

Beeston Long Esq^r in the Chair

Mr Plummer

Mr Simpson

Mr Boddington

Mr Sharp

Mr Turner

Mr Jackson

Mr Hildman

Mr Higgins

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read
and Confirmed.

Mr Beeston Long reported that at the
Request of the West India Merchants, His Grace the Duke
of Portland had given directions to detain the Packet
for Barbados & Jamaica till the arrival of next Wednesday
the Instant Mail at Falmouth.

An application from several Owners and
Commanders of Ships in the Jamaica and Leeward Island
Trade, soliciting an Increase of £25 p^{ct} on the present
Rate of Freight Outwards being Read.

That the Consideration of the
Application be deferred until Wednesday next, and then
to fix the time that Application should be made to the
Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for sailing of the
next Convoy Outwards

A Meeting of the West India Merchants
held at the Marine Society's Office London
18 September 1799.

Present

George Drake Esq^r in the Chair.

Mr Adam

Mr Penny

Mr Vaughan

Mr Harrison

Mr Allan

Mr Turner

Mr Doddington

Mr Milligan

Mr Sharp

Mr Bosanquet

Mr Lushington

Mr Alderman Gilbert

Mr Blackman

Mr Manning

Mr Jackson

The Minutes of the last Meeting were
read and confirmed

Resolved, That a similar application to that made
on the 27th November 1798 to the Lords of the Council
for Trade praying that an additional quantity of
Corn may be ordered for Exportation for the West
Indies in the two Months next ensuing be now made
by the Chairman in consequence of the whole of the
Order already granted by their Lordships having been
taken up, and to the Exclusion of many West India
Merchants

The additional quantity requested

is as follows

25/

Barley	500 Quarters	Rye	20 Quarters
Beans	3,000 ditto	Wheat	50 ditto
Oats	4,000 ditto	Wheat Flour	100 Tons
Oatmeal	Tons 50	Biscuit	20 dt.
Peas	500 Quarters	Groats	4 dt.

A Petition from the Owners and Captains of Ships trading from the Port of London to the Sugar Colonies soliciting an Increase of Freight Outwards being read.

Resolved, That in consideration of the increased Price of Ships, and of every Article for their Outfit and in order to induce Ships to fit out for the West Indies the Application for an Increase of Twenty five pounds per Cent on the Freight Outwards to the West Indies be complied with excepting for the Article of Wood Hoop's.

Resolved, That Application be made to the Lords of the Admiralty requesting that a Convoy may be appointed for the Ships for the West Indies to depart on the first fair Wind after the 27th October from Portsmouth waiting 24 Hours for the Ships from the Downs, and that provision be made for granting One Convoy to depart in like manner in each of the Four succeeding Months the particular times of which departures as most convenient for the Trades will be imparted to their Lordships by this Committee that

that it is particularly expedient that provision be made for conveying the Trade bound for Jamaica directly to that Island without detention at the Leeward Islands, and that the Ships for Tobago should be conveyed to that Island by the same which may be provided for conveying the Trade to Demerara

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed for the purpose of enquiring into the Causes of the present Stagnation of a Foreign Demand for the Articles of Sugar and Coffee (and particularly to investigate how far it can be proved that Sugar and Coffee the Produce of the British Colonies is in any Instance conveyed to Foreign Markets without passing through Great Britain or Ireland, and that the said Committee do report to a General Meeting to be summoned for Tuesday the 24th Instant at One o'Clock

That the said Committee consist of the

following Gentlemen

Thomas Heave Esq^r
 Sir Francis Baring Bart^r
 Sir Richard Rogers Bart^r
 William Washington Esq^r

William Massey Esq^r

Daniel Henry Tucker Esq^r

Breaston Loring Esq^r

Robert Milligan Esq^r

George Herbert Esq^r to meet at

Mr. Massey's Office on Friday next at 12 o'Clock

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Resolved, That Nathaniel Bogle French Esq.
be admitted to this Committee, proposed by Mr Manning
seconded by Mr Boddington

At a Meeting of the Committee of West India
Merchants, held at Mr Alderman Hibberts, Mining
Lane London 20 September 1799

Present
Mr Alderman Hibbert
Mr D. H. Ruckers
Mr W. Vaughan
Mr Lushington
Mr Milligan
Mr Thomas Neave

Several papers being read, respecting
the Causes of the present Stagnation of Sale of West
India produce, and the farther Consideration of the
same, deferred until Monday next 23rd Instant
at 12 o'clock.

At a Meeting of the Committee of West India
Merchants, held at Mr Alderman Hibberts, London 23 September
1799.

Present
Mr Alderman Hibbert
William Vaughan Esq.
Robert Milligan Esq.
Hughan Esq.
Daniel Henry Ruckers Esq.
William Lushington Esq.
Maitland Esq.

Read the Draft of a Memorial, to the
Chancellor of the Exchequer, relating to the Causes of the
present

present stagnation of Sale of West India Goods
 which after being fully considered, It was Resolved
 that the same be laid before a Meeting of West
 India Merchants, Tomorrow [Tuesday] at One
 O'Clock precisely.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants
 held at the Marine Society's Office September 24. 1799

Present

William Lushington Esq^r in the Chair

Mr Vaughan

Mr Mitchell

Mr J. Neave

Mr D Lyons

Mr Turner

Mr Simpson

Mr Oliver

Mr Beddington

Mr Inglis

Mr Jackson

Mr Keighley

Mr D Edwards

Mr Williams

Mr Hughan

Mr Otley

Mr Harden

Mr Willigan

Mr Penny

Mr Graham

Mr Davidson

Mr Hedderburn

Mr Feggin

Mr Allan

Mr Sharp

Mr Manning

Mr Deffell

Mr Gordon

Sir William Young Bart

Mr Baillie

Mr Townsend

The Minutes of the last Meeting
 were read and Confirmed

Resolved
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Merchants
24. 1799

Chair

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Mr George Herbert from the Committee appointed
on the 15th Instant for the purpose of enquiring into the Causes of
the present Stagnation of the Foreign Demand for Sugar and
Coffee and particularly of Investigating how far it can be proved
that Sugar and Coffee, the produce of the British Colonies, is
in any Instance conveyed to Foreign Markets without passing
through Great Britain or Ireland" Reported

That Your Committee in conformity to its
Instructions, and so far as the time limited would allow, has
proceeded to enquire into the Causes of the present Stagnation of
the Foreign Demand for Sugar and Coffee and also to obtain
Information as to the fact of the Conveyance of these Articles
the produce of the British Plantations, to Foreign Markets
by other means than thro' Great Britain or Ireland.

That the Causes of the present stagnation
of demand may be either such as have affected the production
and Consumption of Sugar and Coffee generally, or they may
be of a more partial nature and particularly apply to the
Customary supply of the Foreign Markets from the Ports of
Great Britain

That altho' the Importation of the present Year
from the British Sugar Colonies cannot be thus early ascertained,
and still less the real Produce of the respective West India
Colonies British and Foreign, there is good reason to conclude
that the Crop of Sugar has generally been much greater than
the Average of late Years, and that, although the Coffee Crop
has not been equally favourable, yet that the increasing
Cultivation of that Article in many parts of the West Indies
may

did not reach its destination till the Months of April and May last, That those Markets became consequently suddenly overstocked and a fall of price ensued so rapid and Considerable as to have conduced greatly to the failure of several Mercantile Houses, Adventurers in West India Produce and thus to affect that prevailing confidence on which extension of Trade principally depends

It may be added that the late high prices of the Articles in question have tended to diminish their consumption both at Sea and abroad, and if this be admitted it is to be lamented that the late addition to the Duty on Home Consumption and Reduction of Drawback only put are either immediately or more remotely Burthens which the Producer, and not the Consumer is destined to bear.

That Your Committee, duly considering these Circumstances, affecting generally the Production and Consumption of Sugar and Coffee will allow them sufficient to account for a temporary dullness and tardiness in the demand for those Articles at the British Markets, but cannot to them alone impute that great fall of price and total Stagnation of demand which at present occasion the most serious alarms to British Merchant Importers, loaded with an Advance of Duty and Charges to an immense Amount upon Merchandise for which, even at the present reduced prices, they have no prospect of Sale.

That Your Committee therefore, proceeding to Investigate those particular Circumstances which at this time Interfere with the British Exporter at Foreign Markets

Markets, has seen without surprise that the great advantage of that Influx of Money which in Return for the Produce of the West Indies Great Britain, at a period not far back almost exclusively possessed, have not been overlooked by other Nations, now enabled, necessarily, to rival us in consequence of a heavy duty retained here upon that Produce which they can convey without any such Burthen probably at a Slighter Charge in other Respects, directly to the Foreign Market. Accordingly at the Port of Hambro only, from the 8th March to the 10th September Instant have arrived, laden chiefly with Sugar and Coffee

146 Ships from America

3 ——— from the Havannah

7 from the East Indies, chiefly laden with Sugar

18 from the Neutral West Indies

56 from Lisbon and Oporto

230 Ships in all

whilst in the same Period from all the British Ports no more than 211 Ships have arrived of a smaller average Burthen, and not entirely laden with West India Produce, but having on board considerable quantities of Woollens, Hardware, &c. Bremen and Embden have in the same Period received similar Foreign Supplies

That the Extent to which America now carries her Traffic in West India Produce will further appear by reference to such authentic Accounts as can be obtained of her own Imports and Exports. So early as in the Year ending

ending 30 September 1797 the Import of Sugar into the ²⁰⁵
United States was 50, 102, 2 1/2 Tons equal to 35 817 Hhd's
of 14 cask each, and the the particulars are not before us
we know that the Import both of Sugar and Coffee in the
subsequent Year has been progressive In the Year ending
30 September 1798 she had exported of Sugar only about
33,000 Hhd's of 14 cask each, nearly equal to her whole
Import of the preceding Year, and exclusive of the considerable
Quantity she must have Imported and Consumed at Home.

That Your Committee regards this Traffic
with the more alarm, since its enquiries have led to a
conviction that from several of the British West India
Islands, and more particularly from Jamaica the Export of
Sugar and Coffee to the United States, and through that
medium to Foreign European Ports is considerable and has
of late Years been rapidly progressive, Stimulated no doubt
by the Repeated Reductions of the Drawback and Bounty on
what is exported from Great Britain. That Your Committee has
learned that pains have been taken in the Island of Jamaica
accurately to ascertain the fact and that exclusively of the
encouragement held out by our Reduction of Drawbacks
it has been proved that Sugar and Coffee might be shipped
to the United States, there transhipped and cleared out for
Britain or for Hambro, touch at a British Port and after
learning the state of Markets afterwards proceed to Hambro
and be there landed at the same charge as if shipped directly
from Jamaica to be landed at a British Port. The Circumstances
which Your Committee has been able to collect relative to the
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Progress of this Trade are such as may reasonably alarm not only the British West India Merchant but every One Interested in the financial and Commercial Prosperity of the British Empire

That Your Committee cannot forbear to remark that the growing Resort of American and other Shipping, loaded with West India Produce, to the Ports of Hambro, Bremen &c. is injurious to the British Trade in that Produce not only as it directly supplants a demand from hence but as it encourages the foreign Consumers to depend upon other Sources (known to possess considerable advantages over the British) for that certain and regular supply which they have formerly been glad providentially to secure at the British Ports, looking to no other Channels.

That Your Committee impressed with a conviction that Great Britain, far from exclusively possessing the Supply of Foreign Markets with Sugar and Coffee has already lost the preeminence she formerly enjoyed over her Rivals at those Markets, and is suffering an annual diminution of her own Colonies Trade; regards the least retention of Duty upon those Articles when re-exported from hence, as highly Impolitic and prejudicial to the great Commercial Interests of the Kingdom as destructive of that Intercourse by which Great Britain obtains large Returns of Money from Foreigners in exchange for the Produce of her Labour and

and her best gratuitous and as partial from Attachment part of their Merchants Security.

Premises do of the present proportion of a Steady and Resolved Un

Confirmed Resolved,

The Chairman Request that with a Deput

Instant page Purpose, and upon the Min persisting to from Great Br

and her Soil, as detrimental to her Navigation, and a
gratuitous encouragement to that of her Rivals in Commerce,
and as particularly Injurious to those British Colonies who
from Attachment to the Mother Country seek to divert the
part of their Produce from her Ports, and to British
Merchants who have advanced Capital on West India
Security. That Your Committee is upon all these
Premises decidedly of opinion that from the abandonment
of the present System, and from a Return to the old
proportion of the Drawback and Bounties with the Duty
a Steady and permanent Revival of the Foreign Demand
for Sugar and Coffee can alone be expected.

Resolved Unanimously,

That the Report now read, be
Confirmed

Resolved, That a Copy thereof be transmitted by
the Chairman to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a
Request that He will be pleased to grant an early Conference
with a Deputation of this Meeting on the subject thereof,

That the Committee already named (18th
Instant, page 258) be appointed a Deputation for that
Purpose, and that they be Instructed earnestly to impress
upon the Minister the Impolicy and Danger of longer
persisting to retain upon the Exportation of Sugar and Coffee
from Great Britain any part of the Duty levied upon those
Articles

Articles for Internal Consumption, and that they also be instructed to represent fully and faithfully the present depressed State of the Market for all sorts of Produce the heavy Burthen of the Duty and other Charges on Sugar whilst there is no prospect of Sale, and to urge the necessity of some Relief to the Merchants Importers by the Temporary adoption of the Bonding System, or by such other means as the Case will admit of.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants held at the Marine Society's Office London 2 October 1799

Present

Mr Alderman Hilbert in the Chair

Mr Sumner Mr Wedderburn

Mr Hilbert Mr Lang

Mr D'Yvon Mr Milligan

Mr St Ruster Mr Renny

Mr Bosanquet Mr Simpson

Mr Hankley Mr Jackson

Mr Allan Mr Manning

Mr W. Vaughan Mr Drake

Mr Sharp Mr Thwaites

Mr Edwards Mr Stewart

Mr Simpson Mr Lushington

Mr Cuthbert Mr Boddington

Mr Wilder Mr Blackman

Mr Wheeler

Mr Turner
Mr Higgin
Mr Galloway

Mr Wildman
Mr Davidson

Mr George Hibbert Reported that the Sub-Committee appointed the 18th Instant, had waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the 28th Ultimo, and had seen him again the 30th Ult^o. that they had by every Argument in their Power urged the Restoration of the Drawback, and Bounty on Sugar, to their old Proportion with the Duty, but that the Chancellor of the Exchequer declared himself not as yet convinced of the necessity of such Alteration, as a permanent Measure. He had finally however so far yielded to the Arguments of the Committee as to express his intention of moving a provisional Restoration of the Drawback, and Bounty to the footing on which they stood before any reduction thereof was made with a view to Revenue, to take place in case the Average price of Sugar ascertained by some certain means should fall to, or below a certain price, He also at the request of the Committee promised to consider of some Relief to the Sugar Market by encouraging the Consumpt of Molasses in the Distilleries

In respect to a temporary adoption of the Bonding System, he thought it could not actually take place, from the want of Warehouses fitted for the purpose, but presuming that the Amount of Duties already collected on the Article of Sugar might nearly equal the Sum at which

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which they were estimated in the Revenue Statements
 of the Year - He was then willing to allow that Bonds
 might be given payable in Six Months for such Entries
 as remain yet to be paid on the Importation of Sugar,
 and he promised to take measures for speedily ascer-
 taining the previous point, and when satisfied on that
 Head for carrying into effect such Indulgence upon
 the Sugar Duties.

That the Sub-committee had intimated to the Chancellor of the
 Exchequer their Intention of applying to the Bank of England to endeavour
 to see that for any further Accommodation which the West India Merchants might under the Pressure of
 the present Circumstances require, and that to apply to him for any further Relief unless the Application to the
 Bank of England should be successful.

Resolved, That a Committee consisting of Messrs
 Lushington, Boddington, Hibbert and Milligan be
 appointed to wait upon the Governor of the Bank of
 England in order to confer on the best means of obtaining
 for the West India Merchants of London a temporary
 Accommodation, proportionate to the Property which these
 Merchants are in possession of, and which from unprosperous
 Circumstances cannot at present find a Market, and
 with Powers to arrange with the Bank the extent
 and conditions of such Accommodation.

Adjourned, until Tomorrow / Thursday
 at 2 o'clock, at this place.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants Association
Hannu Society's Office London 3 October 1816 an extraordinary

Present

William Lushington Esq. in the Chair.

Mr Alderman Hibbert

Mr Davidson

Mr Hankey

Mr B Edwards

Mr Oliver

Mr Milligan

Mr Simpson

Mr Hummer

Mr Lang

Mr Thwaites

Mr Blackman

Mr Goulard

Mr H Vaughan

Mr Taylor

Mr Penny

Mr Jackson

Mr Higgin

Mr Deffell

Mr J H Rucker

Mr Lyons

Mr D Lyons

Mr Meddorsburn

Mr Webster

Mr Boddington

Mr Stewart

Mr Bosanquet

Mr Turner

Mr Sharp.

Mr Manning

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read

Mr George Hibbert Reported that the Deputation appointed by this Meeting had waited upon the Governor of the Bank of England, and had been favoured with a Conference with him, and several of the Directors, and after stating to them the Necessity there was for extending to the West India Merchants a temporary Accommodation, and after conversing concerning the mode and extent - the Deputation were desired to submit their

their Sentiments in writing which they did in a paper
of which the following is a Copy.

That the Committee of West India
Merchants select from their Body a Sub-Committee
consisting of Sir Richard Neave Bart. So

Deaton Long Esq.
William Manning Esq.
Charles Bosanquet Esq.
William Vaughan Esq.
Nathaniel Doole French Esq.
Henry Davidson Esq.
Samuel Roddington Esq.
David Lyon Esq.
Grant Allan Esq.
David Medderburn Esq.
Samuel Turner Esq.
Thomas Plummer Esq.

the most eminent Merchants
for the purpose of receiving from the respective Houses in
that Trade an Account of their Stock of Produce on Hand,
verified by the Certificates of Wharfingers, Coopers, and
Others in whose Custody the said Produce is deposited and
accompanied with such Vouchers as may shew that the
said Produce is bona fide in Possession of such Houses and
ascertaining whether all or what part thereof has paid the
Duties on Importation.

That to such West India Houses, as in
consequence

consequence of the present, and still apprehended stagnation²⁷³
in the demand for West India Produce shall require an extraordinary
temporary Aid from the Bank of England the said Committee
after due Investigation shall give respectively a Certificate
addressed to the Governor of the Bank of England to the following
Effect.

Sir,

Messrs _____ being in consequence of the
present Stagnation in the demand for West India Produce
in want of a temporary Accommodation from the Bank of
England. We hereby certify that from Vouchers this day
produced to us it appears that Messrs _____ have now
Produce in their Possession unsold, which agreeably to the
Rates of Valuation arranged with the Bank of England
may entitle them to the Accommodation they at present request
amounting in the whole to £ _____ upon their producing
to the Governor, ^{Deputy Governor and Directors} of the Bank of England adequate Securities
to that Amount

To be signed by _____
or more of the said Committee, by Order of the Committee

That the Rates at which the said Committee
shall in granting the said certificates value Produce on Hand
shall not exceed £30 per Ton, on Sugar, and £75 per Ton on Coffee
nett Weight at the Kings Beam such Sugar and Coffee having
already paid the Customs on Importation, or in Cases where the said
Customs have not been paid, at a proportionably less Valuation

That the Amount of Accommodation so required from the Bank of England for the respective Houses is understood to be the full amount of additional Aid which such Houses, will at any time subsequent to the date of the Certificate granted by the said Committee require from the Bank of England, within the limits of the said temporary Accommodations unless by further communication from the said Committee new grounds should be produced for further Accommodations.

That the Accommodation so granted by the Bank of England be continued for Six Months but that the Notes or other Personal Securities pledged for the same, be renewed at the Interval of Two Months, and that at each renewal a Certificate from the Committee of Investigation be produced stating the Amount each House is then respectively entitled to

That the Individual Applications, when presented to the Bank of England be accompanied by an offer of perfectly responsible Personal Securities to the Amount from time to time required, and that a Note of Hand if accompanied by an adequate Assignment of Stock in the Public Funds, to a Trustee to be named by the Bank, guaranteeing the said Note, be accepted as a Security

That it does not appear to the West India Committee from the premises laid before them that if these Proposals be accepted, the Bank of England will in consequence

consequence thereof be required to advance at the utmost ^{2/5} more
than One Million and a half Sterling but most probably
not half that Sum at any one time. London 3rd October 1799.

Mr Manning stated that the Directors
of the Bank of England had not been enabled to come to a
decisive Resolution thereon, but that they perfectly understood
the Principle of the Proposals, and were very much inclined
to comply with them. He also stated that the Governor of the
Bank of England would be glad to see the Gentlemen of the
Deputation again tomorrow at 12 o'clock.

A Meeting of the West India Merchants
held at the Marine Society's Office London 4 October 1799.

William Lushington Esq. in the Chair

Mr Boddington

Mr Sharp

Mr Wedderburn

Mr J. Neave

Mr Summers

Mr Stewart

Mr Hubbert

Mr Jackson

Mr Higgin

Mr Penny

Mr Gowlard

Mr W. Vaughan

Mr Milligan

Mr Heighley

Mr Tarbutt.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read.

The Chairman Reported that the
Governor

Judges and Directors of the Bank of England had acceded in all respects to the Proposals submitted to them by the Deputation from this Meeting, and had desired it to be intimated that should there be any pressing occasion a Recommendation from the Committee would have immediate Attention

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed for the Purpose stated in the Proposals made to the Bank of England consisting of the following Gentlemen

Sir Richard Mease Bart	David Lyon Esq
Douglas Long Esq	Grant Allan Esq
William Manning Esq	David Wedderburn Esq
Charles Rosanquet Esq	Samuel Turner Esq
William Vaughan Esq	Thomas Plummer Esq
Nathaniel Eagle French Esq	
Henry Davidson Esq	
Samuel Puddington Esq	

Resolved, That Mr George Hubbert and Mr Mulligan be deputed to wait upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to state that the Sugar Market would be more effectually relieved by an Unconditional grant of the Old Drawback and Bounty on Export for the Space of Six Months from this time than by a provisional Measure which must be attended with Uncertainty and delay and that there is a little possibility

probability of such an Indulgence either becoming
burthensome to the Revenue or causing a considerable
advance of the price of Sugar that this Meeting have
great Confidence that the Chancellor of the Exchequer
will prefer the measure which promises most speedily
to discourage the Interference of Foreigners with the
British Merchant at the accustomed Foreign Markets.

The following Gentlemen were
proposed to be Members of this Meeting

Thomas Houghan Esq^r Proposed by Robert Milligan Esq^r
Seconded by George Hibbert Esq^r

Andrew Wedderburn Esq^r Proposed by David Lyon Esq^r
Seconded by Alex^r Ronny Esq^r

Robert Lang Esq^r Proposed by William Vaughan Esq^r
and Seconded by Will^m Washington Esq^r

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at the
Marine Society's Office London 14 October 1799.

Present
Mr Alderman Hibbert in the Chair

Mr Tomperon

Mr Milligan

Mr Adam

Mr Duffell

Mr Boddington

Mr G. Allan

Mr Lyons

Mr Davidson

Mr Inglis

The Minutes of the last Meeting were
read and confirmed

The following Note from Mr Rose was read

Mr Rose presents his Compliments to Mr
Hibbert in consequence of Mr Allens Note of Saturday
"he should have sent a Copy of the Bill for bonding
Sugar, if it had been printed, but that not being the
Case, he has directed a written Copy to be made, and
will send it to him as soon as it is prepared"

Treasury Chambers

14 October 1799.

Adjourned to Tomorrow Tuesday
15 Instant, at 12 o'clock precisely.

A Meeting of the West India Merchants held
at the Marine Society's Office London 15 October 1799

Present
Mr Alderman Hibbert in the Chair

Mr Inglis
Mr Gowland
Mr O Lyon
Mr L. Turner
Mr Simpson
Mr Lane
Mr Allan

Mr Penny
Mr Deffelle
Mr Mulligan
Mr Puddington
Mr St Rucker
Mr Tarbutt
Mr Plummer

Resolved, That the Chairman be requested to
apply to the Honble the Commissioners of Customs and to
request that for the Information of the West India
Merchants

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First printed
by 27 October 1799
Page 257.

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Merchants they will please to state, what under the Act
 recently passed "to enable the Commissioners of the Customs
 to allow British Plantation Sugars to be warehoused to,
 revive so much of an Act made in the 32nd year of the
 Reign of His present Majesty as relates to the ascertaining
 the Average price of Sugar, and Regulating the Allowance
 of Drawback on the Exportation thereof, and in allowing
 certain Drawbacks on Sugar Exported, to be the Drawbacks
 granted. Raw, and the Bounty on Refined Sugar
 exported from the passing of the said Act until the
 5th January 1800.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants
 held at the Marine Society's Office London 5th November
 1799

- Present
 Beeston Long Esq^r in the Chair
- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Mr Aering | Mr Aughan |
| Mr Adam | Mr Milligan |
| Mr Lyon | Mr Turner |
| Mr Wedderburn | Mr Simpson |
| Mr Govland | Mr Deffelle |
| Mr Beddington | Mr Seave |
| Mr Plummer | Mr Purvis |

The Minutes of the last Meeting were
 read, and confirmed

A Letter from Mr Nepean to Mr
 Beeston Long being read stating that only Five West India
 Ships

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Charles and Company of London
 on Thursday 20th November 1799

Ships had taken Instructions from the Sans parcell
 Resolved, That the Chairman be requested to represent
 to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the
 West India Ships have been considerably delayed in
 their Loading Outwards by the scarcity of Corn and
 the excessive Wet Weather that a Number of Ships
 are now on their passages between Gravesend and the
 Downs, and they beg leave to submit that Instructions
 may be sent for the Convoy to sail from Portsmouth
 the 15th Instant, waiting 24 Hours for the Ships
 in the Downs after the Wind comes fair

Fenchurch Street October 17th 1799

To the Honourable the Chancellor of the Exchequer

Dear Sir

I am desired by the West India Committee
 to send you the enclosed Resolution

It is the Opinion of your Committee that
 no Relief can possibly be expected from the Provisions
 contained in the Bill with respect to the Bonding
 of Sugars, as it directs that all Sugars intended for
 bonding shall be warehoused which in the opinion
 of your Committee is impracticable from the
 present situation of the Port, and they therefore
 submit that it is expedient that an immediate
 application should be made to the Chancellor
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Committee
Committee that
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from the
they therefore
immediate
Chancellor
of

of the Exchequer on the subject. 261
and I am sorry to add that, as the
Act of Parliament is drawn, it is not possible for the West India
Merchants to make any use of the permission given them
by it, to bond their Sugars - When I had the pleasure of seeing
you in the House of Commons, I submitted to you a proposition
of the Wharfingers to enter into an engagement with the
Commissioners of the Customs, not to part with the Goods
until they were satisfied that the Duties were paid, and this
engagement they are willing to enter into now, provided they
are left in the management, and arrangement of their
premises, and that they are not as in the ordinary course of
bonded Goods, secured under double Locks - If a single
Floor of a Warehouse contained bonded Goods only, that Floor
might be secured in the ordinary way; but where Goods are
promiscuously lodged in a Warehouse, that Building could
not be shut up under the Kings Lock without very serious
Injury to the Individual who had paid his Duties to
Government.

The Wharfinger who is considered by the
Merchant as sufficiently responsible for the Custody of the
Goods, would I think without doubt be considered by the
Commissioners of the Customs as fully adequate to such
Engagement as I have alluded to under the Penalty of the
Amount of the Duty.

I shall consider myself much obliged by your
giving an immediate attention to the Case, and applying such
a Remedy as it will admit - I shall also be thankful to you for
the favor of an early Answer to be laid before the West India
Committee
I am with great Respects
Your faithful & obedient
Servant
Wm Manning

Copy of Mr Rose's Letter, to Mr Manning

Dear Sir, Mr Pitt put into my hands on Saturday a Letter from you, on the subject of which he is extremely desirous of giving the Relief desired, but I am afraid considerable difficulty would be made about it by the Board of Customs; it would indeed be departing from a Principle hitherto, I believe, held perfectly sacred, that of not quitting the Custody of the Goods without the payment of the Duties.

I thought Sugar was seldom mixed with other Goods in Warehouses, and that no material Inconvenience could therefore arise to the Merchants from requiring the Custody, as in all other Cases of the Kings Lock - Have the Goodness to let me know whether the difficulty to the Merchants arises from their Articles being mixed with the Sugars, and if that is to a considerable extent

I am Dear Sir

Your faithful hble serv

Signed George Rose

Treasury Chambers
October 21 1799

Mr Pitt has signed a Warrant approving of the Wharfingers entering into an Engagement with the Commissioners of the Customs, not to deliver the Goods till the Duties are paid.

I cannot understand how a doubt arises about the Amount of the Drawbacks and Bounties now

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payable. The Act of this Session restores the Drawbacks
and Duties withheld by the Act of the 30th and the 38th of
the King, which entitles the Exporters, Senecive to 1st/₁₀ of
on Tea, and 20th on Refines.

Sam^l

Your faithful Adherer

Treasur Chambers (signed) George Rose

October 26th 1799

The Duty of 8th imposed in last
Session, did not occur when we were providing to pay the
Drawbacks. If I am under a Mistake the Officers of the
Customs should state how.

To William Marrison Esq^r

Mr George Hibbert in the Absence of
the Chairman had applied to the Commissioners of the
Customs to know how that Board interpreted the late
Act of Parliament for enlarging the Duty, and
Drawback on Sugar, and what would be (according
to that Act) the precise Duty and Drawback
granted to the 5th January next, but being informed by
Mr Hume the Secretary that the Commissioners
could not undertake to reply to a question of that
Nature He had written a Letter to Mr Rose of
which the following is a Copy - Inclosed also a
Memorial copied below, praying an extension of
time upon Coffee and Rum on board the Ships
now

now discharging

(Copy) Mercury Lane 21 October 1799

Dr Sir, In the absence of our Chairmen Sir Richard
Keave, and Mr Long, the enclosed Memorial has been
signed which we entreat you to take under your Patronage
The Drawback on Raw Sugar and the
Bounty on Refined granted by the late Act, the Merchants
read to be 17/6 and 30/- they desired me to apply
to the Commissioners of Customs for Information, but
that Board declined answering the question, as it is of
Importance to inform Foreigners, as well as to govern
the Refiners at Home, that we should have early and
precise Ideas on this Subject, may I beg the favour
of a line from you upon the Subject,

I have the Honour to be
With great Respect

Dr Sir
Your obed^t hum^l serv^t
(Signed) George Hilbert

To the Right Hon^{ble} the Lords
Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury
The Memorial of the West
India Merchants, whose Names are hereunto subscribed
Humbly Sheweth, That owing to the unusual and
almost entire Stagnation of the Sale of West India
Produce

Produce, and
Warehouses at
and Elsewhere
West Indies we
have in many
every Vessel
with Impedim^{ts}
her from landing
Coffee and S^c

We pray Your
of His Maje^{ty}
discharge of
days will not
necessity of the
such Ruin a
India Ships
anchored in
London 21st
Signed by
Messrs Allan & C^o
Nesbitt & Steu^{art}
Imperon Litt^{le}
Samuel Vauy
Thomas Dan^{iel}
J. Simons &
Henry Wila^{ms}
Purmer &

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Produce, and to an extraordinary Importation thereof, the
Warehouses at the Legal Quays at the Suffrage Wharfs
and Elsewhere being entirely filled, Vessels from the
West Indies which have reported almost a Month ago,
have in many Instances not begun to discharge, and that
every Vessel that has commenced her discharge, has met
with Impediments and delays that must inevitably prevent
her from landing within the Time limited by Law, the
Coffee and Rum she may have on board.

2 That under these Circumstances
We pray Your Lordships to instruct the ^{the} Commissioners
of His Majesty's Excise to grant a further time for the
discharge of Rum and Coffee (which if less than 20
days will not in most Instances be adequate to the
necessity of the Case) and to liberate without any expence
such Rum and Coffee as shall be seized on board West
India Ships at present discharging or remaining to be
discharged in the River Thames.

London 21st October 1799.

Signed by

Messrs Allan & Dewar	Manning Anderson & Bosanguet
Nesbitt & Stewart	Reddington & Sharp
Temperon Pitt & Harrison	John & H. Parker
Samuel Vaughan Esq	Henry Jackson
Thomas Daniel Esq	John Willis Esq
J. Simons Esq	Richard Lee
Henry Wildman	Long Drake Long & Dawkins
Plummer & Barham	Marm & Trotter

now discharging,

(Copy) Munday Even 27 October 1799

Dr Sir, In the Absence of our Chairmen Sir Richard
Neave, and Mr Long, the enclosed Memorial has been
signed which we intreat you to take under your Patronage

The Drawback on Raw Sugar and the
Bounty on Refined granted by the late Act, the Merchants
read to be 17/6 and 30/- &c they desired me to apply
to the Commissioners of Customs for Information, but
that Board declined answering the question; and is of
Importance to inform Foreigners, as well as to govern
the Refiners at Home, that we should have early and
precise Ideas on this Subject, may I beg the favour
of a line from you upon the Subject,

I have the Honour to be
With great Respect

Yr Servant
Your obedt humble Servant
(Signed) George Gilbert

To the Right Hon^{ble} the Lords
Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury

The Memorial of the West
India Merchants, whose Names are hereunto subscribed

Humbly Sheweth, That owing to the unusual and
almost entire Stagnation of the Sale of West India
Produce

285

Produce, and to an extraordinary Importation thereof, the
 Warehouses at the Legal Quays, at the Suffrage Wharfs
 and Elsewhere being entirely filled, Vessels from the
 West Indies which have reported almost a Month ago,
 have in many Instances not begun to discharge, and that
 every Vessel that has commenced her discharge, has met
 with Impediments and delays that must inevitably prevent
 her from landing within the Time limited by Law, the
 Coffee and Rum she may have on board

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London 21th October 1799.

Signed by

Messrs Allan & Dewar
 Nesbitt & Stewart
 Temperon Pitt Harrison
 Samuel Vaughan Esq
 Thomas Daniel Esq
 S. Simons Stankey Esq
 Henry Wildman
 Plummer & Burham

Manning Anderson Esq
 Boddington Esq
 Jas St Rucker
 Henry Jackson
 John Willis Esq
 Richard Lee
 Long Drake Long & Dawkins
 Marm & Trotter

Hubberts Fisher & Sumner	John Duffell Esq
Mulligan & Mitchell	Edwards Giltbert Esq
Davidson & Graham	Lushingtons & Mavor
Wedderburn Webster & Co.	David Lyon
Rutherford & Wagstaff	Beckford & Keighley
George Baillie Esq.	Thellusson Brothers & Co.
Robert Elton & J. Maitlands	Turner & Innes
	Powdrie Chollet & Poudrie

To the said Memorial Mr George Hibbert
 received an answer as follows.

Mr Metford presents his Compliments
 to Mr Hibbert, and acquaints him that a Treasury
 Warrant is signed to prolong for Twenty Days, the
 time granted for Unloading West India Ships now
 in the Port of London and to liberate such Rum
 and Coffee as may have been seized on a very moderate
 satisfaction to the seizing Officer.

Treasury Chambers
 November 2nd 1799.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants, held
 at the Marine Society's Office London 26th November
 1799.

Present
 Preston Long Esq in the Chair

Mr Adam	Mr Lang
Mr Inglis	Mr Simpson
Mr Ingraham	Mr Taylor

See also 26th December 1799 under
 entry of the 26th Nov 1799

Mr P
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Mr Mulligan
Mr Gowland
Mr C Bosanquet
Mr Plummer
Mr Boddington

Mr Aislaby 287
Mr Wedderburn
Mr D Lyon
Mr Renny
Mr Aislaby

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read, and Confirmed.

Sailed 26th December 1799 under Command of the Capt. King to the West Indies

Resolved, That Application be made to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty requesting that the next Convoy for the West Indies may be appointed to sail from Portsmouth the 21st December, waiting 24 Hours for the Ships from the Downs.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants held at the Marine Society's Office January 7. 1800.

Present

Beeston Long Esq. in the Chair

Mr Bosanquet
Mr Imperon
Mr D Lyon
Mr Renny
Mr Davidson
Mr Lang

Mr Adam
Mr Mulligan
Mr Boddington
Mr Turner
Mr Gowland

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed)

Resolved, That Thomas Neave Esq. be added to the Committee appointed on the 4th October

Mr Beeston Long laid before the Meeting