

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
GEORGE TAYLER,
Bench-walk, Temple, Aug. 6.

the service. As it is expedient to give to the Secretary of

than is advisable in the East, your Committee would not wish to see the Foreign-office encumbered with a numer-

body of claimants to consular offices; while, on the other hand, the want of familiarity with commercial affairs

occasionally formed a ground of complaint on the part of shipowners, which would not occur if, in the majority of cases, persons were appointed specially educated for the profession. Without entering into any positive engagement as to the promotion of these young men, it would be only fair to their just claims that they should have a preference

over diplomatic *posts* and others to appointments in the consular service. The latter, in relation to the diplomatic body might with convenience be assigned to the several classes of consular functionaries, which would give them a right to a certain precedence in public ceremonial, and occasion the more distinct separation of the consular from the French consular officials and our own.

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"NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA.

"The consular system which your Committee would recommend as best adapted to the service in Europe would be still more applicable to the service in North and South America. The American organization rendering the status of a trading consul more anomalous than elsewhere, and the advantages of an independent position more decided. In the consular service of the United States the consular service presents certain peculiarities which demand a special consideration. The chief appointments in that department are made by the President, and carry a consular character, and have of late been practically regarded as belonging to the former service. In a state of society such as ours, it is not possible to have a consular service of persons much of experience and discretion; but it appears to be necessary to have a consular service, and other these persons might not be well and usefully filled by men who had given proof of eminent qualities in the consular service. It is not possible to have a consular service exclusively given to such diplomatic officials as may be induced by these comparatively lucrative appointments to give up the higher prospects of their own profession. If the prohibition of the consular service to persons of the law and an arrangement respecting fees, which will form part of the recommendations of your Committee, is adopted, it is not probable that persons of the law will

of the settlements of consuls in this part of the world have been subject to no larger extent, and nothing would prevent a gradual extension of the same principle to the other languages and customs of these countries, would naturally be the persons to whom these offices would be appropriated with the greatest public advantage.

“YOUR COMMISSIONS AND EMOLUMENTS.”

“Your Commissions exist not to improve that the amount of the present salaries and emoluments received by British consuls abroad is the main practical question submitted to their judgment. The consuls of the United Kingdom have reported that their conviction on this point entirely agrees with the evidence which they have received, and which has been referred to in the same words as those which I have just said, in the testimony of almost every witness, and confirmed by the opinion and acts of the Foreign-office under successive Governments. The salaries fixed many years ago, on the most exact scale, have remained the same in value by independent circumstances to an extent which at present renders them a completely false representation of the profits of the office, and which would be true throughout the globe. Mr. Hammond and Mr. Alton con in stating that the increase of prices in all foreign countries has for the last forty years been so great, that the salaries have been given to our consuls, beyond some slight assistance to meet those office expenses which previously came out of their receipts. Mr. Calvert states that the expense of living at the Danubius is nearly double that of the Nile, and quadrupled, from what it was when he entered the service. Mr. Yeames bears testimony to the total disproportion in the cost of living at Rio de Janeiro, compared with that which existed at the time he was first sent there, and when he was in receipt of a higher stipend than when he left in the 30 years ago. Mr. Alton con in stating that the rise of prices, in almost every part of the East, at threefold in the course of the last six years. The expense of living at Rio

residence abroad during the years of war. These gentlemen have been asked to give the same evidence with regard to St. Domingo. In Germany Mr. Ward rates the increase of the prices of all the necessities of life as at least from five to ten times the former rate. In France it is worth more than half what it was at the time it was fixed. At Marseille Mr. Turnbull records the gradual augmentation of all the necessaries of life, and the consequent increase of rent, during his employment there, till it has become impossible for a consul to live decently on the sum allotted to him; while at Havre Mr. Fetherstongham asserts that he has maintained his family with respectability for the last three years out of his private income. There is no reason to suppose that these are especial instances of the present poverty of remuneration in the consular service, but that they are such that several of these gentlemen have accepted such offices with a clear understanding of their existing disadvantages; yet for some reason or other have not been able to leave. Foreign-office that some more satisfactory arrangement would result from the nomination of this Committee. It must also be taken into account, that where the profits of the consular service are expected to be large, the temptation to the late alteration in the scale has been in most cases a considerable reduction in the proceeds. Justice to an important branch of the public service, and the maintenance of the demands made upon the consular service as well place them in circumstances consistent with the respectability of the position, and the dignity of the body, in no worse position than they occupied 50 years ago; and the only doubt that remains on the mind of your committee is by what method this object can be most easily obtained. Mr. Fetherstongham has not been able to estimate so much impose much labour upon the officials of the Foreign-office, and your Committee is deeply impressed with the difficulty of arriving at a correct estimate of the value where the elements of the calculation are so various and so uncertain. The returns of cost and expenditure which

mass of documents from which your Committee conceive that it is far easier to draw general inferences than to attempt to select the best of each on its individual merits. Nevertheless, when they consider the value of the services and costs of living in different places, your Committee see no principle upon which any uniform scale of salaries can be determined. Your Committee would only recommend that the principle of classification and uniformity of salary should be adopted as far as possible, and that the higher classes should be repaid as much as the charges of the lower classes should look forward; and your Committee trust to the liberality of Parliament to make provision for the improved salaries which may appear necessary. Your Committee would suggest the following classes—

“Consuls-General, First-Class Consuls, Second-Class Consuls, Vice-Consuls, Consular Students.

“British Consuls are appointed in trade to be paid by fees or an equivalent *honorarium*.

“Your Committee have not included in the above classification the duties of consular agents, who are charged with duties which is regarded more in the light of a diplomatic than a consular appointment; but they would here apply to the whole service the observations they have already made in reference to the appointment of consular agents.

“To avoid the inconvenience of frequent changes, which must be injurious to the efficiency of the service, your Committee would have the duties of the consular agents and the duties of a second-class consulate for a considerable period in a manner satisfactory to the Government, a second-class consul may be appointed to reside in the place and to enjoy the rank and benefits attached to that position.

“At the same time your Committee recognize the advantages which a consul must derive from an occasional visit to this country by persons connected with his office, and his superiors at home. The present subtraction of half of his salary during his absence from his post prevents a comfortable mode of travelling, and your Committee would

to leave them might obtain, and it would doubtless be considered a welcome boon, and would at the same time be a grand inducement to a more intelligent and useful public utility, if at certain definite periods, say of five years, a consular was permitted to return with leave for a certain time, say six months, without any diminution of his salary, and if he would accept of the position of consul or consular substitute, who might act as his substitute, and by this means give proof of his capacity for a higher office.

“ EXCHANGES.”

“ A grievance which has fallen on certain members of the consular bureau, and of this Committee, is that of your Committee, namely, the loss which they suffer by means of the exchange. The diplomatic body have been relieved from any risk of this nature by an arrangement with the Treaty by which they are enabled to make the exchange is against them, and pay the difference if it is in their favour. No such concession has been made to consuls. As consuls are not permitted to resign, the question of placing both services on a level in this respect should be taken into consideration. Mr. Bernal has alluded to the loss of this kind of exchange, and has estimated that the loss, which amounted to 5 or 5½ per cent. on his salary; and similar losses are represented to have fallen upon our consuls in some parts of the East, and especially at Shanghai. The circumstances connected with the exchange of consuls are very peculiar, and are described in an important and interesting correspondence, which will be found in the Appendix.”

“ FEES.”

“ It appears from the evidence of independent parties which has been referred to by the Committee, that a duty partially to revert to the system of tonnage-dues in lieu of the fees now leviable by consuls exists in some portions of the mercantile community. In a communication submitted to the Committee, the writer intimates that a party

enumeration of counsils on tonnages and imports, but met with no approval in the House, nor bestow of counsils of taxation for the period 1860, nor bestow of counsils to authorize your present Committee to take a different view. Moderate fees, paid for the service rendered, seem to be reasonable, and will be a tonic to the officers, and will be paid in exchange for contingent services, would soon appear extraneous to the duties of the officers, and will not happen to derive no advantage from the captains and shipowners who are interested in the tonnage, and will be a tonic to the large capitalists and the prudent trader world, in fact, they will be a tonic to the world, and will be a tonic to the well-regulated agencies of commerce, and will be a tonic to the world which have been made both by consents themselves and by the fact, there as to the propriety of the present incidence of the fees are sufficient to authorize the present incidence of the a positive approbation of the system of collecting fees on Government.

"Some consular officers have owned to a sense of degradation at making up their income by the receipt of these small and trifling contributions, and as a consequence of a reasonable laxity in their collection, and as a consequence of motives of compassion to the needy, and from unwillingness to appear grasping. If, however, the fees were credited to the public account, they would be a tonic to the officers, of course without favour or personal consideration, and it is considered by one competent authority that the gain to the public would be one competent authority. Under the present system, it is recommended that all office expenses should be regulated and paid by the Government. The salaries should be a fixed salary for an uncertain year of service, and it is itself a great advantage, which will be all the more perceptible when the amount of the salaries is increased, and the system of reports, is observed. Your Committee, then, do not hesi-

to recommend such a change in the destination of the
of which the most general and almost universal opinion is
that the most of the land should be given to the
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