

REGISTRY OF DEEDS OFFICE (DUBLIN).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 22 March 1860 ;—for,

COPY “ of any TREASURY MINUTES in reference to the CLASSIFICATION and SALARIES of the CLERKS employed in the REGISTRY of DEEDS OFFICE, DUBLIN, subsequent to the 1st day of October 1857 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 512, of Session 1858).”

Treasury Chambers, }
16 April 1860. }

S. LAING.

COPY of TREASURY MINUTE, dated 11 June 1858.

READ memorial from the clerks in the Registry of Deeds Office in Ireland, praying that their Lordships will increase the number of clerks in the “first” and “second classes” respectively, and increase the maximum sum allowed to the “second,” “third,” and “transcribing classes,” and also the annual graduated scale of salaries, and also make such other alterations as shall appear to their Lordships just and reasonable, and that special regard may be had to the claims of such of the memorialists whose salaries were reduced in the year 1843, by granting to them an immediate increase in the amount thereof, or by such other relief as their Lordships may think fit.

Write to the memorialists that all the circumstances of their case were very carefully considered in the course of last year, and a revision of their establishment decided upon after much and careful inquiry.

The selection of the clerks to fill the several classes into which the revised establishment was divided was entrusted to a Committee, of which the Registrar of Deeds was one; and their Lordships see no ground whatever for questioning the propriety of the selections made by the Committee, and approved by the Treasury, or for making any alteration in the scales of salaries which were fixed for the several classes at the same period.

COPY of TREASURY MINUTE, dated 11 June 1858.

READ letter from the Registrar of Deeds, Ireland, dated 8th instant, reporting the death of Mr. T. F. Dillon, a clerk in that department, Class 2, No. 10, and recommending the following gentlemen for promotion in consequence thereof; viz., Mr. Auchinleck, No. 1 in Class 3, to the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Dillon; and Mr. Thomas Williams, No. 1, Transcribing Class, to the vacancy caused by the promotion of Mr. Auchinleck.

Mr. Henry Burrowes, clerk in Transcribing Class, No. 11, has resigned. The Registrar of Deeds does not propose to fill up the vacancies in the transcribing class, but to obtain temporary assistance to work off the arrear which has unavoidably arisen in the engrossment of transcripts of the memorials in the parchment books.

Acquaint the Registrar of Deeds that my Lords are pleased to approve of the promotions recommended by him consequent on the death of Mr. Dillon.

The promotion of Mr. Williams, and the resignation of Mr. Burrowes, will reduce the class of transcribers from 19 to 17, and their Lordships will not

object to the employment temporarily of such assistance as may be necessary to bring down the arrear of transcripts to which Mr. O'Connell refers, if the time of every person on the establishment is so completely occupied that the arrears cannot be worked up without the temporary assistance adverted to, and upon the understanding that the number of days such person or persons may be occupied, and the amount paid to him or them, be separately set out in the quarterly return which the Registrar is required to furnish.

COPY of TREASURY MINUTE, dated 19 February 1859.

READ letter from the Masters of the Common Law Courts in Ireland, calling the attention of their Lordships to a Bill recently introduced by the Attorney General and Chief Secretary for Ireland, for the sale and transfer of land, and objecting to certain portions of it, which will affect the Judgment Offices of the three Courts of Law.

My Lords have likewise before them a Report from Mr. Wilmot Seton, upon the state of the office of the Registrar of Deeds in Ireland, a copy of which was furnished to the Chief Secretary by Mr. Seton before he quitted Dublin.

My Lords have likewise before them, Returns furnished by the Registrar of Deeds in Ireland, showing the receipts and disbursements of his office for the quarters ended the 30th of September and 31st of December 1858, by which it appears that, at this moment, 18 extra clerks are employed by Mr. O'Connell, in addition to the establishment sanctioned by their Lordships in 1857.

Write to the Chief Secretary for Ireland, and transmit, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, a copy of the letter from the Masters of the three Courts of Law, upon the subject of the Bill for the sale and transfer of land; and with reference to the clauses for the consolidation of the Judgment Office with the Registry of Deeds, call the attention of his Excellency to Mr. Seton's Report of the 24th of last December, and suggest whether advantage might not be taken of that Bill to give powers to the Treasury, or to the law officers of the Crown in Ireland, as to the transcription of the records of negative searches, and to other processes in the office of the Registrar of Deeds, which are regulated by statute, but which have been allowed to fall into arrear, and to complete which would now necessitate a very considerable expenditure of labour and money.

Further request that Lord Naas will call the attention of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant to the importance of converting the fees received in the office of the Registrar of Deeds into stamp duties, and to the propriety of submitting to Parliament an annual estimate for the expenses of the establishment, in order that, if it should be deemed advisable, provision may be made in this Bill, or in some other cognate measure, for carrying out such an arrangement.

Add that their Lordships' attention has been called to the circumstance of 18 extra clerks having been employed by Mr. O'Connell since the regulation of the office in 1857; but as these appointments are only temporary, their Lordships are unwilling to take any steps in the matter until they know the probable effect of the present measure upon the permanent establishment which it will be necessary to keep up in the office of the Registrar of Deeds.

COPY of TREASURY MINUTE, dated 9 August 1859.

[A copy of this Minute was laid on the Table of the House of Commons on the 13th August 1859.]

READ letter from the Registrar of Deeds in Ireland, transmitting a quarterly return of the receipts and expenditure of his office to the 31st of March 1859, by which it appears that 18 temporary clerks have been employed by him at an expense during the quarter of 378 l. 7 s.

Read also another letter from the Registrar of Deeds, transmitting a similar return for the quarter ended 30 June 1859, by which it appears that 391 l. 2 s. 9 d. was

was paid to temporary clerks, in addition to the salaries of the clerks on the permanent establishment.

My Lords have before them likewise their Minutes of 8 June 1857, 12 August 1857, and 1 October 1857, by which this office was placed upon its present footing; the large number of persons who had been temporarily appointed by the Registrar absorbed into fixed classes; and the intention of the Treasury expressed that, in future, a class of transcribers should be formed of persons to be appointed by my Lords, and selected for promotion into the higher classes as vacancies occurred.

My Lords likewise refer to the Report made upon this office by Mr. Wilmot Seton on the 24th of last December, and to the Minute of 19 February 1859, calling the attention of the Irish Government to the whole subject.

The Bill which was introduced by the late Attorney General for Ireland, Mr. Whiteside, would have removed many of the difficulties which at present exist in the effective working of this establishment, and by consolidating with it the office for the registration of judgments would have enlarged the sphere of its operations.

"Judgments (Ireland)."
Bill 47, Sess. 2.

That Bill has, however, been now withdrawn, and it seems to their Lordships to be no longer desirable to delay making such arrangements for the ordinary working of the office of the Registrar of Deeds, and for the appointment of persons as transcribers on the regular establishment, as may be necessary to carry out the spirit of the Minutes which were approved in the year 1857, and submitted to Parliament.

Several of the persons in each of the classes into which the office was divided in 1857 are still receiving higher rates of pay than the maximum rate of the class into which they have been placed; and my Lords are of opinion that by absorbing the 15 gentlemen who still remain in the class of transcribers into the two classes above them, and appointing such a number of persons to the class of transcribers as may be necessary to perform the duties which are now executed by the 18 clerks temporarily appointed, the claims of the gentlemen upon the regular establishment, which have been repeatedly brought under their Lordships' notice, and the efficiency of the office, will be at once fairly and effectually provided for.

With that view, my Lords are of opinion that the 2d class should consist of 15; and that the five senior of the 3d class should be promoted into it; and that the 3d class should consist of 30, which will absorb the 15 transcribers now on the establishment.

My Lords will at once give directions to select persons to fill the transcribing class, which is only to contain so many persons as are absolutely necessary to carry on the duties of the office, and to replace those persons who have been temporarily employed by Mr. O'Connell.

The 35th Section of the Act of 2 & 3 Will. 4, c. 87, requires that any regulation made by the Treasury which affects the office of the Registrar of Deeds, shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament, and not be carried into effect until after the end of the Session. My Lords are therefore pleased to desire that copies of this Minute be laid before either House of Parliament, and that the promotions and appointments consequent thereon do not take effect until the 1st of next October.

[2d Class: £. 150,
rising by £. 10
per annum to
£. 250.

3d Class: £. 80,
rising by £. 5 per
annum to £. 130.

Transcribers: £. 1
a week, increas-
ing each year by
1 s. a week to
the maximum of
£. 1. 10 s.]

REGISTRY OF DEEDS OFFICE (DUBLIN).

COPIES of TREASURY MINUTES in reference to the
CLASSIFICATION and SALARIES of the CLERKS
employed in the REGISTRY of DEEDS OFFICE,
DUBLIN, subsequent to the 1st day of October
1857 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper,
No. 512, of Session 1858).

(Sir Edward Grogan.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
17 April 1860.
