



RCMS 270/56



REGULATIONS,

&c. &c.

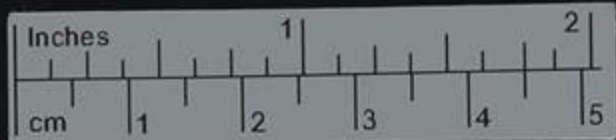
WE the inhabitants of the Bay of Honduras, whose names are hereunto subscribed, do, by and with the consent of the whole, agree, from and after the date hereof, to bind ourselves to the strict performance of the Articles and Regulations hereafter mentioned, under the penalties and restrictions therein expressed; and do further bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, and administrators, and assigns, to pay the several fines, penalties, and forfeitures, hereafter mentioned, on the breach of any of the said Articles; which sums when received are to be appropriated for the use and benefit of the then inhabitants of the Bay, in such manner and such proportion as shall be agreed on by such a number of the principal inhabitants not exceeding seven, nor



less than five, as shall be chosen by the majority of voices of the inhabitants then and there present, two of which are to be Justices.

And as nothing can be more essential towards the support of government and the inhabitants' happiness than good order and strict obedience to the divine and civil law; so it is our indispensable duty to conform to those laws, and in order thereto,

First, It is hereby agreed by and with the consent of the said inhabitants, that whoever shall be found guilty of profane cursing and swearing, in disobedience of God's commands, and the derogation of his honour, shall, on proof on oath by one evidence or more, before any one of the said Justices of the Peace, forfeit and pay for every such offence the sum of two shillings and sixpence, Jamaica currency, or the same value in merchantable unchipt logwood, to be delivered at Key Casina, to such person or persons as the said Justice shall appoint to receive the same, for the use and benefit of the inhabitants then residing in the Bay.



Second, That whoever shall be found guilty of theft, or is proved to be accessory thereto, on full conviction, on oath, by one creditable witness or more, at any quarterly court, held at Key Casina, or any other place appointed by the Justices to meet at for the trial of any offender, shall not only be obliged to make restitution for the full value of the goods or effects so stolen, but be further subject to such other punishment and penalty as the said court shall adjudge.

Third, That any person whatsoever, who shall enveigle, or cause to run away, any sailor or other person belonging to any ship or vessel lying in the Bay of Honduras, or shall harbour, entertain, employ, or conceal, any sailor, or any other person whatsoever, run away from his proper ship or vessel, without obtaining a certificate from the Master of the said ship or vessel that he is legally discharged, shall, on full proof thereof, before any one of the said Justices of the Peace, forfeit twenty tons of merchantable unchipt logwood, to be delivered at Key Casina, to be distributed for the use of the said inhabitants,



agreeably to the said Articles; and that the person so running away from the ship or vessel, shall be delivered to the nearest Justice of the Peace, to be dealt with and punished as the said Justice shall judge his crime to deserve.

Fourth, And for the better government of the said inhabitants, and in order to prevent as much as possible any disputes or disturbances which may arise therefrom, it is further agreed, that no inhabitant whatsoever do presume to hire any servant, without the person so hired having first entered into an agreement in writing with the person who hires him, which agreement is to be signed by both the parties, mentioning the sum agreed upon, and where and in what manner it is to be paid. And in case the party so hired can neither read nor write, the bargain is to be executed before one of the said Justices, which he is to attest.

Fifth, And in case any person whatever shall detain, or cause to be detained, any person in quality of a servant (except a steersman), and that only for a single trip, without a written



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agreement, as mentioned in the former Article, shall forfeit, on full proof being first made before one of the said Justices, on oath of one or more creditable witnesses, ten tons of merchantable unchipt logwood, to be paid and delivered at Key Casina, aforesaid, to such person or persons as the said Justice shall appoint to receive the same, and to be distributed agreeably to the tenor of these Articles.

Sixth, All taxes which shall be thought necessary to be laid on the inhabitants of the Bay, for the use and benefit of the said inhabitants and settlers, shall be determined and laid on the said inhabitants, by two of the Justices and five of the principal inhabitants so residing in the Bay of Honduras, to be made choice of by the majority of the voices of the inhabitants then residing in the said Bay. And when such taxes are ordered to be laid and collected by the authority aforesaid, it is further agreed, that any person whatever refusing, when ordered to be collected, to pay the same, shall forfeit ten tons of merchantable unchipt logwood, to be paid and delivered at Key Casina, and to be disposed of in like



manner as other fines are agreed on by these Articles; and on nonpayment thereof, to be excluded the benefit of any advantage arising from the fines and forfeitures herein beforementioned, and intended for the uses and benefit of the said inhabitants.

Seventh, In order for the better putting in execution the Articles and Regulations herein mentioned, and for the better government of the said inhabitants residing in the Bay, it will be absolutely necessary that proper officers should be chosen to try and determine all causes, disputes, and complaints whatever, at such time and such places, and by such persons as shall be chosen by the majority of the voices of the inhabitants of the Bay, then and there residing. Be it therefore agreed, and it is hereby agreed, by and with the consent of the inhabitants of the Bay of Honduras, that from and after the date hereof, Joseph Maud, John Lawrie, James Ferrell, David Fitz Gibbon, Basil Jones, John Douglas, and Christopher Sinnet, be invested with the full power and authority from us to hold courts of justice, to try and determine any



disputes which may arise among the inhabitants of the Bay, at such times and places as shall be hereafter mentioned at Key Casina, one every three months. And in order that justice may be the more impartially administered, we do further agree, that a jury of thirteen good and lawful subjects, housekeepers of the Bay, be chosen by the majority of the voices of the inhabitants of the Bay, then and there present, to assist the said Justices in the execution of their office, whose determination shall be final. And in case any person whatsoever shall refuse to comply with the sentence of the court after it is passed on them, it is further agreed, by and with the consent of the said inhabitants, that the Justices shall have full power to seize their property, wheresoever it is to be found, of any kind whatsoever, and appropriate it agreeably to the sentence of the court.

Eighth, And whereas no laws nor agreements can be of force without a proper authority to execute and enforce the same, it is further agreed, by and with the consent of the inhabitants of the Bay, that the commanding officer, for



the time being, of any of his Majesty's ships of war which may be sent hither, shall have full power; and it is hereby requested to enforce and put into execution all such laws and regulations which we have agreed to, or shall hereafter agree to, by the majority of the voices of the inhabitants of the Bay, either in regard to the determination of any disputes which may arise amongst the said inhabitants, whether in respect of property, fines, forfeitures, penalties, or punishments, which shall be ordered to be forfeited, paid, or inflicted by the Justices and Jury, after a full hearing and final determination of the said court; and the said commanding officer shall have full power, in case of the party or parties' non-compliance with the sentence passed on the said inhabitants, to seize and appropriate his or their property agreeably to the sentence passed on any person whatsoever, inhabitant of the Bay, by the said court of justice.

Ninth, Be it further agreed, by and with the consent of the inhabitants of the Bay, that any disputes which may hereafter arise amongst the inhabitants of the Bay, not mentioned in these



Regulations, shall be referred to two of the Justices and five of the principal inhabitants of the Bay, one of the inhabitants to be chosen by the said Justices, and the other four by the parties; the majority of these seven to determine, and their determination to be final.

Tenth, All crimes and misdemeanors committed by the inhabitants of the Bay, which are not mentioned in these Regulations, and for which by these articles of agreement no punishment is provided, shall be punished according to the custom of the Bay in like cases.

Eleventh, And whereas it may be thought necessary hereafter, for the better government of the inhabitants of the Bay, to form laws and regulations for the happiness of the people therein residing; it is hereby further agreed, and we do hereby agree, by and with the consent of the whole of the inhabitants, to abide by and obey all such laws and regulations as shall hereafter be made by the Justices of the Bay in full council; those laws and regulations being first approved of by the majority of the inhabitants of the Bay,



and to forfeit and pay all such fines, penalties, and forfeitures as shall be determined and agreed on by the said laws and regulations.

Twelfth, It is hereby further agreed, by and with the consent of the inhabitants of the Bay, that if any person presuming to seize by force, or take away clandestinely, or by any means whatsoever, any property, be it either crafts, slaves, logwood, mahogany, or any effects whatsoever, belonging to any inhabitant of the Bay, for debt, or under any pretence whatsoever, before first laying his complaint before any one of the said Justices for redress, in any grievance or complaint whatsoever, shall forfeit the debt, and be further punished for the said offence, as the Justice shall judge the party offending to deserve, agreeably to the tenor of these regulations.

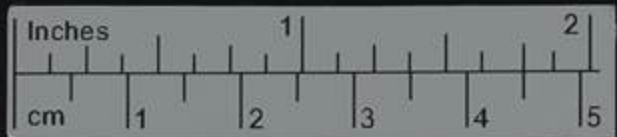
Given under our hands and seals at
this ninth day of April, one thousand seven
hundred and sixty five.

John Lawrie

John Maud

James Farrell

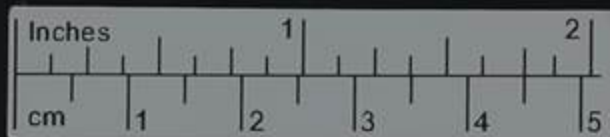
D. Fitz Gibbon



Basil Jones	Henry Jones
John Douglas	Ralph Wildridge
Christopher Sinnett	John Smith
Thomas Coake	John Potts
John Carey	John Cathcart
John Gordon	Maurice O'Brien
Charles Goldingerr
John Furnall	John Mc. Targett
William Ryder	William Weston
Thomas Remington	William Thox
Thomas Yoemans	Owen Thom
William Eardly	Ebenezer Tyler
William Car	Thomas Barra
Edward Kirk	John Howa
Thomas Bates	Bryan Cumberland
William Galaspy	John Gardner
Michael Elsters	Thomas Evans
William Tucker	Mary Wel
Robert Montgommeryle
Rorolf Henriksonnder
Rodolphus Greendby Pinder
Alexander Douglas	William O'Brien
William Cox	Nicholas Green
John Swain	Bartholomew Alex. Pitt
Thomas Catts	Richard Armstrong



John Oliver	William Shade
Michael Patterson	Nehemiah Gale
Joseph Gaddes	Charles Keeling
William Oxford	Alexander Lindsay
Michael Roberts	George Jeffreys
John Hamilton	John Cook
Samuel Griffiths	James Smith
Nathaniel Parent	Francis Hickey
Ralph Wild	William Wyatt
William Dal	James Grant
William Dunn	Andrew Slumen
George Ceau	Benjamin Bascome
John Per	Thomas Potts
Thomas Roblie	Richd. Fran. O'Brien
Mary Allen	and
William Rumbol	John Garbutt



At a General meeting of the Inhabitants of the Bay of Honduras, held at Key Casina, this tenth day of April, 1765.

WE do, one and all of us, agree to the following Articles concerning our limits in cutting logwood in Rio Honda, and all other rivers and places in the Bay of Honduras.

First, When a person finds a spot of logwood unoccupied, and builds his hut, that spot shall be deemed his property, and no person shall presume to cut or fell a tree, or grub a stump within less than one thousand paces or yards of his hut, to be continued on each side of the said hut, with the course of the river or creek on both sides; and whatever person shall presume, after the limits are ascertained, to enter within those limits, shall, on proof thereof, on oath before one Justice, forfeit double the value of the wood cut, and be obliged to ship it on board of such ship or vessel as the proprietor of the wood shall appoint to receive it.