DUCHY OF LANCASTER,

REPORT OF

THE RT HONBLE THOS LD PELHAM

CHANCELLOR,

CONCERNING THE REVENUE

JUNE 1804

To

The King

by His Majesty's

most dutiful Subject

and Servant

Pelham

June 6. 1804.

The Earl of Clarendon laid before your Majesty an account of the Duchy of Lancaster from its origin down to the year 1772

It does not appear that any other special Report has been made to your Majesty, I therefore humbly beg leave to lay before your Majesty a short account of the material circumstances which have since occurred, including a Statement of the actual Revenue, and the probability of its increase, together with such other matters as have been under the consideration of your Majesty's Servants, and upon which I had hoped to receive your Majesty's Commands

In the Year 1789 the Records of the Duchy were removed from Gray's Inn to Somerset House where they are now methodically and well arranged.

Distinct alphabetical Indexes and Repertories have been made to each class so that immediate and ready access may be had to their several contents many of which relate to some of the most valuable landed possessions of the Kingdom.

This work was commenced by Mr. Russell and has been completed by Mr. Harper the Deputy Clerk of the Council whose assiduity and diligence in the discharge of the duties of his Office and whose zealous attention to

your Majesty's Interests I humbly beg leave to take this opportunity of representing to your Majesty.

The Surveyors concerned in appropriating the Apartments at Somerset House to this branch of your Majesty's Revenue were not aware of the great quantity of Records and did not assign sufficient Room for their safe custody, nor for the execution of the business of the Office. It seems necessary that distinct Rooms should be appropriated for the business of each Department (exclusive of those set apart for the preservation of the Records) that provision should be made for the residence of an Officer of the Duchy and also a Room for the purpose of holding a Court of Revenue

Since the accession of your Majesty great attention has been paid to the Revenue of the Duchy.

Rules have been laid down for the renewal of Leases and actual Surveys made upon Oath upon each renewal by which means the Officers of the Duchy have acquired a correct knowledge of the value of each Estate, Rents have been reserved equal to one third and Fines received upon the other two thirds

There have been paid to your Majesty on account of the privy purse since the Year 1772 the following Sums Viz.t

35733

1774	2000	1789	2500
1775	3300	1790	1500
1776	2000	1791	1500
1777	2000	1792	1500
1778	16000	1793	nil
1779	10000	1794	nil
1780	2000	1795	nil
1781	4000	1796	2000
1782	2000	1797	6000
1783	nil	1798	5000
1784	2000	1799	6000
1785	2000	1800	5000
1786	2000	1801	5000
1787	2000	1802	2000
1788	nil	1803	4000

In 31 Years £93,300 average £3000 pr annum

In 1778 and 1779 Enfield Chase was inclosed and the payments made to the privy purse during those two years arose from the Sales of Timber there.

The Sums received by way of Fines for the preceding 31 Years are as follow Viz.t

	£ s d		£
1773	1222	1789	5935
1774	1365	1790	3195
1775	105	1791	2300
1776	170	1792	250
1777	1155	1793	170
1778	9603.6.8	1794	235
1779	6530	1795	nil
1780	nil	1796	709
1781	364	1797	8779
1782	1200	1798	1645
1783	1060	1799	2900
1784	910	1800	2166
1785	50	1801	2130
1786	570	1802	nil
1787	1763.6.8	1803	4433
1788	545		

In 31 Years £ 61,419.13.4 average per annum £ 2000

In the Receiver General's declared account to Ladyday 1804 the Landed Revenue of the Duchy appears to be £ 6044.2.4 exclusive of the balance due upon the last account. There have been paid on account of Fines for renewal of Leases £ 1490, and for consideration money for Grants of your Majesty's reversionary Interest in the

Lodges and Lands thereto belonging on Needwood Forest £ 1700 the expenditure has been £ 13085.6.2 leaving a disposable balance in the Receiver General's hands of £ 3452.15.9 £ 329.2.6 has been invested in the public funds in the name of the Duchy of Lancaster on account of the Money arising by the Sale of Quit Rents and the Enfranchisement of Copyhold Estates. The total Sum remaining in those funds is £ 923.12.8

Fenns in Lincolnshire

By an Act of the 41st. year of your Majesty's Reign for the Drainage and inclosure of the East and West Fenns in the County of Lincoln comprizing about 30,000 Acres - one twentieth part thereof is allotted to your Majesty in right of your Duchy - As these Fenns are of great extent and have lain so long under water some time must elapse before the Drainage can be completed but it is said that such progress has been made in this work that 4 years will enable the Commissioners to make allotments and then an increasing benefit may be expected to arise from the possession of about 1500 Acres of valuable Grass Land some of which on the higher parts of the Fenns have been lately sold at very high prices towards payment of the expences of the Act and of the Drainage

Needwood Forest

By another Act of the 41st. of your Majesty's Reign for dividing and inclosing Needwood Forest in the County of

Stafford containing upwards of 9000 acres of open and unenclosed Land the following Allotments were to be made Viz^t. to the Tythe Owners one tenth of the whole inclusive of the Incroachments, but exclusive of the Lodge
258 acres Lands, To the Freeholders and Copyholders one full moiety of the whole, including the Lodge Lands and
497 acres Incroachments, and to your Majesty the remainder, after deducting the Lodge Lands and Incroachments the former of which (subject to the subsisting Grants for 3 Lives) your Majesty was empowered to grant and sell to the Keepers (and which has been accordingly done as before stated)

238 acres. The Incroachments were vested in the possessors in fee simple - By the Act your Majesty was to pay one tenth part of the value of the Oak Trees of or exceeding 6 Inches Square to the Freeholders and Copyholders who were also to have one Moiety of the value of the Oak Trees under that Size and of all the Holly Trees; The Tythe Owners were to have one tenth of the value of the small Oaks under 6 Inches Square and of the Holly Trees and your Majesty was to have all the remaining Oak Trees of or exceeding six Inches Square and four tenths of the value of the lesser Oaks and of the Holly Trees. It was provided that your Majesty should pay the expences of obtaining and executing the Act up to the time of setting out and making the Division above

mentioned, of fencing with ring or outward Fences the allotments to your Majesty and to the Tythe Owners, and a proportion of the expence of the public Roads

The allotments are not yet fully ascertained but it is computed that those belonging to your Majesty will amount upon an average to about 3270 acres of which about 1000 will be wood Lands or Land proper for the growth of Timber 750 will be sold towards paying the expences the remaining 1520 acres will be in cultivation

It is impossible to speak with precision as to the value of the Lands which will remain for cultivation untill the mode of letting them is determined but if the power which the Act gives of leasing them for 99 years is resorted to they may probably produce an immediate annual Income of about £1400

The Oak Trees of 6 Inches Square have been valued at about £85399 . 10 . 6 and the Sum of £8540 has been paid for the Freeholders and Copyholders tenth part which has been raised from Sales of Timber since the passing of the Act. The value of the small Oaks is 991 . 19 and of the Hollies 796 . 2 which are to be apportioned in the manner before mentioned. Besides the Trees on the 1000 acres proposed for the growth and preservation of Timber there may be considerable annual Sales of Timber for some years and the 1000 acres of wood Land will yield a considerable annual profit

In its former State this Forest produced no profit whatever except from occasional Sales of Timber of no very considerable amount - The preservation of the

Deer was attended with expence.

The expences of executing the act, of making Roads of ring fencing the allotments to the Tythe Owners and of inclosing and subdividing your Majesty's allotments will be very great - The expence of making the public Roads which are about 30 Miles in length has been estimated at about £12000 of which your Majesty's share will probably be about one half - Of the other expences it is impossible at present to form a computation it is hoped that a competent Fund for all these purposes may be obtained from a Sale of the 750 acres (which probably may produce from about £15000 to £18000) or from Sales of Timber without trenching on the ordinary Revenues of the Duchy

King Williams reversionary Leases.

King William's reversionary Leases expire on the 31st of December 1804 several of them have been renewed particularly one of a very large Tract of Land comprehended within the Honor of Pickering in the north riding of Yorkshire heretofore consisting of wild moors and now brought into cultivation - The Rents have been improved according to the value of the Land and in the year 1805 will be in course of payment.

Leases granted to the Jodrell family and comprizing the Demesnes and Severals of Methwold in the County of Norfolk containing 13180 acres and also part of the disforested Forest of Braydon in the County of Wilts containing 1445 acres or thereabouts (the clear extent and value of which is now under investigation) will be at your

Majesty's disposal at Christmas next.

Savoy

A plan has been laid before the Chancellor for making a Street in the wider part of the Strand extending in a straight Line to the River, for embanking against the River and building upon the Terrace Houses fit for the accommodation of those who are concerned in the public Offices in Somerset place which could be immediately carried into effect greatly to the benefit of the public and the Revenue of the Duchy if the Ground were not intersected by other Land placed under the Governance of the Officers of the Exchequer

By the act for converting Somerset House Palace into public Offices the Soil of the River opposite to the Savoy is vested in your Majesty in right of your Duchy and by the act passed in the year 1772 for dividing the possessions of the Hospital of the Savoy and for placing part of them under the Officers of the Duchy and the remainder under those of the Exchequer provision is made for enabling your Majesty to annex by Letters Patent the Lands placed under the Governance of the Exchequer to that of the Duchy and so vice versâ

As your Majesty in right of your Duchy is both Lord of the Manor and owner of the Soil of the River and of the whole of the buildings within this precinct except a small tract which has been heretofore used for Barracks (now burnt down) and the Savoy prison, the Officers of the Duchy Court have very recently made application to the Lords of the Treasury for the Ground

whereon the old Barracks stood with a view to the before mentioned Improvement

Manchester — The police of the large and extensive Town of Manchester seems to require attention It has been found very difficult to induce Magistrates to act in this District. They are now reduced in number to two persons very much advanced in years who have for a long time devoted the greater part of the year to the execution of this Duty and have repeatedly signified their intention to resign unless some speedy relief is afforded them

The population of this Town is rapidly increasing the constant employment afforded to the lower order of people of both sexes and of all ages by the various branches of manufactures carried on at this place and the Neighbourhood has drawn thither immense numbers from all quarters and particularly from Ireland.

The Duty of Magistrates become so burthensome in consequence of the increased population and the additional duties imposed upon them by numerous Acts of Parliament added to the impossibility of inducing Gentlemen in the neighbourhood to act have suggested the necessity of procuring a person well qualified in the Law to reside at Manchester & act as a police Magistrate in aid of the present Magistrates The expediency of the measure is daily felt and has been acknowledged by the highest Law authorities - A Gentleman, Mr. Walton, has been recommended whose long standing at the Bar and acknowledged legal abilities seem to qualify him for the situation. It is necessary that such a salary should be annexed to the office as will make it worth his while to devote his time wholly to this object. The Town of Manchester has been specially applied to to contribute but have declined it - The Earl of Liverpool late Chancellor of the Duchy thought it right that with your Majesty's approbation a fund arising out of the Fines and forfeited Recognizances in the County of Lancaster and the post fines in other Counties adequate to the annual amount of £400 should be assigned out of the Duchy Revenues to defray part of the expence. Fully approving of the measure I have endeavoured to carry it into effect and it will depend upon the advice your Majesty may receive from your Chancellor of the Exchequer and ~~Duchy~~ ~~other~~ your Servants whether any and what part of the public Revenue should be applied in addition to the above to furnish an adequate Salary.

Needwood Forest Chapel — Isaac Hawkins Browne Esquire and the Reverend Thomas Gisborne as Executors of the will of the late Mr. Hawkins of Burton upon Trent have applied for leave to erect a Chapel and a House for a resident Curate upon part of your Majesty's Allotment of Needwood forest provided your Majesty should be so graciously pleased to endow it with a portion of land sufficient for the maintenance of a Curate

An Endowment equal to the value of £100 per

Annum would be an act of royal munificence fully adequate to the wishes of the proposers of this plan - about 106 Acres of the Land to be allotted to your Majesty would be sufficient to secure that Stipend - If therefore the Proposal should receive your Majesty's Approbation it is conceived that a central situation should be immediately fixed upon near to some of the high Roads with about 5 Acres of Land which would be sufficient for the House, Garden and Field and that this should be set apart by the Commissioners for the Inclosure in the first instance - It is also thought that the Income of the Minister might be increased by allowing a certain number of pews to be left to the principal Land Owners in the Forest and erecting a Gallery for that purpose as the Ground Floor should be free to all the Inhabitants

Pelham

June 6. 1804