

THE
PUBLIC RECORDS
OF THE
COLONY OF CONNECTICUT,
FROM MAY, 1744, TO NOVEMBER, 1750, INCLUSIVE.

TRANSCRIBED AND EDITED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A RESOLUTION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY.



BY CHARLES J. HOADLY,
STATE LIBRARIAN.

HARTFORD:
PRESS OF THE CASE, LOCKWOOD & BRAINARD CO.
1876.

Excellencies as their opinion, that this petition of Samuel Clark ought to be dismissed."

Their Excellencies the Lords Justices this day took the said report into consideration, and were pleased with the advice of his Majesty's Privy Council to approve thereof, and to order that the said petition of Samuel Clarke be, and it is hereby, dismissed this Board. Whereof the Governor and Company of his Majesty's Colony of Connecticut for the time being, and all others whom it may concern, are to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

QUERIES FROM THE BOARD OF TRADE AND PLANTATIONS
TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF CONNECTICUT,
WITH THE ANSWERS THERETO, 1748-9.

[Foreign Correspondence, I. 163, 164, 165.]

Whitehall, June 8th, 1748.

Gentlemen: I am directed by my Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations to send you the inclosed Heads of Enquiry, and to desire your particular answer thereto as soon as may be, together with your observations upon such points as you shall think necessary; and you are desired to make a return thereto every six months, that their Lordships may be apprized of any alterations which may happen in the circumstances of your government.

I am, Gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

THOS. HILL.

Governor and Company of Connecticut.

QUERIES FROM THE BOARD OF TRADE TO THE GOVERNOR AND COM-
PANY OF THE COLONY OF CONNECTICUT.

[Endorsed, Received Sept. 13th, 1748.]

[1.] What is the situation of the Colony under your government, the nature of the country, soil and climate, the latitudes and longitudes of the most considerable places in it, or the neighbouring French or Spanish settlements? Have those latitudes and longitudes been settled by good observations, or only by common computations, and from whence are the longitudes computed?

[2.] What are the reputed boundaries, and are any parts thereof disputed, what parts, and by whom?

[3.] What is the constitution of the government?

[4.] What is the trade of the Colony, the number of shipping, their tonnage, and the number of sea-faring men, with the respective increase or diminution within ten years past?

[5.] What quantity and sorts of British manufactures do the inhabitants annually take from hence ?

[6.] What trade has the Colony under your government with any foreign plantations, or any part of Europe, besides Great Britain ? How is that trade carried on ? What commodities do the people under your government send to or receive from foreign plantations ?

[7.] What methods are there used to prevent illegal trade, and are the same effectual ?

[8.] What is the natural produce of the country, staple commodities and manufactures ? And what value thereof in sterling money may you annually export ?

[9.] **What mines are there ?**

[10.] What is the number of inhabitants, whites and blacks ? Are the inhabitants increased or decreased within the last ten years ? How much, and for what reasons ?

[11.] What is the number of the militia ?

[12.] What forts and places of defence are there within your government ? and in what condition ?

[13.] What number of Indians have you, and how are they inclined ?

[14.] What is the strength of the neighbouring Indians ?

[15.] What is the strength of your neighbouring Europeans, French or Spaniards ? What effect have the French or Spanish settlements on the continent of America upon his Majesty's Plantations, especially on your Colony ?

[16.] What is the revenue arising within your government, and how is it appropriated ? What are the ordinary and extraordinary expences of your government ?

[17.] What are the establishments, civil and military, within your government, and by what authority do the officers hold their places ?

[At the May session, 1749, the foregoing queries were referred to a committee, consisting of James Wadsworth, Samuel Lynde, Jeremiah Miller, John Russell, Elisha Chauncey, Seth Wetmore, and Joseph Platt, who reported the following answers, which the Secretary was ordered to sign per order of this Assembly, and direct the same to the Right Hon^{ble} the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations.]

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIPS : We have received your Queries directed to the Governor and Company of this his Majesty's Colony of Connecticut, and in answer thereto inform your Lordships :

1. The situation of the Colony, as hath been found by repeated and careful observations, is between 41 and 42 degrees of N. latitude, and about 71 of longitude from London. The three most considerable rivers in the Colony are Connecticut, Stratford, and New London River; the two principal branches of which last-mentioned river are called Quinnebaug and Shetucket. Tis bounded southerly by the sea or sound, near which and by the rivers the soil is more fruitful, but the greatest part of the land is mountain-

ous and rocky. The climate is very cold in winter and hot in summer.

2. The Colony is bounded southerly on the sea or sound, easterly on Rhode Island, westerly on New York, north on the line of the Massachusetts Colony.

3. As to the constitution of the government: The legislative power is by the royal charter vested in the General Assembly, which consists of the Governor, or in his absence the Deputy Governor, and twelve Assistants, (whereof the Governor or Deputy Governor and six Assistants are a quorum,) and Representatives from each town, not exceeding two; all which are chosen by the freemen of the respective towns. The Governor or Deputy Governor and Assistants are called the Upper House, the Deputies or Representatives, the Lower House. Without the concurrence of each house no act is pass'd. They make laws, institute judicatories, appoint judges and other necessary officers, who before they enter upon their respective offices are all sworn. They meet twice in each year, *viz.* in May and October, and oftener if call'd together by the Governor on any emergency.

4. The trade of the Colony is not large. Horses, lumber and some provisions are exported to the West India islands, from whence we receive in exchange sugar, rum, molasses, salt, and some bills of exchange. What provisions we can spare are principally sent to Boston, New York and Rhode Island, to pay for European goods, which we have mostly from thence, though of late we have had some quantities of goods imported directly from Great Britain, which trade we are endeavouring to cultivate. As to the number of shipping and sea-faring men, we must refer you to the account from the collector and naval officer which we herewith transmit, and which is sent quarterly to the Commissioners of the Customs.

5. Our inhabitants take annually of the British manufactures all sorts of woolen cloth, silks, scythes, nails, glass, pewter, brass, fire-arms, and all sorts of cutlery ware: the quantity we cannot ascertain.

6. We have at present no trade with any foreign plantations, though before the late war we had some few vessels that went up the Mediterranean with fish, with which they purchas'd bills of exchange, and brought the effects home in British manufactures.

7. The methods us'd to prevent illegal trade are a strict conformity to the acts of Parliament relating thereto, by the collector and naval officer, which we conclude are effectual.

8. The produce of the country are timber, English grain, Indian corn, flax, hemp, tobacco, horses, cattle, sheep, swine, some small quantities of each of which are annually exported, as before mentioned. Our manufactures are inconsiderable, our people being generally employed in clearing and tilling the earth. Some tradesmen there are, as tanners, shoemakers, taylor, joyners, smiths, carpenters, &c., without which we could not subsist.

9. There are some copper mines, but proving unprofitable are wholly laid aside. Iron ore hath been found in sundry places, and improv'd to good advantage.

10. The number of our inhabitants, of both sexes and all ages, are computed to be about 70,000 whites and 1000 blacks, and they are greatly increased within the ten years last past, which we attribute (under the divine blessing) to a wholesome air, industrious life, and frugality in living.

11. The militia are computed to be about 10,000, reckoning from 16 to 50 years of age.

12. We have a battery at New London, in which are 9 guns mounted, and in our most exposed frontiers many fortifications to secure the people from the insults of the enemy.

13. The Indians among us are about 500 in all. They are naturally inclined to idleness and excessive drinking, but the great pains that hath been taken to instruct them in literature and in the christian religion seems not to be altogether in vain.

14. There are no Indians that border upon us. The Six Nations, so call'd, are the nearest, who live partly in New York government and partly westward of it.

15. The Spaniards have no settlements nearer to us than St. Augustine. The French at Canada, though not very near, have been very troublesome, especially since they have built a strong fort on this side the lake, at a place call'd Crown Point, from which they, with the Indians, very often make excursions and distress our frontiers and those of New York and the Massachusetts, which occasions a great expence in garrisoning them.

16. The annual revenue by rates and duties in time of peace amounts to about £9000 in bills of credit, about 2000 of which is expended in the support of schools for the education of youth, the remainder for the support of government. Since the commencement of the war our expences have been vastly greater.

17. Our civil establishments are: 1. A superior court, consisting of one chief judge and four assisting judges. This court sits twice in the year in each county, in which are try'd all high crimes and misdemeanors, and civil actions that come to them by appeal from inferior courts. 2. An inferior court in each county, consisting of one chief judge and three or more justices of the quorum, who sit twice in the year, and oftener if occasion requires, for the tryal of delinquents and civil actions. In all these courts matter of law is determined by the court and matter of fact by a jury. 3. In each town are one or more justices of the peace for conservation of the peace and tryal of small causes.

The militia is divided into thirteen regiments. The officers in each are a colonel, lieutenant colonel and major, and in each regiment is a troop of horse. All the officers, both civil and military, are approved by the General Assembly and commissioned by the governor.