

SUMMARY: This undated memorandum by Oxford, perhaps intended only for his own personal records, appears to have been written in late March 1595, and to be closely connected to CP 31/52. The memorandum mentions that earlier, after Oxford had raised his own offer to the Queen for the tin monopoly to £10,000 to match Lord Buckhurst's artificially inflated offer of £10,000, Lord Buckhurst had lowered his own offer by offering the Queen one of two options, either £7000 for the tin monopoly if Lord Buckhurst himself had to put up the money to purchase all the tin by pre-emption, or £10,000 for the monopoly on condition the Queen would lend him £30,000 to purchase the tin. Now, Oxford says, Lord Buckhurst has lowered his offer yet again, offering the Queen only £4000 over and above the £3000 revenue she currently receives from customs taxes on tin, causing Oxford to consider whether he might not abate his own offer to £5000 over and above the £3000 revenue the Queen currently receives.

First, when I offered to make it £10 thousand, my Lord of Buckhurst offered £7000. His other offer was, if her Majesty should lend £30,000, then to yield her yearly, after the first year, £10,000.

He is fallen from £7000 to £4000.

The considerations

First, for that the tin mines may fail and yield some years less tin than other.

Then, if the country people upon stubbornness should take a discontentment and refuse to work, having now other means to live upon tillage and fishing.

Further, that he must give the tinnners for their tin as they have at this present, which is £29 or £30 the 1000 lb. weight.

Again, the Pewterers must have the same price they have still.

Last of all, the Genoese, Venetians, Florentines to have their liberty granted them by the statute.

For these reasons, if I take it not, he is to have it at £4000 more price than her Majesty's custom, which makes her custom £7000 yearly. Whether for these reasons also I may not abate £2000 which I offered before these exceptions, paying her Majesty £5000 (which is a £1000 more than is offered) and so to make it 8000, bearing the hazard and adventure of all these doubts.