

SUMMARY: This memorandum by Oxford is endorsed 9 March 1594 [=9 March 1595 New Style] and appears to be addressed to Lord Burghley. Oxford's suit to the Queen at this time is that one Martin, who has the Queen's licence for transportation of tin, should have his licence forfeited pursuant to the statute made in the 8<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of King Henry VII, chapter 18, because he is causing the Queen to lose almost half her customs' duties because the true weights of tin are not being entered, which Oxford says can be established by comparing the weights at the coinage with the weight of tin to be exported. Oxford offers £500 a year for Martin's licence to export tin and lead, and says that he will ensure that the true weights are entered in the records, and that the Queen will therefore realize the true value of her customs' duties on exported tin. In this memorandum Oxford also proposes that the Queen should exercise her pre-emptive right to purchase the entire production of tin for export in any one year herself, buying at £25 and selling to the tin merchants at £35. By so doing, within three coinages she will have a profit which will suffice for the 'stock' of cash needed for her to continue to exercise her pre-emptive right thereafter.

The tin which is spent in the realm is about 300 thousand lbs. weight, & for this her Majesty hath 40s custom upon every 1000 lbs. weight.

The tin which is transported out of the realm is esteemed to be about 700 thousand lbs. weight, and for every 1000 lbs. weight hereof her Majesty is to have £3 custom.

Upon every hundred lbs. weight of tin which is transported there is 20d imposed.

So that her Majesty's custom of that which is spent within the realm is £600.

Of that which is transported £2100.

And the imposition £583.

Summum Totale

£3283 6s 8d.

The quantity of tin being no more, yet her Majesty may make thereof a greater gain if it shall please her to make the same her own commodity. For whereas by her rates it appeareth that there is 700 thousand lbs. weight of tin yearly transported, if her Majesty at every coinage shall buy the tin into her own hand, paying the country after the rate of £25 the 1000 lbs. weight, which is after 50s the 100 pound weight, then shall she sell at £35 the 1000 lbs. weight, which is after the rate of £3 10s the hundred, & this is rated at the easiest, to make it clear of question.

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And for that the whole sum of 700 thousand lbs. weight of tin comes not in but at two coinages in the year, therefore her Majesty's stock needeth to be the less, wherefore presupposing her Majesty is to buy the half of 700 thousand lbs. weight of tin at £25 the thousand, she is for this to lay out in stock £8750.

Her Majesty buying, then, at £25 and selling at £35 the 1000 lbs. weight of tin gaineth £10 in every 1000 lbs. weight.

So that for 350 thousand pound weight of tin, being bought & sold as is said before, her Majesty gaineth at every coinage £3500 sterling.

So that within 3 coinages her Majesty hath gained £10,500, and her stock wholly returned into her hands, and out of this gain a stock to proceed, and so yearly forever after to make at both coinages £7000 rent.

And herein her Majesty doth but that by her officer (whomsoever she shall appoint) which 3 or 4 engrossers do yearly, laying their stocks together, to the great hindrance of her Majesty and the realm, for in monarchy the wealth of the prince is the riches of the commonwealth, and yet being drawn into some one or few men's hands savours of a monopoly, which her Majesty by taking it into her own hands doth prevent and remedy.

This way therefore doth make her Majesty's revenue of her tin mines to rise to the sum yearly by custom, imposition of the 20d, and the taking of the commodity into her own hands, £10,283 6s 8d.

The suit which I do most humbly crave of her Majesty and desire your Lordship's favour therein to further.

That whereas by the statute made anno viij Henrici 7th caput xviii it was enacted that no tin nor lead should be transported out of this realm into any parts beyond the seas except only to the town of Calais, upon pain of forfeiture of the double value of the merchandise so carried or conveyed to any other place than to the staple of Calais;

Save only the merchants of Genoa, Venice, Florence, etc., to be shipped in the ships, galleys, carracks and other vessels to bring the same into their countries in manner accustomed;

Saving also the burgesses of the town of Berwick;

And whereas a licence is granted to one Martin for transportations of tin, which being not diligently looked into, her Majesty loseth very near half the custom due to her for the same for want of entering the just weight, as will be proved by comparing the weight from the coinage with the weight entered to be transported;

May it therefore please her Majesty to grant unto me a licence solely and only to transport the said commodities of tin and lead, and to no other. I will not only yield to

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her Majesty £500 a year for a yearly rent, but will also take better care to see the just weight entered, whereof her Majesty's customs shall be better answered than hitherto they have been.

Endorsed: Memorandum concerning the tin, 9 March 1594, Earl Oxford