

No. 1.
Regulations of the
Land Granting
Department.

Address to His
Majesty on the
subject of U. E.
Rights.

addition to the other duties; and furthermore, we feel it to be our duty to state to your Majesty, that for the last four or five months scarcely any locations have been allowed to be made even on these conditions, and then not without extreme difficulty, inconvenience and delay. Although applications have been frequently made for permission to locate during that time on unquestionable claims, yet, when allowed, they were not permitted to have lands in situations which were anywise favourable, the government, by their late orders, only allowing those grants to be made in a few of the townships surveyed, most of which are unfavourably situated, the good lands being already taken up in other townships, and the remainder of little or no value, and only to a certain extent, even in those townships, while they are excluded altogether from other surveyed townships more favourably situated. We beg leave to submit that those restrictions and obstacles, and particularly the last mentioned, made by the executive government of this province to the free grants of your royal father, are considered and viewed as a breach of faith and pledge on the part of the government, and a violation of the just rights of the individuals concerned, and, if persisted in, when thus submitted and fully explained, cannot but have a tendency to shake the confidence of your Majesty's subjects in the justice and wisdom of your Majesty's councils and government, and that, in the opinion of your faithful commons and subjects generally, these unjust restrictions, impositions, obstacles and proceedings by the government, have tended, and in fact are the sole causes of reducing the value of those grants in the hands of the original owners very materially, inasmuch as many of those entitled, being desirous of settling themselves in the neighbourhood of their fathers and friends, and not being able to locate their rights in such neighbourhood, or adjacent thereto, have purchased and become possessed of other lands on which they have settled and improved; and which they are not willing to leave to avail themselves of a location at a distance from their friends, and in back and refuse townships: they consequently part with their rights, in many cases, for a trifle, and far below what they would be able to realise under similar circumstances, were all restrictions and obstacles removed at once, as they undoubtedly should be, and locations permitted to be made on the same terms as previous to the year 1818, in which case opportunity would not be afforded for persons having money who desire to avail themselves of large quantities of those rights being for sale at low prices, and who, to answer the letter of the various requirements by the orders in council, procure the performance of the settlements and clearings as cheaply as possible; not with a view of making actual and permanent settlements, but merely to comply with those conditions and afterwards hold them at high prices—a hindrance to the prosperity of the country—whereas if these grants were permitted to be obtained with the same facility, and in the same way and manner as previous to the year 1818, the original holders would either locate themselves or demand a price corresponding with other lands in general; and if thus sold for valuable consideration, they would, in general, be bought for immediate cultivation and use, and consequently would be permanently improved, as there would be no inducement to speculators to purchase those lands in preference to any others, as they would bear a corresponding price. We would also beg leave to represent that there are also in this province other classes of persons who have His Majesty's pledge for a grant of a portion of lands, whose meritorious conduct and valuable services entitle them to the favourable consideration of your Majesty, viz.: those volunteers who comprised the flank companies of militia in this province in the year 1812, and those who served in the incorporated militia or provincial corps during the late war between the King's Government and the United States of America, which description of persons equally suffer by the said regulations, according to the quantity of land to which they are entitled—they, in general, having become possessed of lands in like manner as above mentioned.

All which is respectfully submitted for the gracious consideration of your Majesty, trusting and requesting that your Majesty will take such steps as you in your wisdom may deem expedient, in order that speedy and ample justice may be done in the premises, and that the just claims and rights of persons of the foregoing description may be duly respected by all persons acting under your Majesty's authority.

Arch. McLean, Speaker.

Commons House of Assembly, 4th day of March 1834.