

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

— No. 1. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Daly* to the Right Hon. Lord *John Russell*; dated Prince Edward Island, 19 May 1855.

(No. 28.)

(Received, 18 June 1855.)

(Answered, No. 13, 17 November 1855, page 11.)

No. 1.
Lieut.-Governor
Daly to Right Hon.
Lord J. Russell,
19 May 1855.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship three copies of a Bill intituled, "An Act to impose a Rate or Duty on the Rent-rolls of the Proprietors of certain Rented Township Lands in Prince Edward Island, in order to defray the Expenses of any Armed Force which may be required on account of the withdrawal of the Troops, and for the further Encouragement of Education."

This Bill, as its title denotes, is intended to supply the necessary means for the support of a permanent force for the protection of the colony, to fill the place of the detachment of Her Majesty's troops withdrawn, and any surplus, after the attainment of that object, to be applied to the general purposes of education.

The nature of this Act rendered the insertion of a suspending clause necessary, and it cannot go into operation until it shall have received the Royal Assent.

It is certainly liable to the objection of exclusive or class taxation; but I have seen with regret the impossibility of procuring any other measure which could effect the object contemplated, being the establishment of a force upon which reliance could be placed for the maintenance of tranquillity and the defence of the colony.

The paramount feeling in and out of the Legislature is, that the proprietors, being the class most immediately and vitally interested in the maintenance of a power to enable the Government to enforce the law, ought to bear the whole expense, and in that view the Bill has been passed in both branches of the Legislature by large majorities. I regret to be obliged to assure your Lordship that I can see no ground for entertaining the slightest expectation that any less objectionable measure could be passed in the Provincial Legislature.

It cannot be doubted that a general resistance to the payment of rents would follow from a continuance of the present powerless position of the Government, and that attempts to establish a court of escheat, and every other means to harass the proprietors, would be resorted to. It is from the anticipation of these evils that I feel impelled respectfully to urge the expediency of allowing this Bill to go into immediate operation.

Enclosure, in No. 1.

Encl. in No. 1.

AN ACT to impose a Rate or Duty on the Rent-rolls of the Proprietors of certain rented Township Lands in *Prince Edward Island*, in order to defray the expenses of any Armed Force which may be required on account of the withdrawal of the Troops, and for the further encouragement of Education.—[Passed 17 April 1855.]

WHEREAS Her Majesty's forces, heretofore stationed in this island, have been withdrawn, and it is deemed expedient that, in the event of any emergency, provision should be made

Preamble.