

LOWER CANADA.

— No. 1. —

Copy of a DESPATCH from Viscount *Goderich* to Lord *Aylmer*.

LOWER CANADA.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 7 March 1831.

Visct. *Goderich* to
Lord *Aylmer*.

HAVING had under my consideration the Regulations which are at present in force for the disposal of lands in His Majesty's North American provinces, I am of opinion, after having consulted those who are the most competent to give an opinion on the subject, that some of the clauses or heads of instructions by which the Commissioner of Crown Lands is now governed, are liable to considerable objection. I allude more particularly to those clauses which have reference to the disposal of lands on a quit-rent of five per cent. on the estimated value. I altogether disapprove of this system; and I therefore desire that the practice may be immediately discontinued.

I enclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the new Regulations which I propose to establish for granting lands in the North American provinces; and if, upon consideration, you should be of opinion that they are liable to no serious objection, I am to desire that you will forthwith convey the necessary directions to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, in order that they may be brought into immediate operation.

I think it necessary to apprise your Lordship that, in future, grants of land will not be given to any persons whatever, with the exception of military settlers.

I therefore request that your Lordship will decline to forward to me any applications which may be addressed to you for free grants of land.

I have, &c.,

(signed) *Goderich*.

[A despatch, the same in substance, was addressed to Sir John Colborne.]

REGULATIONS for Granting Lands in the *British North American* Provinces.

1. FOR the information of persons desirous of proceeding as settlers to His Majesty's provinces of North America, the following summary of the rules which have been established for the regulation of grants of land, has been prepared by the direction of His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department.

2. The Commissioner of Crown Lands will, at least once in every year, submit to the Governor a report of the land which it may be expedient to offer for sale within the then ensuing year, and the upset price per acre at which he would recommend it to be offered; the land so offered having been previously surveyed, and valued in one or more contiguous tracts of those which are most adapted for settlement, according to the local peculiarities of the province, and in the proportion to the number of deputy-surveyors who can be employed.

3. The lands to be laid out in lots of 100 acres each, and plans of such parts as are surveyed to be prepared for public inspection; which plans may be inspected in the office of the Surveyor-general, or in that of his deputies in each district, on payment of a fee of 2 s. 6 d.

4. The Commissioner of Crown Lands will proceed to the sale in the following manner: He will give public notice in the Gazette, and in such other newspaper as may be circulated in the province, as well as in any other manner that circumstances will admit of, of the time and place appointed for the sale of lands in each district, and of the upset price at which the lands are proposed to be offered; he will give notice that the lots will be sold to the highest bidder, and if no offer should be made at the upset price, that the lands will be reserved for future sale, in a similar manner, by auction.

5. The purchase money will be required to be paid down at the time of sale, or by four instalments, with interest; the first instalment at the time of the sale, and the second, third and fourth instalment at intervals of half a year.