

on the island during the revolutionary war and the measures of defence may be traced in the calendar, so that it is unnecessary to recapitulate them.

Patterson, who had been absent for some time, returned to the island on the 28th June, 1780, and reported a great improvement in the number of the population, the increase of stock, &c. He proposed on account of the confusion caused by the name—St. John's Island—that it be changed to New Ireland, and an Act was passed for the purpose, but disallowed, the reason given being that the name of New Ireland was already appropriated. He also proposed a system of military roads, but the plan was not approved of by Lord George Germain, then Secretary of State, as he held that these roads would afford advantages to an enemy, whereas by the island being left as it was the population from their knowledge of the country would have the advantage.

Governor Patterson, on his return, charged Lieut. Governor Desbrisay and the Executive Council with having taken advantage of his absence to secure lands for themselves in an improper manner, and made a demand that the lands thus acquired should be restored to the Crown. Desbrisay defended his course, urging his powers as Lieut. Governor, and that he had obeyed instructions in granting lands; should the King command him, he would give up the lands, but he thought it hard. The members of the Council also protested against the demand for the restoration of the lands, but the Lords of Trade agreed with Patterson on the impropriety of the action of the Lieut. Governor and Council, and desired that a surrender of the lands should be made formally in open court, the transactions being entered on the record.

In January, 1782, Governor Patterson reported that he was constructing a boat to cross to the continent, so as to put the island in communication with the rest of the world during winter, but the result of this first attempt is not given in the documents.

About the end of this year (1782) the beginning of the movement of loyalists towards the island is noticed, being an invitation from the officers of the King's Rangers to loyalist refugees to visit and examine the island, so as to be themselves witnesses of the misrepresentations that had been circulated respecting it, and Governor Patterson, writing to the provincial agent, calls attention to the happy asylum it would be for the loyalists. The previous settlers appear, however, to have given him a good deal of trouble. In the month of June, 1783, the agent, Stuart, urged that official orders should be sent to New York to forward loyalists to St. John's Island as early as possible, and the grantees who had received large blocks of land on the island offered to surrender a fourth of their grants for their benefit, but at the end of the year Patterson complained that the want of instructions to supply the loyalists with provisions, &c., would frustrate these intentions. Whether from this or other reasons, the settlement of the loyalists did not proceed very rapidly, although the King's favourable designs in respect to them were communicated to Governor Patterson by the Secretary of State, in a letter dated 8th June, 1784. On the 12th of July, Patterson reported what steps had been taken to distribute the lands resigned by the proprietors for the use of the loyalists, and expressed the most sanguine hopes of the vast numbers to be expected from the Middle States. These hopes were not realized, although a certain number arrived for the transport of whom vessels were engaged and arrangements made for allotting them lands and for supplying them with provisions, materials for building houses, tools and implements of husbandry.