

LOWER CANADA.

Mr. Secretary
Spring Rice to
Lord Aylmer.

Sir,

War Office, 31st July 1834.

HAVING laid before the Secretary at War your letter of the 12th instant, notifying that the practice of making gratuitous grants of land in the colonies has been discontinued, I have received his directions to state that the Pension Regulations so entirely restrict the continuance of grants of land to discharged soldiers during the pleasure and according to the discretion of the Government, that no other measure would appear necessary on the part of this office than to transmit a circular letter to the general officers commanding in the colonies, communicating the decision of the Secretary of State on the subject, and this will accordingly be done.

I have to add, that for the reasons stated in your letter, the Secretary at War entirely concurs in the expediency of Mr. Secretary Spring Rice's decision on the subject.

R. W. Hay, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.

(signed) *L. Sullivan.*

Sir,

Office of Ordnance, 30th July 1834.

HAVING laid before the Master-general and Board your letter of the 21st ult., adverting to their communications of 5th January and 18th March 1829, relative to the propriety of holding out the reward of discharge and a grant of land on the Rideau Canal to deserving men of the Royal Sappers and Miners employed on that service, on the completion of the work, and signifying Mr. Secretary Spring Rice's wish to be informed whether any persons are still employed on the Rideau Canal who could become claimants for land under the arrangement alluded to, I am directed to transmit herewith, for Mr. Spring Rice's information, a list of men, late of the 7th and 15th companies of Royal Sappers and Miners, disbanded at the Rideau Canal in December 1831, and at other periods, who, under the arrangement in question, have claims to allotments of land in Canada; but no Return has been made to the Board of the individuals who have or intend to avail themselves of the grants.

The Master-general and Board, at the same time, request you will submit to Mr. Spring Rice the enclosed copy of a letter from Lieutenant-colonel By upon this subject; and under the circumstances therein stated, and with a view of bringing the business to a conclusion, they have deemed it advisable to order notice to be given to the men, that if they do not claim their lots within twelve months from the date of notice, they will forfeit their claim to the grant alluded to.

I have, &c.

R. W. Hay, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *G. Butler*, for the Secretary.

Sir,

Shernfold Park, 7th July 1834.

I HAVE the honour of returning the papers received with your communication of the 5th instant, relative to the Royal Sappers and Miners discharged on the Rideau Canal, and most respectfully beg to state that I am of opinion *the whole* of the non-commissioned officers and men of the 7th and 15th companies of Sappers and Miners who served on the Rideau Canal are entitled to a grant of 100 acres of land each, when their services in the Royal Corps are dispensed with; as the grant was held out to them to check desertion, which, I am happy to report, it certainly did; but many of the two companies would not take their discharge, fearing they would thereby forfeit their claim to a pension, and returned to England.

I regret it is not in my power to state the number who have actually been put in possession of their grant. His Excellency Sir J. Colborne having kindly offered to give the men, either collectively or separately, any vacant lots they chose, created a delay, as the men took time to choose the lots. I am therefore most respectfully of opinion, that the best mode of bringing this business to a close will be to give notice to the non-commissioned officers and men, late of the 7th and 15th companies Royal Sappers and Miners, who served on the Rideau Canal, that unless they claim their lots within a twelvemonth from the time of the date of the notice, they will forfeit their grant.

I have, &c.

To Colonel Ellicombe,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *John By*,
Lieut.-col. Royal Engineers.