

DOCUMENTS SENT DOWN BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, PERTAINING TO THE AFFAIRS OF THE CANADA COMPANY.

ANSWER TO Mr. SECRETARY JOSEPH'S LETTER OF 29th JAN. 1838.

CANADA COMPANY'S OFFICE,
Toronto, 1st Feb. 1838.

SIR,—We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ult. enclosing an address from the House of Assembly, and informing us of the desire of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor that we should forward to your office, with as little delay as possible, so much of the information required in the Address as our office might enable us to afford.

The information required by the House of Assembly is as follows:—

“A statement in detail of the several sums expended by the Canada Company, and brought to their credit in account with the Executive Government, in part payment for lands sold them in this Province, for making roads, building bridges, wharves, piers, or any other erections, the name or names of the different contractor or contractors.

“The specific sum or sums paid for each contract, separately and apart from any thing connected with the private business of the Company in charge of their agents.

“As also the name or names of the person who approved of such expenditure, on the part of the Executive Government of this Province, before the commencement of any work and after the completion of the several contracts.

“A statement of the lands purchased by the Canada Company from Her Majesty's Government during the twelve years ending on the 1st January 1838, according to the spirit, intention and meaning of the 30th Article of the agreement between Her Majesty's Government and the Canada Company.

“As also a statement of the names of all settlers placed upon any of the said Lands during the years following the date of the said agreement, and a description of the lands upon which they were placed. As also a statement setting forth at length any and all the returns which the said Company may have made during the period first mentioned, according to the intention and meaning of the 30th clause aforesaid.”

The Canada Company have no desire whatever to withhold any information in their power to afford which can be reasonably expected of them; but before attempting to furnish any part of that now required by the House of Assembly, we shall take the liberty of calling the attention of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to the various clauses of the several agreements between Her Majesty's Government and the Canada Company bearing upon the question, and of then stating what our interpretation may be of the obligations they impose upon the Company.

We shall afterwards endeavour to show that the Canada Company have, on their part, strictly fulfilled them; and if we go more fully into the detail of matters connected with the proper discharge of those obligations than strictly speaking could be required of any public body, we do so in compliance with the wishes of the House of Assembly, and under protest against the act being considered as a precedent for similar demands hereafter.

The original agreement between the Canada Company and Her Majesty's Government was for the purchase of a portion of the Crown and Clergy Reserves in this Province.

The former consisting of.....	1,384,413 Acres.
and the latter.....	829,430 do.

Forming a total of.....2,213,843

According to the Report of the Commissioners appointed for that purpose by Her Majesty's Government, those lands were valued at three shillings and sixpence an acre, at which rate the Clergy Reserves amounted to £145,150 5s.

In consequence of the difficulties, however, which subsequently arose, regarding the disposal of the Clergy Reserves, they were withdrawn by Her Majesty's Government; and in lieu thereof, and for the same amount in the aggregate, a block of land in the London and Western Districts, to the extent of about one million acres, was made over to the Canada Company, as will appear from the first clause of the second agreement between the Earl Bathurst and the Canada Company.

This block formed part of an extensive tract of land purchased by the Government from the Six Nations Indians, was unsurveyed and indeed unexplored, was a considerable distance