

occasionally been reported to the Secretary of State to obstruct the practical proceedings of the local governments respecting military settlers.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *T. Spring Rice.*

*N. B.*—Similar despatch, with the necessary alterations, addressed to the other governors of the North American and Australian colonies.

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Enclosure, No. 1.

Downing-street, 12 July 1834.

Mr. Sullivan  
30 Sept. 1830.  
Ditto, 23 Oct. 1830  
Mr. Hay, 4 Nov.  
1830.

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Sir,

IN reference to the correspondence enumerated in the margin, relating to the granting of lands in the colonies to discharged soldiers, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Spring Rice to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary at War, that since the time when that correspondence took place, the value of land in the colonies has very much risen, and that the practice of making gratuitous grants has been found to be injurious to the colonies, and not beneficial to the settlers themselves, when they are of that rank in life to which discharged soldiers must belong. The result of the experience on this subject cannot be more clearly stated than in the accompanying extract of a Report from the Commissioners of Emigration to the Secretary of State, and of a notice which the Commissioners published for the information of persons in the working classes proposing to settle in the British possessions in North America. After maturely weighing all the circumstances of the case, Mr. Secretary Spring Rice has come to the opinion that it would be inconsistent with the attention due to the interests of the colonies to continue the practice of granting lands to discharged soldiers, and that this conclusion is equally applicable, whether they obtain their discharge elsewhere and are removed to the colonies in which land has usually been given, or whether they are discharged in those colonies themselves. I am, therefore, to request that you will move the Secretary at War to enter into communication with the General commanding in chief, upon the steps which should be adopted for making the present decision known to soldiers about to be discharged, and for conveying the necessary directions to general officers commanding on foreign stations.

Soldiers discharged in Canada were admitted so early as the year 1829, before the arrangement became general, to the indulgence of receiving grants of land; but it is not proposed that they should be excepted from the measure now to be carried into effect.

In conclusion, Mr. Spring Rice would observe that, reluctant as he must have felt to propose the withdrawal of any important advantage from the soldiers of the British army, it is a satisfaction to him in the present instance to have seen, from the extracts already alluded to of documents founded on a wide examination of the circumstances of the colonies, that the boon to be discontinued is rather apparent than real; and as the Australian and North American colonies offer many inducements to industrious people, quite as valuable to them as the acquisition of land, Mr. Spring Rice hopes that the measure which it has been his duty to advise will not prove a material discouragement to the settlement of discharged soldiers in those countries.

With reference to this latter point, it will be for the Secretary at War to consider whether the regulations for conveying soldiers, discharged elsewhere, to Australia and North America shall remain in force, merely apprizing the men that they must not expect grants of land, or whether the whole of the arrangements effected in 1830 should be entirely cancelled.

L. Sullivan, Esq. &c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *R. W. Hay.*

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EXTRACT of a REPORT from the Commissioners of Emigration to the Secretary of State, dated 15th March 1832.

As far as we can judge, experience has shown that the most prudent course for working people in these countries is, to commence by earning their livelihood in the occupation to which they have been accustomed at home, and afterwards to acquire land, should that be their object, by purchasing it out of their savings, from the high wages paid in these colonies. This course, which is rendered easy in Canada by the moderate price fixed on land, has already been actually followed by those emigrants who have not been tempted to a deviation from it by the facility with which the Crown lands have been given away; and we are satisfied that it is by such a process, effecting a gradual but not a premature conversion of labourers into landowners, that we may most confidently expect to see the continued reproduction of new means of employment for successive bodies of emigrants from this country.

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EXTRACT of a NOTICE published by the Commissioners of Emigration, respecting the *British Colonies in North America.*

LAND used formerly to be granted gratuitously; but where it was taken by poor people, they found that they had not the means of living during the interval necessary to raise their crops, and further, that they knew not enough of the manner of farming in the colonies to make