

LOWER CANADA.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 16 July 1835;—for,

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Aylmer* to the SECRETARY of STATE for  
the Colonies, in Reply to Mr. Secretary *Rice*'s Despatch of 27 September 1834.

Colonial Department, Downing-street, }  
24 July 1835.

G. Grey.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Lord *Aylmer* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*,  
dated Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec, 23d November 1834.

SIR,

IMMEDIATELY on receiving your Despatch of the 27th September (of which  
Captain Mackinnon was the bearer), authorizing the issue from the military chest of  
a sum not exceeding 31,000*l.* to be applied to the payment of the arrears due upon  
the estimate for the expenses of the Civil Government and the administration of  
justice in this Province for the year ending in the month of October 1833, I assembled  
the Executive Council, and referred to them the details of the measure.

I have now the honour of transmitting their Report, to which I take leave to call  
your attention, and, without stopping to submit any remarks upon it, I hasten to  
offer on my own part, and I am sure I may confidently add, on the part of all the  
officers of Government in this Province, my thanks, and their thanks, for the  
seasonable relief which has been afforded by the issue, upon the responsibility of  
His Majesty's Ministers (so generously incurred on this occasion), of the means of  
paying the balance due upon the Estimate of the year 1833.

The benefit of this relief will be felt, when it is recollected that some of the public  
officers have 20 months, and even those who have benefited to the greatest extent  
by the partial issues already made, have 17 months of salary now due to them, and  
that, with few exceptions, those individuals are altogether dependent upon their  
salaries for the means of existence. Under the privations to which the public  
officers have been exposed, they have generously abstained from urging their dis-  
tresses upon the consideration of the Executive Government; and it is within my  
own knowledge, that many of them have been compelled to part with articles of  
furniture and plate, and even their watches, to procure the bare necessaries of life.  
To such extremity has the public service been driven, that I have, for some time  
past, been in daily apprehension of a dissolution of the King's Government in the  
Province, from the want of means to carry on its ordinary operations.

I am now, for the moment, relieved from this apprehension; but I take leave  
most earnestly to represent to His Majesty's Government the necessity of guarding  
against the recurrence of so critical a state of affairs, by the adoption of some certain  
mode of providing for the wants of His Majesty's Government.

I am not yet acquainted with the course which it may be the intention of  
His Majesty's Government to adopt for the adjustment of the existing financial  
difficulties with the House of Assembly; but should the ensuing Session terminate  
without any adequate provision being made for defraying the expenses of the Civil  
Government and the administration of justice, the same embarrassments from which  
we have just been relieved must inevitably recur.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Aylmer.*