

No. 7.
Despatch from
Earl Bathurst to
Lieut.-Gen.
Sir J. Sherbrooke,
7 December 1816.

to show, that whatever brings those reserves into cultivation, must be for the ultimate advantage of the Clergy and the Crown; and that whether they be alienated for seven or fourteen years, or for the life of a settler, is a matter of comparative indifference.

It appears, from a map which Mr. Whitchee has produced to me, that some of the lots adjoining those now settled by Messrs. Felton and Whitchee have been granted, since their arrival, to non-residents; and, among others, I observe the name of Captain Loring, of the 104th regiment, who was at the time military secretary to Sir Gordon Drummond. If these gentlemen have correctly stated the extent of their exertions, and the capital employed by them, they have claims far superior to any which can be advanced by a non-resident; and I should gladly countenance an arrangement which could place them in possession of the land most conveniently situated for their purpose. But if it be true that Captain Loring has procured a grant of those lots since the plan of Messrs. Felton and Whitchee was known in the colony, I can have no difficulty in authorizing you to resume those grants, which, as he from his public situation must have known the promises of an extension of grant originally given to Messrs. Felton and Whitchee, he could only have obtained with the view of disposing of them to them, or of defeating the further execution of their project: under either of which circumstances I cannot consider him entitled to any consideration.

I am, &c.
(signed) Bathurst.

(Enclosure.)

LETTER from Mr. Charles Whitchee to Earl Bathurst.

15, Arundel-street, Strand,
19 November 1816.

Enclosure.

My Lord,

HAVING returned to this country for the purpose of procuring seeds and such implements of agriculture as we find on a local knowledge of Canada indispensable, I embrace the opportunity of acquainting your Lordship that by an early application of capital, and great personal exertion of Mr. Felton, myself and associates, we have been enabled to fulfil the conditions under which you were pleased to authorize a grant of land in May 1815, and the whole being in tillage for seed the approaching season, I trust the extension promised at that period may now receive your Lordship's sanction.

I take the liberty of making known the extreme difficulties we are under owing to the practice of setting apart the Crown and Clergy Reservations intersecting the lands allotted to settlers, which with the vast extent of waste lands even in the best townships, preclude a possibility of connecting a portion suitable to the management or maintenance of a respectable agriculturist. The consequent expense imposed on the settler by this arrangement of fencing and making general and occupation roads through their uncultivated spaces, occasion much serious interruption in the settlement, in addition to the numerous other difficulties we experience in the prosecution of our extensive schemes, that I venture to hope your Lordship will perceive how greatly it would accommodate and facilitate the accomplishment of our object were these Reserves included in the grant promised us.

And to further the intention of peopling the neighbourhood, I am induced to request that grants of 100 acres may be allowed such of our labourers as are disposed to become actual settlers.

I have, &c.
(signed) Chs. Whitchee.

—No. 8.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Gen. Sir J. C. Sherbrooke to
Earl Bathurst.

My Lord,

Quebec, 6 May 1817.

No. 8.
Despatch from
Lieut.-Gen.
Sir J.C. Sherbrooke,
6 May 1817.

IMMEDIATELY on receiving your Lordship's despatch, of the 7th December 1816, directing that the lands granted to Major Loring and others, in Ascot, to the prejudice of Mr. Felton's establishment, should be resumed, I caused a communication on the subject to be made to Major Loring, who at once declared his readiness to surrender those lands to the Crown, either in exchange for others, or even without an equivalent if he should be required to do so.

He also gave such an explanation of the manner of his obtaining the lands in question as showed that he had no design of advantaging himself to the injury of Mr. Felton; and the enclosed copy of a letter from that gentleman to my secretary will show your Lordship that immediately after the lands were granted a satisfactory arrangement