

Despatches from the Right Honourable Earl Grey.

PRINCE EDWARD
ISLAND.

(No. 21.)

No. 1.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Lieut.-Gov. Sir A. BANNERMAN.

SIR,

Downing Street, September 2, 1851.

I HAVE had under my consideration the Act* relating to emigrants which has recently been passed by the Legislature of Prince Edward Island. * See Appendix.

Some of the provisions of this Act are, I conceive, open to much objection. I refer to the clause imposing a tax on emigrants of an amount so much higher than the similar tax in the neighbouring provinces or in the United States, and also to the clause subjecting masters of vessels to a penalty for allowing emigrants to land until the requisite lists are given in,—a provision with which it would be very difficult at all times to comply.

The tendency of legislation of this nature must clearly be to discourage emigration to the island; and I entertain so much doubt whether this result would be consistent with the true interests of the colony that I shall abstain from advising Her Majesty to assent to the Act, until I shall have received from you a further report on the subject.

You will therefore invite the attention of the Legislature to the provisions of the Act to which I have adverted, with a view to their amendment, unless you should be of opinion that no advantage would arise from your taking this course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

No. 2.

No. 2.

(No. 33.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Lieut.-Gov. Sir A. BANNERMAN.

SIR,

Downing Street, November 28, 1851.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 47*, of the 13th of October last, explanatory of the provisions of the "Act relating to Emigrants," to which objections were raised in my despatch of the 2d of September. * Page 60.

I transmit, for your information, the copy of a report of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, to whom I have referred the subject; and concurring with the Commissioners as to the tendency of the amendments made in this Act, as compared with the provisions of the law of 1848, I can only repeat the opinion I expressed to you in my former despatch, that nothing would contribute so much to the advancement of the colony as its being chosen as a place of Settlement by an eligible class of emigrants, a result which cannot reasonably be expected while the restrictions imposed upon emigrants arriving there are more onerous than in other parts of North America. Nov. 20.

Although, therefore, I shall advise Her Majesty that the Act should be left to its operation in its present form, I consider it highly desirable for the interests of Prince Edward's Island that the subject should be reconsidered by the Legislature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

Enclosure in No. 2.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
20th November 1851.

SIR,

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, accompanied by a despatch from the Lieutenant-governor of Prince Edward Island, on the subject of the Act passed in the last session of the Legislature of that island, intituled "An Act relating to Emigrants."

2. We infer from this despatch that Lord Grey had pointed out to the Lieutenant-governor the objections to this Act suggested in our report of the 19th of August last, to the effect, first, that the amount of the tax imposed on emigrants was unusually high, and therefore calculated to discourage immigration, and, secondly, that the 4th clause imposed on the master a duty which he would not always be capable of performing. To this Sir A.

47. Oct. 13, 1851.