

feet, and then only allowing them to be located, even on these terms, in a few of the surveyed townships, and generally in the most unfavourable situations, or on the land remaining to be located, which is but of little value or mere refuse.

That although your committee are aware that the Executive Government profess that the various regulations have been, and are at present made with a view of favouring the original holders of those rights, and to prevent them accumulating in the hands of speculators, yet your committee are compelled to state that, from all the information they have been enabled to procure from persons best qualified to judge of the effect, they have had a direct contrary tendency; and that the more obstacles and impositions are imposed by the colonial government, the more will facility be afforded for speculation in those claims, and the more their value will be reduced in the hands of the original owners. And your committee feel it to be their duty further to remark, that if what is professed by the Government were the real object, they are at a loss to conceive how the late regulations could by possibility have that effect, particularly in excluding them from locating in townships favourably situated, &c.; and they have good reason to believe that it will be viewed as altogether unjust and partial, (as it really appears to your committee to be,) as creating a distinction between those grants and applications to purchase the lands of the Crown, and calculated to weaken the faith of the subjects of His Majesty in the justice of the Government. That in the opinion of your committee all restrictions and impositions should at once be removed from all grants to the first loyalists and their sons and daughters, and also to those who served in the flank companies in the year 1812, and in the incorporated militia during the late war; and that it would conduce much to the prosperity of the province if the system of selling lands at auction, and at stated periods only, were abolished, and Crown lands sold at a moderate valuation to be fixed upon, and that agencies or boards be established in the several districts for the purpose of affording full and correct information to all persons desirous of locating or purchasing the lands of the Crown, and to locate and sell the same as occasion might require, thereby saving much expence, inconvenience and delay; and that in order that the system of selling and granting lands should be based on the most permanent footing, and on such principles as best to suit the localities and interest of all parts of the province, and be conducted on the most simple and economical plan, it is highly desirable that it should be regulated by statute law, in the framing of which would not only be combined the wisdom of the Executive, but also that of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, together with their local knowledge and experience of the wants and interests of the several parts of the province. Your committee also herewith report an address to His Majesty, which they recommend for the adoption of your honourable house,

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Committee-room, Commons House of Assembly, }
27 February 1834.

Peter Perry, Chairman.

ADDRESS to His Excellency for Information on the subject of Lands to U. E.'s and others.

To His Excellency Sir John Colborne, K. C. B., &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

We, His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons House of Assembly of Upper Canada in provincial Parliament assembled, humbly request your Excellency to lay before this House, with as little delay as possible, all such communications and instructions from His Majesty's Government, since the first settlement of the province, as relate to the conditions and regulations for the location of, and obtaining patents for lands in this province by U. E. loyalists and militia, discharged officers and soldiers, pensioners, and all persons entitled to grants of land; and also as relate to the purchase of lands by individuals; together with a full and detailed statement of the present system of granting and selling lands of the Crown to the above description of persons, showing the prices, regulations and conditions upon which the above several descriptions of persons are permitted to obtain lands from the Crown.

Address to his
Excellency.

Commons House of Assembly, }
28 November 1833.

Archibald M. Lean, Speaker.

ANSWER.

Gentlemen,

I WILL direct the information which is requested in this address to be laid before the House of Assembly.

Answer.

MESSAGE from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, with Documents relating to Claims of U. E. Loyalists, &c. &c.

Message from his
Excellency with
Documents relating
to U. E.'s &c.

J. COLBORNE.

THE Lieutenant-governor transmits to the House of Assembly copies of the documents applied for in their address of the 28th November; and with reference to the annexed Order (244.)

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