

4 COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE COLONIAL OFFICE

These temporary Acts, however, not having been renewed in the last session of the Provincial Parliament, expired on the 1st of May, and it was immediately notified to the militia, by his Excellency's directions, that under existing circumstances the old permanent ordinances came into force.

Evil disposed persons were not wanting to spread doubts upon the subject; and to these were added gross misrepresentations and calumnies regarding the intentions of the Executive Government, all tending to create discontent and dissatisfaction in the province, but more particularly to induce the militia to object against and disobey the orders issued under those ordinances for the usual musters in summer.

The Governor in Chief has seen with great satisfaction, that the utmost exertions of the ill-disposed have totally failed to disturb the natural disposition of the people to order and obedience. With very few exceptions, and those chiefly of officers holding commissions, the musters of July and August have been unusually numerous and well attended; it is therefore an important and most agreeable duty to his Excellency, to offer his warmest acknowledgments in approbation of that conduct, by which the battalions of militia have shown their loyalty and proper sense of duty.

But while the Governor in Chief thus gives the reward of praise where it is so well merited, he feels that his duty imperiously calls upon him, at this time, to deprive of the distinction of holding commissions in the militia, all such persons as have neglected to attend at the musters required by law, or who, by their conduct or language at public meetings, have failed in that respect which is due to the representative of their Sovereign. This, however, is a work of time and investigation, which, though necessarily attended with some delay, will not fail to receive his Excellency's serious and deliberate consideration.

By order of his Excellency the Governor General and Commander in Chief.

(signed) *F. Vassal De Monviel,*
Adj^t Gen. M. F.

GENERAL ORDER OF MILITIA :

Office of Adj^t Gen^l of Militia,
12th Dec. 1827.

The Governor in Chief, having for some time past occupied himself in considering the reports of reviews by officers commanding battalions of militia, has great satisfaction in again expressing his approbation of the general disposition and orderly conduct of this great national force. The reviews have been fully attended, and there are but few instances in which the Governor in Chief could think it at all necessary to express censure. His Excellency, therefore, conveys to all and to each battalion his thanks for their conduct, trusting that next summer he shall find no cause to repeat the only disagreeable part of duty which remains for him to perform, that is, to publish the names of those officers who can offer no sufficient apology for their neglect of duty and absence from muster.

N^o 2.—COPY of Mr. Secretary Huskisson's Despatch to the Earl of Dalhousie.

MY LORD,

Downing Street, 28th March 1828.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, stating that the temporary laws which had for many years regulated the militia of Lower Canada expired on the 1st of May last, and that His Majesty's attorney general having advised your Lordship that the old laws of 1787 and 1789 again came into operation, you had acted on his opinion, and that in general the musters had been extremely well attended: but as some doubt attended the question, the party opposed to Government took the opportunity to attack its conduct in this respect with violence; and the consequence was, that several officers of militia, either believing or affecting to believe that there was no militia law in force, refused to attend the summer musters, or otherwise exhibited a spirit of disobedience to orders; and that your Lordship had dismissed these persons wherever the circumstances of their conduct or situation were such as to make an example necessary.