

— No. 17. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord Aylmer to Mr. Secretary Stanley;
(with Enclosures.)

No. 17.

Despatch from
Lord Aylmer to
Mr. Sec. Stanley,
3 July 1834.

Sir,

Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec, 3 July 1834.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 1st of April last, No. 49, calling for an explanation from Mr. Felton, the Commissioner of Crown lands, regarding certain grants of Crown lands in this province to him and his children, which grants have been found to exceed very considerably the amount authorized by His Majesty's Government, I have now the honour of transmitting for your information Mr. Felton's answer to my reference to him on that subject, through my civil secretary.

Mr. Felton's explanation, and its accompanying documents, will, I trust, be found sufficient to answer the purpose of your inquiry.

I have to observe, that the circumstances connected with this subject having occurred previous to my assumption of the government of this province, I have no knowledge of them besides what is derived from the documents now transmitted.

In the despatch to which I have now the honour of returning an answer, I am directed to "take care to withhold the grants (to the children of Mr. Felton) if not already issued."

These grants having been already issued (in November 1830), I shall now await your further directions before requiring the surrender of them by the parties concerned.

Besides the documents furnished by Mr. Felton, I transmit herewith a statement and copy of a letter explanatory of it, from the secretary of the province, of the various grants of Crown lands which have been issued to Mr. Felton and his family; it will be found to vary in some particulars of dates, and numbers of acres, from the statement which accompanied your despatch of the 1st of April, and I therefore return the latter in order that the two statements may be compared. The secretary of the province tells me he is at a loss to account for their discrepancy.

In the statement of the secretary of the province abovementioned, there appears a grant to Mr. Felton during my administration of 600 acres, as late purser in the Royal Navy. That grant was issued upon the recommendation of the Executive Council (a copy of whose report is herewith transmitted), and I take leave to observe, that had I been then aware, which I was not, of the large grants already obtained by Mr. Felton, I should not have given my sanction to that recommendation without reference to His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

Aylmer.

(Enclosure 1, in No. 17.)

LETTER from Mr. Felton to the Civil Secretary.

Sir,

Quebec, 1 July 1834.

I AM honoured with your communication of 20th May, transmitting to me, by order of his Excellency the Governor-in chief, a despatch from the Right Hon. Mr. Stanley, calling for explanation regarding grants of Crown lands conferred upon me and my family; and in obedience to my Lord Aylmer's commands, I beg leave to submit a statement of all the circumstances, as far as is consistent with my knowledge of the proceedings, and with the documents existent in the public offices.

Enclosure 1.

STATEMENT.

The first points in Mr. Stanley's despatch on which it appears to be desirable to give information, is the course of official proceedings had in relation to making the grant to Mr. Felton's family; and the second is the reasonableness of the application on the part of Mr. Felton, considering the quantity of land which he had already received, and the circumstances under which the grant of 1,200 acres instead of 200 acres was made to Mr. Felton's children, notwithstanding the directions in the Secretary of State's despatch, framed upon the suggestion of Sir James Kempt.