

the Queen and to yourself, from the Legislative Council and House w
Assembly of Prince Edward's Island, praying that the detachment of troops no
stationed there may not be withdrawn.

You will acquaint the Council and the House of Assembly, that I have laid
their dutiful address before the Queen, and that Her Majesty was pleased to
receive the same very graciously; but that I have not felt myself at liberty to
advise Her Majesty to comply with the prayer of the address.

If the colony were threatened with danger of aggression, Her Majesty's
Government would not be slow in affording every assistance for its protection,
but no such danger is threatened; and we feel that it is not right to relieve the
Legislature of Prince Edward's Island from the duty and the charge of main-
taining a force,—whether it be police, militia, or enrolled pensioners,—of sufficient
amount to preserve the internal peace of the colony.

We are now reducing the garrisons of both Canada and Nova Scotia; but
some troops must be left there for the occupation of important military works,
or for other purposes which are purely military. In Prince Edward's Island,
there are no works which require to be occupied for military purposes, or which
might not equally well be occupied by a militia force; nor is there any object
for which a military force can be at all necessary, excepting that of preserving
the peace.

I have now to remind you again that you have not replied to the question
which was referred to you by my predecessor, in his despatch of the 2nd of July
last, as to the period when it would be perfectly convenient to your government
that arrangements should be made for withdrawing the troops, thereby inviting
you, of course, to consider the propriety of making arrangements for replacing
the troops either by police, militia, or enrolled pensioners, as soon as may be
practicable.

I have held out some expectation that it might be practicable to send out a
company of pensioners, or at least as many men as, with those now in the colony,
might form a company; but the realization of that expectation must be condi-
tional upon the facility of obtaining lands for the men, as well as upon the colony
being prepared to find labour for them for some months after their arrival, and
also of erecting cottages for their habitation, and upon paying them for those
days on which their services may be required under arms.

It only remains for me to state that I propose to instruct the Major-General
commanding in Nova Scotia, to withdraw the troops from Prince Edward's Island
before the setting in of the ensuing winter season.

I am, &c.
(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

No. 17.

No. 17.

COPY of DESPATCH from his Grace the DUKE of NEWCASTLE to
Lieut.-Governor SIR A. BANNERMAN.

No. 4.

SIR,

Downing Street, 1st December 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge your Despatch, No. 3, military, of the 30th August,
enclosing a petition from the inhabitants of Queen's County to Her Majesty,
relative to the withdrawal of the troops from Prince Edward's Island.

I have laid this petition before Her Majesty, who was pleased to receive the
same very graciously.

But I have not been able to advise Her Majesty to reconsider the deter-
mination already communicated to you by my Despatch of the 22nd of April
last. I could not recommend that the military should be maintained in the
Island to do the duty which ought to be accomplished by an effective local
police, especially when such maintenance is at the cost of repeated and numer-
ous desertions. The establishment of a police force to perform the services
properly belonging to such a body, and the framing and execution of really
effective measures to check desertion, are preliminaries indispensable towards any
reconsideration of the decision thus arrived at by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) NEWCASTLE.