

1824.

Scheme follows for the most advantageous management of the clergy reserves. Page 51

February 5,
York.

Maitland to Bathurst (Confidential). The Assembly has presented a second address on the subject of half pay to the incorporated militia of Upper Canada, which he had forwarded, sends now a memorandum containing a comparison of the composition of the incorporated militia of Upper Canada, and the Voltigeurs of Lower Canada, the example of the latter being chiefly dwelt on. The pretensions that would probably be awakened should the allowance prayed for be granted. The provincial legislature might be empowered to provide for the allowance, but in that case specific means should be provided. 53

Memorandum, on the difference between the status of the incorporated militia of Upper Canada and the Voltigeurs of Lower Canada in respect to their claims for half pay. 55

February 5,
York.

Maitland to Bathurst (No 115). Transmits joint address and resolutions from the Council and Assembly which he recommends to favourable consideration. 62

Enclosed. Joint address from the Council and Assembly, that the remote situation of the western district has occasioned a depreciation in the value of its products. The soil is suited for the growth of tobacco, which being more valuable in proportion to its bulk can better bear the charge of transportation, but a reduction in the excise duty on consumption would be necessary to enable it to compete with that grown in the United States. The increase of population and other benefits that would flow from this measure, which they entertain hopes may be realised. 64

Resolutions on the subject. 68

February 6,
York.

Maitland to Bathurst (No. 116). Had reserved bill for the purpose of making perpetual Acts passed in 1819 for the more equal and general assessment of lands, which Acts were then limited to a duration of eight years, and also to authorize under certain restrictions a sale of a portion of land for the collection of the rate. His Lordship's interest in the question of the remedy to be applied for the improvident grants of land now lying waste and neglected. The difficulty arising from passing any general law; the measure of levying a moderate, but indiscriminate, assessment taken in preference; the Acts, four years in operation, are regarded as extremely beneficial. The general principle of the bill introduced to make the Act permanent was very favourably entertained, although there was much discussion on details, the opposition coming chiefly from four members who were the largest land proprietors in the House. The exertions made to defeat the bill in the Council, its passage by a small majority and reservation under the general instruction to reserve all bills affecting the property of persons not usually resident in the province. Discusses the objections brought against the bill, which have not altered his opinion of the necessity of the measure. Discusses various points. The Governor-in-chief has called in Lower Canada for enactments to facilitate the confiscation of tracts allowed to lie without improvement, a measure more rigid than that under consideration. 71

Enclosed. Copy of the bill in question. 81

Schedules follow. 102

Form of assessment. 105a

Memorandum of the Lieut.-Governor to the Executive Council with regard to assessment. 107

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