

The Commissioners, Messrs. J. T. Taschereau and L. Juchereau Duchesnay made a report (Appendix E of Journals of the Legislative Assembly for 1821-22) which contains the enumeration of the lots adjudicated upon. As may be easily seen by the text of the statute, these adjudications do not constitute regular titles and are only location tickets which were to be completed by letters patent under the Great Seal of the Province. Nevertheless, the parties have never, except in very rare cases, taken the trouble to obtain letters patent and have really no regular titles to their property. In fact, in the counties of Gaspé and Bonaventure, especially along the Baie des Chaleurs, more than half the people have no title, not even a location ticket for the property they occupy, which makes it very expensive to have searches made in the registry offices.

EXCEPTIONAL GRANTS.

All the abovementioned extravagant grants were made by the colonial administration, but the Imperial Government displayed the same prodigality whenever opportunity offered. Thus the Duke of Portland, undoubtedly as a reward for their profusion, gave a quarter of a township, about 12,000 acres, to each member of the Executive Council constituting the Land Board which had granted the excessive concessions to township leaders from 1796 to 1806. He also made a present of 48,062 acres to the Governor, Sir Robert Shore Milnes, who, like his predecessors, had abused his position to enrich a handful of favorites to the detriment of the public. Mr Felton, an emigrant, who was afterwards Commissioner of Crown Lands, brought with him a formal grant of 5,000 acres another conditional grant of 5,000 acres, and others for those who accompanied him.

In accordance with instructions from the English minister, the Duke of Richmond gave free grants to officers and soldiers of the regular army, and in 1832, Lord Goderich gave some to pensioners in commutation of their pensions. Finally it was from the Imperial Government that the British America Land Company obtained the lands it owns in the Eastern Townships; the grant in its favour covered an extent of 800,000 acres.

MONOPOLY OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

All this prodigality on the part of the Imperial and Provincial Govern-

ments had the effect of placing in the hands of a few landlords and speculators the means of colonization. By means of which the public land was sold in 1838 under individual or seigniorial titles. The following are the names of the persons examined

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2 Fr
3 Ho
4 Co
5 M
6 E
7 H
8 P
9 E
10 S
11 C
12 I
13 P
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