

(D.)—No. 1.

COPY of a Circular Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Lieutenant-governor.

No. 1.
Regulations of the
Land Granting
Department.

(Copy.)

(Circular.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 31st August 1831.

As I have deemed it advisable that all lands should be indiscriminately offered for public competition, it is not intended to continue the practice which has hitherto prevailed of making grants of land to officers on the half-pay of the army or navy, or to those who may have disposed of their commissions under the provisions of the general order of July 1829, for the purpose of settling in one of the North American provinces. I therefore propose that in future, instead of making grants of land to officers, a certain sum shall be remitted from the price of that which they may purchase, proportioned to the rank and length of service of the officer. The general order of the 10th instant has been framed accordingly, and you will give the necessary orders to the commissioner of Crown lands to carry these regulations into effect, with regard to officers who may arrive in the province subsequently to the receipt of this despatch.

Copy of Despatch
relating to Lands
to Officers.

I have, &c.

Goderich.

(D.)—No. 2.

EXTRACT of a Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Lieutenant-governor, dated Downing-street, 31 October 1831.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 36, of the 5th ult., transmitting a plan of the townships which have been regularly surveyed in Upper Canada, and describing the situation and advantages of those which you would particularly recommend for the location of emigrants.

Extract of Des-
patch relating to
Free Grants.

I shall take an early opportunity of referring to the commissioners of emigration the various suggestions contained in your despatch, and I shall not fail to communicate with you more at large upon the subject.

There are two modes by which emigrants may find the means of supporting themselves upon their arrival in Canada, viz.: working for wages, or settling themselves at their own expense upon land which, if they bring with them adequate means, they may purchase in the same way and upon the same terms as any other person desirous of so obtaining it; but it is clear, that if by the location of proper emigrants, it is meant that lands should be given to them, and that they should be established and for a time maintained upon those lands out of the public revenue, such a system would be utterly inconsistent with and destructive of the whole plan of disposing of land by public sale.

(D.)—No. 3.

EXTRACT of a Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Lieutenant-governor, dated Downing-street, 21 November 1831.

It has been urged, that to compel the *bonâ fide* settler to pay for his land anything beyond the necessary expense of surveying it and marking out the limits, is to deprive him of a portion of his capital, which (if allowed to retain it) he might employ to great advantage. Plausible as this objection is, experience has demonstrated that by yielding to it, and by making free grants, much more inconvenience is incurred than can arise from this alleged defect in the system of sale. If no consideration is to be given in return for land all persons will be desirous to obtain it, and that too in quantities not limited by their ability to turn it to advantage.

It is likewise found practically, that under the system I am now considering, no degree of caution is sufficient to prevent large tracts of land from getting into the possession of persons whose object is not to improve it, but at a future day to dispose of it, when it shall have acquired an increased value from the settlement and improvement of the vicinity; the effect of this being to enable the idle or fraudulent proprietor not only to put his more industrious neighbours to great inconvenience, but also to derive a profit from their exertions to which he has in justice not the slightest claim.

As far as I am acquainted with the history of new settlements, there is no instance in which the practice of making free grants has been followed without leading to the abuse I have described; various regulations have been adopted with a view of guarding against it, but these, though complicated and otherwise inconvenient, have uniformly failed to accomplish their intended object.

(D.)—No. 4.

EXTRACTS of a Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Lieutenant-governor, dated Downing-street, 1 February 1832.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your despatch of the 24th November, inclosing the report which had been made to you respecting "the number of labourers and mechanics, who

Extracts of Des-
patch relating to
Employment of
Emigrants.