

UPPER CANADA LANDS.

Copy of a Despatch from Sir *F. B. Head* to the Right Hon. Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Toronto, Upper Canada, 27 February 1837.

Despatch from
Sir F. B. Head
to Right Hon.
Lord Glenelg.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 25th August, transmitting the copy of an Address of the House of Commons, dated the 20th of that month, calling for certain information on points connected with the granting of land in this colony, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying Returns prepared by the Secretary and Registrar, the Surveyor General, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and the Clerk of the Executive Council; which I trust will be found to contain the information required by the Address of the House of Commons.

I have, &c.

(signed) *F. B. Head*.

No. 1.
Regulations of the
Land Granting
Department.

No. 1.

REGULATIONS of the LAND GRANTING DEPARTMENT.

REPORT of the Select Committee to whom was referred the subject of Lands granted to U. E.'s and others; together with the Addresses to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor; His Excellency's Answers, and accompanying Documents relating thereto; and an Address to His Majesty on the Subject.

THE select committee to whom was referred the message of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, together with other documents and papers relating to the system of granting and settling the lands of the Crown, sent down in answer to an address of this house, have agreed to the following report:

Report of the
Select Committee
to whom was
referred the sub-
ject of Lands
granted to U. E.'s
and others.

Your committee, upon entering on the inquiry, perceived at once that all the information necessary to enable them to do so satisfactorily was not before them, and therefore agreed to and reported an address to his Excellency for more full information, which was adopted and presented on the 16th January last, and to which his Excellency, on the 25th of the same month, replied, that he would transmit the Address to His Majesty's Secretary of State, to receive His Majesty's pleasure thereon.

In the absence of the information required in said address, it has not been in the power of your committee to investigate the subject as thoroughly as they could wish, but from the consideration your committee have been able to give, they are of opinion that the bounty of land awarded and granted to the first loyalists in this province, and their sons and daughters when arriving at the age of 21 years, or when married, was considered and understood as a recompense and reward for their many valuable and meritorious services rendered His Majesty during the sanguinary struggle in (what was called) the American Revolution, and for their fidelity and attachment to His Majesty's person and Government; and was granted and awarded upon no other condition than that the head of the family should be resident in the province previous to the year 1798, and should also settle upon and improve some part of his own grant, or become possessed of and reside upon some other lands in the province; in which opinion they are borne out, not only by the practice of the colonial government and by facilities afforded for locating those claims from the first settlement of the province up to the year 1818, but also by such proclamations and instructions of His Majesty's Government as your committee have been enabled to examine.

Taking these to be the grounds and intentions of the original grant, the restrictions and impediments which have been from time to time imposed since the year 1818, your committee conceive are most unjust and unwise, and your committee can regard them in no other light than a breach of faith on the part of the Government; and that, in the opinion of your committee, in point of practice, they have had a tendency, if not been the sole cause, of reducing the value of those grants very materially, thereby affording an opportunity for speculators to avail themselves of large quantities for a mere trifle, and retarding the progress of the country.

That in the opinion of your committee the late Orders in Council respecting these grants are altogether the most unjust and objectionable of any heretofore made, viz.: two years' actual residence, to clear and fence a certain quantity of land, and build a house 18 by 20

feet,