

387

amount of which carried with it something like a sense of humiliation and shame, particularly when the individual paying belonged to the humbler class of life, as the greater part did.

Enclosure 2. in No. 46.

Encl. 2. in No. 46.

Sir,

Secretary's Office, Montreal, 9th April 1847.

With reference to my letter to you of the 31st ultimo, and to your reply of the 2d instant, I have the honour, by command of the Governor General, to request that you will be good enough to furnish me, in addition to the information already furnished by your letter, with a return of the fees for searches made in your office (whether paid for or due) from the date of your appointment to the 31st December last, and also of all fees for certificates and other emoluments arising from your office.

I have, &c.

G. H. Ryland, Esq., Registrar,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) D. DALY, Secretary.

Enclosure 3. in No. 46.

Encl. 3. in No. 46.

To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly in Provincial Parliament assembled.

The Petition of George Herman Ryland, Esquire,

Respectfully sheweth,

That your petitioner succeeded E. Dowling, Esquire, in his lifetime Registrar of Montreal, in July 1845.

That neither that officer or the person in charge after his decease appear to have conducted the business of the department in the manner prescribed by law, but on the contrary omitted many important particulars.

That no Index to Estates having been kept, the principal object of the law (viz. to show the special mortgages on property) is defeated.

That no verification of the entries in the registers, not even by *the initials* of any person whatever, having been made, the time of registration is rendered a matter of doubt and uncertainty; to add to which, the writing in most cases is so illegible it cannot be deciphered.

That the Index to Names is erroneous in many instances, there being numerous omissions and substitutions of one party's name for that of another.

That the Minute or Day Book is found to be seriously erroneous, making it appear in some instances that parties are indebted to the extent of thousands of pounds, when in fact they only owe a few hundreds; and the numbers of the documents have been in many cases altered; neither is there any means of ascertaining whether the present numbers are the correct ones or not, as it is acknowledged that documents were never compared with the entries in the books prior to delivery.

That the time in the Minute Book also is erroneous, as it jumps, in some places, months at a leap, in others, runs from the seventeenth day to the fifteenth day, and then to nineteenth day of the month.

That some of the entries in the registers have names appended as notaries of persons who never were such; and it is impossible to discover before whom the documents were passed. Most of the Registers are not properly paged, but sadly blundered, with many blanks and discrepancies. In fact, such is the state of the old registration, that no information derived therefrom can be depended upon.

With reference to the office in Quebec, *the inspector went minutely into the examination of it, inspecting every entry, document by document, a work of many weeks duration, without finding one single error or omission in the entries, and no erasures or interlineations in the Minute Book, or discrepancies in date; the correctness of these books thus enabling the present Registrar to make searches and references with facility and security to himself and the public, which cannot be done in the Montreal office without a total recasting of the entire work thereof.*

At the period of your petitioner's taking possession of the office he found a mass of several thousand deeds, without date, numbers, or means of ascertaining when they were deposited for registration.

That on ascertaining this fact, as also the difficulties and dangers to which the public were exposed, your petitioner communicated the same to the then Attorney General, Mr. Smith, in the presence of another registrar, and notaries summoned as witnesses on the occasion.

That the Attorney General, at the instance of your petitioner, personally inspected the state of the archives without any result.

Your petitioner therefore has, from a due regard for the public interest, deemed it fitting to call the attention of your Honourable House to the foregoing statement, to the end that your Honourable House may take such measures for the security of the public in the premises as in your wisdom you may judge fit.

Montreal, 5th June 1847.

(Signed) G. H. RYLAND.