

occupied thirteen clerks for eighteen months, for the payment of some of whom Mr. Ryland's property is now seized by the Queen's Sheriff of Quebec. Mr. Ryland at the same time was required to superintend, in person or by deputy, the perfecting, and it may be said in a manner to legalize, a mass of some thousands of deeds which had been deposited during the time of his predecessor in Montreal, on which the fees had been received, but none of the requirements of the law performed.\*

Thus Mr. Ryland was compelled to keep up two expensive establishments at his own cost; whilst his successor in Quebec, having nothing but the current work to perform, was enabled with a small establishment securely, or with scarcely any responsibility, to carry on the department, beginning de novo with a fresh set of books and numbers, and having the advantage of Mr. Ryland's previous labours, and the perfect system of registration introduced by him, to fall back upon for information and searches.† And here it may be observed that Mr. Ryland was the only registrar who kept up an *Index to Estates*, a troublesome and very expensive work required by the law, but at the same time the most essential book in the office, and which has been a source of considerable official emolument to his successor ‡, inasmuch as at the period of Mr. Ryland's transfer to Montreal the two great fires of May and June 1845 occurred in Quebec, consuming both of the suburbs, and indeed the whole of the town outside of the fortifications, and with them the Notary's offices, containing a great portion of the original title deeds and mortgages relating to the principal properties in the district, and obliging parties desirous of identifying their lots in the burnt districts, or wishing to purchase, to sell, or to rebuild, to have recourse to the Registry Office for information, entailing expensive searches, which could only be obtained by means of the work performed by Mr. Ryland, and principally contained in the *Index of Estates*. § And as the town is rapidly rebuilding, causing the enregistration of a vast amount of notarial contracts, his successor is now enabled, without any great increase of his official establishment, to realize a handsome income; whilst Mr. Ryland, from opposite causes, arising from the imperfect manner in which his predecessor conducted the office in Montreal, and from the want of an index to estates, or even an index to names that can be depended on, is unable to realize anything like an income, and yet is obliged, from the causes above mentioned, to keep up a larger establishment than the current work would otherwise warrant. But this is not all of which Mr. Ryland thinks he may justly complain; for though the law enacts that every registrar shall have an efficient deputy, his successor, notwithstanding the representations to the contrary, is allowed to have a nominal deputy, who holds an office and resides in Montreal, 200 miles distant ||; finding also the *Index to Estates* an expensive affair he no longer keeps it up, trusting entirely to the one prepared by Mr. Ryland; and, finally, he has received from Government, since the day of his appointment, a public office free of expense, whilst Mr. Ryland was obliged to provide one at his own cost. Thus whilst the latter, who has strictly and conscientiously discharged his official duty with fidelity to the public, and fulfilled his share of a contract under which he resigned, on public grounds and to promote the views of the Imperial Government, an office of 1,030*l.* per annum, has been deprived of his property and reduced to ruin; his successor, on the contrary, in Quebec, as will be seen by the official returns in the Colonial Office, i. e. the Blue Book, has, owing to the indulgence of Government, together with the fortuitous circumstance of the fires above mentioned, and his own evasion of the law under which he holds office, been enabled to realize an income of 500*l.* per annum. These facts, Mr. Ryland respectfully maintains, increases his claim on the liberality and justice of the British Government, particularly when it is called to mind that the district office which he received under his contract with Lord Sydenham was taken away from him before he could derive the benefit it was intended he should receive as an equivalent for the loss of half of his income ¶, and but for which it cannot be supposed that with the admitted right to retire on a pension of 515*l.* per annum, paid quarterly, he would have consented to resign a high and confidential office of 1,030*l.*, paid in the same way, for one of lower grade and greater responsibility, entailing advances of money from his private resources and manual labour, which he was not called upon to perform in the other, with an income of half that amount only to be paid in the most unsatisfactory manner, viz. through the medium of fees, the exaction of each separate

\* See Mr. Ryland's application calling on the Assembly to institute inquiry and examination, marked F.

† See Mr. Cremazie's Report.

‡ The increase in the income of Mr. Ryland's successor, after the first year, as stated by Earl Grey, and during the two last years, is proof of the correctness of this remark.

§ The average number of contracts consequent on each building requiring registration is about four,—mason, carpenter, plasterer, and shingler,—which, at 6*s.* each, would give the Registrar on each building 1*l.* 4*s.* besides the search fee.

|| The requirements of the Act relative to the appointment of an efficient deputy are positive. See Registry Act.

¶ The saving which accrued to the Government by the change in the Act, which, among other things, did away with the necessity of enregistering seigniorial dues, such as arrears of cens et rentes and lods et ventes, amounted, as will be seen by the Reports of the Inspector General of the Queen's Domain and Commissioner of the Jesuits Estates, which accompanied Mr. Ryland's first year's account of receipts and disbursements, given in on the 1st of January 1843 (and followed up by quarterly accounts to 1st July 1847), to 3,000*l.*, which saving was at the expense of Mr. Ryland, as effected by a violation of Lord Sydenham's contract with him.