

Letter from Mr. Chief Secretary Murdoch to Hoyes Lloyd, Esquire, New Glasgow.

(Copy.)

Government House,
Montreal, 20th March, 1841.

SIR,

I am commanded by the Governor General to acknowledge the receipt of the Memorial, signed by yourself and two other gentlemen, inhabitants of New Glasgow, praying that Troops may be sent into the vicinity of the Poll for the County of Terrebonne to prevent disturbance during the Election.

In reply I am to observe, that at the approaching Election it will be the duty of the Magistrates—a duty which His Excellency cannot doubt they will perform—to use all the powers with which the Law has invested them for the preservation of the Public Peace, and with this view should there, unfortunately, be reason to expect disturbances, to swear in Special Constables to assist in preventing them. But His Excellency cannot consent, in anticipation of the possibility of disturbances, to move a body of Troops into the immediate neighborhood of the Election.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) T. W. C. MURDOCH,
Chief Secretary.

Hoyes Lloyd, Esq.,
New Glasgow.

Letter from the Returning Officer for the County of Stanstead to Mr. Chief Secretary Murdoch.

Stanstead, 11th March, 1841.

SIR,

I beg most respectfully to obtain the advice of His Excellency the Governor General on the following points for my guidance during the approaching Election, viz. :

1st. Will a person, on being required to take the oath of allegiance at the Hustings, refuse, and heretofore having refused, have a right to vote?

2nd. Can a person declare himself a candidate at any period of the Election in opposition to those who may have come forward on the first day?

3d. The Township of Bolton, in this County, having been granted as Tenants in common, and no division since having been made, can the proprietors of such lands be objected to, as to their right of voting, and if so, do they come under the Act of 4 Will. IV. cap. 28?

I have no doubt the foregoing points will come up during the approaching Election, and as they are not clearly defined by the Election Law, I wish to be prepared to meet them; the Election taking place on the 22d instant, I earnestly request an answer at your earliest convenience.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) JOHN CHAMBERLIN,
Returning Officer.

T. W. C. Murdoch, Esq.,
Chief Secretary, Montreal.

Letter from Mr. Chief Secretary Murdoch to the Returning Officer for the County of Stanstead.

Government House,
Montreal, 15th March, 1843.

SIR,

Having laid before the Governor General your letter of the 11th instant, I am directed to acquaint you, in reply, that to express an opinion as to the course to be pursued by Returning Officers, might be considered as an interference by the Executive Government with the freedom of Elections and the privileges of the Legislative Assembly, which would be open to animadversion, and that His Excellency must, therefore, leave you to exercise your own discretion in discharging the duties of Returning Officer for the County of Stanstead, assisted by the provisions of the law, and the information and advice you may derive from other sources.

(Signed,) T. W. C. MURDOCH,
Chief Secretary.

J. Chamberlin, Esq., &c. &c. &c.,
Stanstead.

Letter from T. A. Young, Esquire, to the Honorable D. Daly, Secretary of the Province, with four Enclosures.

(Copy.) Quebec, 22nd March, 1841.

SIR,

I have the honor to enclose a communication I received from the Brigade Major, Lord Frederick Paulet, transmitting an extract from a General Order of the 8th instant, with copies of letters I addressed to the Returning Officer, the High Constable, and Inspector Russell, of the Police, which I request you will submit to His Excellency the Governor General.

I trust His Excellency will approve of the measures I have adopted, as, although I do not consider there is any danger of a serious disturbance, yet when religious distinctions are appealed to, as they have lately been, it is difficult to say what may be the result, and I therefore thought it advisable to be prepared for the worst.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servt.,

(Signed,) T. A. YOUNG.

Hon. D. Daly,
Secretary of the Province, &c. &c. &c.

(First Enclosure.)

MY DEAR SIR,

I enclose you, by the General's desire, a copy of an extract* from the G. O. of the 8th instant, and to inform you that should an application for Troops be found necessary, it will be made to the Officer commanding the Battalion occupying the Jesuit Barracks.

Believe me
Yours truly,

(Signed,) FRED. PAULET.

March 20, 1841.

* No copy of this was transmitted to the Secretary's Office.