

Governors, from the Duke of Richmond downwards, and by succeeding Secretaries of State under both Tory and Whig administrations, and it was in reward for services that the situation of registrar and clerk of the Executive Council was specially conferred on him.

This office is worth per annum 1,030*l*.

It is an office ranking high among the public departments of Government (as will appear by the subjoined letter); no security is required of the holder, nor does any pecuniary responsibility attach to the office.

It is the express desire of the Secretary of State that the undersigned shall continue to fill it, or that he shall receive an equivalent for the loss thereof.

His Excellency's measures requiring a change in the construction of the Council Office, by which a great part of the responsibility and duty of the registrar and clerk will devolve on the president, it has been suggested that the undersigned shall, in lieu of the office he now holds, be appointed to the registrarship of Quebec, an office of less respectability, without fixed salary, and to depend entirely on fees, which as established by the ordinance, 4 Vict. cap. 30., are particularly small; the duties will be onerous in the extreme, the responsibility great, and the security required unprecedented. (*Vide Sec. 8.*)

* The Prothonotaries of Quebec.

The undersigned has taken considerable pains to ascertain the probable value of this new office, and from a source* on which he can perfectly rely, he has gathered the following facts; viz.

That owing to the heavy general enregistration of old deeds, and particularly that which under the 2d, 4th, and 52d sections of the ordinance, 4 Vict. cap. 30., will be required on the part of the Crown, the religious communities, and the holders of seigniories, the amount of the first year's enregistration may infinitely exceed and perhaps more than double the annual income now enjoyed by the registrar and clerk of the Council, whilst in succeeding years the office could not yield more than from 600*l*. to 700*l*. per annum.

Presuming, however, that after the first year it averaged per annum - £800 0 0

The annual expenses of the establishment (which it may be remarked would increase in proportion to the increase of work) could not be estimated at a lower rate than as follows:

A confidential person as deputy, per annum	-	-	£250	0	0
Clerks or writers	-	-	200	0	0
Rent of house for offices	-	-	90	0	0
Stationary, fuel, office servant, printing, and contingencies	-	-	120	0	0

Total expense	-	-	£660	0	0	
(Nothing said of office furniture.)				£660	0	0

Would leave a balance for the remuneration of registrar of	-	-	£140	0	0
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The income derived from the office of the clerk of the Executive Council, as before stated, amounts to	-	-	£1,030	0	0
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Deduct balance as above, forming actual income of registrar	-	-	140	0	0
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Would (setting aside the first year's emolument) leave a diminution of income of	-	-	£890	0	0
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By the 4 & 5 Will. 4. the undersigned would be entitled to a retiring allowance of one half of his official income, and but for the duty he owes a young family he might be tempted to avail himself of the enactment.

Should it, however, be the Governor General's pleasure to confer on the undersigned, in lieu of his present office, that of the registrarship of Quebec, he trusts it will be accompanied with such pecuniary remuneration as, under the circumstances of the case, his Excellency may think the undersigned, in fairness and equity, justly entitled to receive, taking into consideration the comparative value of the two appointments, together with the amount of responsibility and degree of labour attached to each, or a guarantee of such annual income as, with the possible overplus derivable from the first year's enregistration under the ordinance, 4 Vict. cap. 30., shall secure him an equivalent for the full amount of the income now enjoyed by him as registrar and clerk of the Executive Council, and which he now consents, in order to meet the views of his Excellency, to relinquish.

(Signed) G. H. RYLAND,
Ex. C' Office.

22d August 1841.

The Governor General having on the 22d August 1841 been pleased to acquiesce in the justice of the above statement, Mr. Ryland was desired to put himself in communication with Mr. Secretary Murdoch, to whom his Excellency declared he would give the necessary instructions to meet Mr. Ryland's views; the latter accordingly addressed two private notes on the subject to the Chief Secretary, and on the 25th the following official letter† from that gentleman was put into Mr. Ryland's hands, who, trusting implicitly in the faith of Government, immediately left Kingston for Quebec, having on leave-taking received instructions from his Excellency to take instant steps for the formation of an efficient establishment to carry out the provisions of the registry ordinance on the 1st October following.

† See No. 3. annexed.