

That your petitioners can only look upon their case as one of extreme neglect, inasmuch as others who had suffered less, and done less in the loyal cause, were promptly remunerated; while this section of the province, which bore the weight of the second rebellion in Lower Canada, and under the most discouraging circumstances, without any assistance from the regular forces, met and defeated the insurgents in the actions of the 7th and 9th November (which actions terminated the unhappy struggle), have now remained more than five years unremunerated.

That it is with extreme regret your petitioners recall the recollection of those unhappy passages in our colonial history, more particularly as it appears the wish of Your Majesty the past should be forgotten, but that the peculiar circumstances of your petitioners render the allusion necessary and unavoidable.

That many of your petitioners, merchants and others, in consequence of their losses, were obliged to contract debts in order to continue their accustomed business, which they did under the assurance of speedy remuneration; and that those debts, in too many instances, remain unliquidated, threatening the parties with utter ruin.

Wherefore, with every confidence in Your Majesty's justice, your petitioners lay their case at the foot of the Throne, humbly praying Your Majesty to adopt such measures for our relief as in your wisdom may seem just and equitable.

And may the blessing of Almighty God rest upon Your Majesty, and long continue your benignant reign over a devoted people.

Signed by 67 Persons.

Lacolle, February 15, 1844.

—No. 22.—

(No. 215.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord Stanley to the Right Honourable Sir C. Metcalfe.

Sir,

Downing-street, 8 May 1844.

No. 22.

I HAVE received your Despatch, of the 7th March, No. 44,* with a petition addressed to The Queen by certain inhabitants of the county of Huntingdon, praying for indemnification for their losses by the late rebellions in Canada.

Lord Stanley to the Right Hon. Sir C. Metcalfe, 8 May 1844.

I have laid this petition before The Queen, and Her Majesty was pleased to receive it very graciously. I regret, however, to have to add, that it has not been in my power to advise Her Majesty to accede to it, owing to the absence of any funds from which relief could be afforded to the petitioners.

* Page 34.

I find that in Upper Canada an Act was passed, with the intention of providing indemnification, by the means of debentures, for a certain number of persons who had sustained losses by the rebellion, but which Act, if I am rightly informed, never went into operation. It has been suggested to me, that if the claims from both sections of the province were submitted in one application to the House of Assembly, they might receive favourable consideration, and be compensated by debentures. I do not venture an opinion whether it is practicable to adopt this course, or if it be so, whether it would be satisfactory to the petitioners themselves; but, as I perceive no other mode of procuring them redress, and there are no hopes of relief from Imperial funds, I think it right to offer you the suggestion, leaving it entirely at your discretion to act upon as you may think proper.

I have, &c.

(signed) Stanley.

—No. 23.—

(No. 263.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord Metcalfe to Lord Stanley.

Government House, Montreal, 30 April 1845.

(Received 2 June 1845.)

No. 23.

My Lord,
I HAVE the honour to submit a Report by Mr. Attorney-general Smith on the laws passed by the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Canada in the last Session, and assented to by me in Her Majesty's name.

Lord Metcalfe to Lord Stanley, 30 April 1845.

I have, &c.

(signed) Metcalfe.