

dered on the 1st January 1843, supported by vouchers, and showing a balance of disbursements over receipts amounting to 281l. 16s. 0<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. From that period I continued to furnish my accounts *quarterly*, giving Mr. Cremazie, the Commissioner appointed to examine into my office, free access to all my books and accounts, the latter of which were before the Select Committee appointed by the Assembly to report on my petition, and are doubtless still in the hands of the Clerk of the House; the results are also given in the last papers printed during the session of 1847, on the 9th of April of which year, pursuant to the Governor General's orders contained in the Provincial Secretary's letter, of which I enclose a copy, the whole of my receipts and payments were laid before the Council.

Page 147.

It is true that I have never rendered a return for the Blue Book which is annually sent home, because, instead of having an income to report, I had an unsatisfied claim to advocate.

Such, my Lord, being the case, and as in Canada the shadow of a doubt as to the correctness of my accounts, which were in a manner before the public, never was or could be entertained,—though the Committee of Council found fault with my disbursements, caused by circumstances which they had overlooked,—I trust your Lordship will do me justice on this head, and believe that there has been no defect on my part, either in the discharge of my official duty, or in withholding from the Government any information they might require.

I have, &c.

G. H. RYLAND.

Enclosure 1. in No. 46.

Encl. 1. in No. 46.

Memorandum.

At the time Mr. Ryland took upon him the duties of Registrar of the District of Quebec he opened the office with an establishment graduated on a scale sanctioned by Lord Sydenham, on which, in fact, the agreement with Mr. Ryland was based.\*

The object of the Registry Ordinance was to bring to light all secret incumbrances on property, with a view to the introduction of British capital into the country. A certain period was fixed by the statute, within which it was required that all titles to real estate, deeds and instruments carrying mortgage, should be deposited for registration. This period was extended from time to time, and finally determined about six weeks previous to Mr. Ryland's transfer to Montreal; and till the deposit of the *old deeds* was completed, it was not only necessary to keep up the establishment upon the footing on which the office was opened, but occasionally to *augment its numerical strength*; for, owing to the greater part of the instruments being of a very *ancient* description, and having been kept in damp vaults were nearly *illegible*, the work proceeded slowly, and to keep it up it was requisite to employ writers during the night as well as the day. Now it must be borne in mind, that this was a *new*, important, and most *complicated law*, many of the provisions of which the *Bar* declared themselves unable to comprehend.

Mr. Ryland was selected to put this law in force in Quebec; and Mr. Dowling, Lord Sydenham's *legal adviser*, whom the Government of this country had sent out to his Lordship's assistance, was selected for the same purpose in Montreal.†

All the registrars in the lower part of the province fell back on Mr. Ryland for information and assistance in carrying on their offices, which he willingly granted, furnishing the forms in use to this day. Under these circumstances it could not be expected, nor was it contemplated, that Mr. Ryland, who was under heavy securities, could be called on to perform the mechanical part of the labours of his own department, his time being taken up in *superintending and certifying* the work,—a measure *necessary for the public security*.

During the week previous to the expiration of the period for depositing old deeds these instruments were poured into the office in masses, by individuals who had neglected or failed to do so before, in the hope of a further extension of time. It was *imperative on Mr. Ryland* to receive them; and as it was impossible to examine their contents, a greater part were lodged without the payment of fees, or with small deposits, the balances of which are to this day, and will for ever remain, unpaid. Upon Mr. Ryland's transfer immediately after this period to Montreal, it was resolved that the *whole of this work*, which required the *superintendence* of the Registrar or his deputy, should be performed by him. It

\* See Memorandum dated 22d August 1841.

† From the perfect state in which Mr. Ryland left the Quebec office his successor is now enabled to derive a considerable income from *searches alone*. From opposite causes, however, Mr. Ryland can derive no income from *this source* in the Montreal office, which was left by his predecessor in a state which will cost the province 3,000l. to remodel it.