

Message.

H. PRESCOTT.

The Governor wishes to draw the attention of the House of Assembly to a despatch from his Excellency the Earl of Durham, on the subject of Crown Lands which will be found in this days Gazette.

Government House, }
17th July, 1838. }

The Hon. Mr. Secretary Crowdy also presented to the House, by direction of his Excellency the Governor, an abstract of the Census of the population, &c., of the Electoral district of Fogo.

To lie on the table.

Ordered,—That the said message and documents do lie upon the table to be perused by the Members of the House.

On motion of Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Winsor,

Resolved,—That the despatch referred to in the said message be read and inserted in the Journals of the House.

Despatch read.

And the said despatch was read accordingly and is as follows:—

*Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec, }
18th June, 1838. }*

SIR,—In the exercise of the powers vested in me as Governor General of her Majesty's Colonies in North America, and with a view to the permanent establishment of an improved system in the disposal of Waste Lands, the property of the Crown, in those Colonies, and the promotion of emigration thereto, upon the most extensive scale that circumstances will admit, I have prepared a Commission, directing an immediate enquiry into the subject, for each of the Provinces and Islands comprised in my general Government, and also authorizing the Commissioner therein named to issue temporary rules and regulations for the disposal of Crown Lands in each Colony, and to give instructions to the officers of the Crown Lands' department as to the performance of their duties.

I enclose the commission as prepared for the Island of Newfoundland, and have to direct that you will cause the Great Seal of that Island to be immediately affixed thereto, and that the Commission, together with a copy of this despatch, may be published in the usual manner.

As one of the incidental, though not least desirable results of an improved system in the disposal of lands, the property of the Crown, may, I hope, be a very considerable increase in the value of all lands which have become private property, and as the expectation of such a result might lead to applications for grants of land, upon the terms now in force, to such an extent as should defeat, or at least seriously impede, the most beneficial operation of the improved system, and especially the very desirable result above-mentioned, I have also to instruct you, that, until further directions from me, you will, so far as it may be in your discretion under any Provincial Act or Royal Instructions or otherwise, abstain from alienating any waste lands, the property of the Crown. You may rely on receiving those further directions in so short a time as to prevent any inconvenience from the present suspension of your discretionary powers in this respect.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

DURHAM.

His Excellency

Captain PRECOTT, R. N., &c. &c.