

197

or Commissioners, from the circumstances of the tenantry or otherwise, may deem reasonable and expedient; and also to make such report respecting the Fishery Reserve question, and other questions relating to the township lands of the Island, as we confidently hope will effect a final settlement thereof, and prevent an agitation regarding the same in future.

"House of Assembly, P. E. Island,
9th May 1859."

"(signed) DONALD MONTGOMERY,
"Speaker.

Enclosure 2, in No. 1.

To His Excellency Sir *Dominick Daly*, Knight, Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Island, Prince Edward, and the Territories thereunto belonging, Chancellor, Vice Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.

Encl. 2, in No. 1.

May it please Your Excellency,

THE House of Assembly having resolved to address Her Majesty on the subject of the land tenures and fishery reserves of this Island, as alluded to in the Despatches of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, addressed your Excellency, and bearing date the 20th October and 3d December 1858, have passed an Address to Her Majesty on the foregoing questions.

The House of Assembly respectfully request that your Excellency will be pleased to forward the same to Her Majesty at your earliest convenience, and at the same time to give your Excellency's favourable recommendation.

House of Assembly,
9 May 1859.

(signed) *Donald Montgomery*,
Speaker.

— No. 2. —

(No. 21.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant Governor *Dundas* to His Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*, K.G.

Government House, Prince Edward Island,
8 August 1859.

No. 2.
Lieut. Governor
Dundas to the Duke
of *Newcastle*, K.G.
8 August 1859.

My Lord Duke,

(Answered, No. 13, 17 September 1859, page 59.)

IN the instructions, dated 7th January 1859, which before leaving England I received from Sir E. B. Lytton, he desired me to ascertain, after my arrival in the Island, whether it would be possible to appoint a Commission or Committee to consider the best means for the final settlement of those questions, connected with the tenures of land, that had for so long agitated this Colony, and hindered its prosperity.

2. At the time that Sir Edward delivered these instructions to me, a Government was in power here, which it was believed would not be favourable to the appointment of such a Commission.

3. Since then, however, that Government has been replaced by one which has anticipated the means of adjustment pointed to by Sir E. B. Lytton, and which carried an Address from the House of Assembly, dated 9th May 1859, praying that Her Majesty would appoint a Commission to inquire into the relations of landlord and tenant in this Island, with the view of settling what was in dispute between them, and facilitating the equitable acquisition by purchase of his farm by the tenant.

The Address likewise suggests other questions, the principal of which is that of the fishery reserves, to be dealt with by this Commission.

4. From all I have learned since my arrival in the Colony, I am strongly of opinion that the appointment of such a Commission would be highly beneficial, and that it would go far towards effecting a final and satisfactory settlement of what has been for so many years in dispute.

5. I think it is very desirable that arrangements be entered into at once for the formation of this Commission.

6. Though Sir Edward pointed to a selection, by me, of men belonging to the Island to compose the Commission, I consider that it would be preferable to take two out of the three, who would form it, from the adjoining colonies, and the third from England.

7. This would prevent any unfair bias or leaning towards either party being attributed to the Members of the Commission.

8. From the time of my arrival in North America, I have made anxious inquiry, with the view of securing the services of the best and the most able men to be had.