

the observance of this rule, it has been determined that the titles to lands obtained by officers who take advantage of the peculiar regulations existing in their favour, shall be withholden for a period sufficient to prove that they have not repaired to the colony for the mere purpose of gaining possession of a portion of land and then departing. Two years is the period for which it has been decided that the titles shall be kept back. This delay will be sufficient for the salutary object in view, and will not constitute any serious inconvenience to the *bonâ fide* settler.

I am to request that your Lordship will submit the foregoing observations to the General commanding in chief, and will suggest to him, for the purpose of preventing disappointments and needless applications, that the substance of the rules already laid down should be made known generally among officers, in such manner as Lord Hill may deem most fitting.

To Lord Fitzroy Somerset,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) R. W. Hay.

Mr. Secretary
Spring Rice to
Lord Aylmer.

[A similar letter, with the necessary alterations, to J. Barrow, Esq., Secretary to the Admiralty.]

1. Annexed is a statement of the Regulations, according to which, with such modifications as local circumstances may render necessary, lands belonging to the Crown are disposed of in the several British colonies in North America; as well as a statement of the regulations in force in the Australian colonies.

2. Under these regulations, military and naval officers cannot receive free grants of land; but in buying land they are allowed a remission of the purchase-money, according to the under-mentioned scale:

Field officers of 25 years service and upwards, in the whole	-	£. 300.
Field officers of 20 years service and upwards, in the whole	-	250.
Field officers of 15 or less years service, in the whole	-	200.
Captains of 20 years service and upwards, in the whole	-	200.
Captains of 15 years service or less, in the whole	-	150.
Subalterns of 20 years service and upwards, in the whole	-	150.
Subalterns of seven years service or less, in the whole	-	100.

Surgeons in the army or navy will be deemed to come within the benefit of this rule.

3. Officers of the army or navy who propose to proceed to the colonies in order to take advantage of this indulgence, should provide themselves with certificates from the office of the General commanding in chief or of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, showing that their emigration has been sanctioned, and stating exactly their rank and length of service. No document from the office of the Secretary of State is necessary.

4. Officers on half-pay residing in the colony where they propose to settle, may be admitted to the privileges of military and naval settlers without referring to this country for testimonials, provided they can satisfy the Governor that there is no objection to their being allowed the indulgence, and that their return of their rank and length of service is accurate.

5. Military chaplains, commissariat officers, and officers of any of the civil departments connected with the army, cannot be allowed any privileges on the subject of land. Pursers, chaplains, midshipmen, warrant officers of every description, and officers of any of the civil departments connected with the navy, must also be considered as not qualified for those privileges. Although members of these classes may have been admitted formerly, and under a different state of circumstances, they must now be excluded.

6. Gentlemen who have ceased to belong to His Majesty's service cannot be allowed the advantages to which they were entitled while in the army or navy. It is not, however, proposed to affect by this rule officers who desire to quit the service for the express purpose of settling in the colonies. It is only required, that when they resign their commissions they should apply for a certificate from the General commanding in chief or from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that they do so with the view of emigrating; and such certificate, if produced to the Governor of any colony within one year from its date, but not otherwise, will be a sufficient warrant for allowing the bearer the same advantages as officers still in His Majesty's service.

Officers who have sold out within the last twelve months preceding the date of this