

## INTRODUCTION.

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In order that this list may be easily understood, it is advisable to explain summarily the different systems of granting public lands followed in this Province since the country was ceded to England.

### INSTRUCTIONS OF 1763.

In taking possession of Canada, the Imperial Government took steps to avoid the inconveniences caused by large concessions of land, which then gave rise to much trouble in the other British colonies in North America. For that purpose, the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations in 1763 sent instructions to the Canadian government, limiting grants of public land to 100 acres for every head of a family and 50 acres for every other person, white or colored, composing the family, with power to extend the total area to 1,000 acres in exceptional cases. The object of this liberality was to induce English settlers from adjacent provinces to settle in Canada. According to these instructions, all Crown lands were to be granted in free tenure and without any other condition than the reservation of the right of the Crown to resume possession of the whole or part of the land granted in the event of its being required for military purposes. These grants were made by means of location tickets or occupation permits.

There is, in the archives of the Registrar's Department, no trace or rather no registration of the grants which may have been made under these instructions. The first registered concession bears the date of 1788. Bowchette, in his *Topographical description of Lower Canada*, says that the seigniories of Malbaie and Mount Murray were granted on the 27th April