

The information I have collected on this subject is as follows:—

The 19th and 20th questions put by me to Mr. *Weston* were couched in these terms.—

Q. No. 19. Did he, Mr. *Clark*, state to you, or do you otherwise know, that Mr. *Clark* did not report the state of this office lest the public should conceive alarm at the confused state of the proceedings of the late Incumbent?

A. Mr. *Clark*, in conversation, told me that he felt it to be his duty to report the state in which the office was; but that he thought it would be better to do so in a separate report, not to cause unnecessary alarm on the subject, or words to that effect.

Q. No. 20. Do you know that Mr. *Clark* made such a report to the then Secretary of the Province?

A. I understood from Mr. *Clark* that he had made such a report, and I have every reason to believe that he did so.

Although I fear I shall weary Your Excellency by prolonging these observations, I must justify the assertion I have made relative to the knowledge possessed by the Provincial Secretary and the Attorney General, of the state of the office in question, in July, 1846.

Among other documents, relating to the official communications which took place at that time between these high public functionaries and Mr. *Ryland*, I have before me the two following letters, which I beg leave to insert here in support of what I have advanced. They are as follows:—

“REGISTRY OFFICE,
“*Montreal*, 14th July, 1845.

“SIR,—I have the honor to enclose, for the information of His Excellency the Governor General, a copy of a letter which I have been compelled to address to Her Majesty’s Attorney General for *Canada East*, relative to the difficulty I have experienced in obtaining possession of the Records of the Registry Office of *Montreal*; and, at the same time, pointing out the necessity of some decision being come to, by the Executive,

“as to the manner in which the registration of a vast number of documents received during the last eight or ten months, and, in the perfecting of which, none of the requirements of the law have yet been complied with, can now legally be completed—at whose expense this work should be performed, and by whom the certificates to be signed.

“I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed,) “G. H. RYLAND.”

The Honorable Mr. *Daly*,
Provincial Secretary.

“*Montreal*, 14th July, 1845.

SIR,—“Having caused a formal demand to be served on Mr. *McNaught*, the curator to the estate of the late Mr. *Dowling*, calling upon him to deliver over to me the registers, books, indexes, memorials, records, documents, and papers appertaining to the Registry Office of *Montreal*, as required by the Ordinance 4th Viet., cap. 30, sec. 47, it becomes my painful duty to report to you, as Her Majesty’s Attorney General, Mr. *McNaught*’s resistance to my demand, and to add that, though my Commission as Registrar of the County, together with the section of the Ordinance above quoted, have been exhibited to that gentleman, I have been unable to obtain possession of the Records in question; and that consequently being thus hindered in the discharge of my official duties, I cannot carry on the Department under my charge in the manner which the Law and the interest of the public require.

“In bringing this subject (which I do with great reluctance) under the notice of the Government, I am compelled to state that the requirements of the Registry law, relative to the books ordered to be kept by the different Registrars, have not hitherto, in the County of *Montreal*, been complied with; and that, as a vast number of documents received by the late Registrar, and on which the fees are mostly paid, have neither been numbered or filed according to the provisions of the Ordinance 4 Viet., cap. 30, or any progress made in their registration, it will be necessary that some decision should
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