

No. 1.
Regulations of the
Land Granting
Department.

Parliament of Great Britain, in the Colonies, Provinces and Plantations in North America and the West Indies, &c.* in the most express terms restrained itself from ever imposing any taxes or duties in the colonies, except for the regulation of trade; the produce of which taxes or duties to be disposed of by the provincial assemblies; such being the case, it was judged not only unnecessary, but implying some doubt of the sincerity of Parliament, to make any exception in the declaration; the exception being already made by Parliament itself, in a manner so solemn and effectual, that nothing can add to the security the subjects in the colonies derive under it. These observations you will naturally make a proper use of, should any objection be made to the declaration or the construction of it; and I doubt not but the necessity of guarding against disaffected persons becoming settlers in Quebec will convince His Majesty's loyal subjects of the propriety of that test, by which they cannot be affected or deprived of any indulgence or encouragement, to which they are so justly entitled.

(A true Extract.)

(signed) *F. H.*

(A true Copy.)

(signed) *Henry Motz.*

EXTRACT of a Letter from the Right Hon. Lord *Sidney*, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, to the Right Hon. Lord *Dorchester*, dated Whitehall, 3 September 1788.

Your Lordship will, however, understand that it is the King's intention that the new settlers in that part of the province*, who now hold their lands upon certificates of occupation, shall at all events be placed upon the same footing, in all respects, as their brethren in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, by having their lands granted to them in free and common soccage, with a remission of quit rents for the first 10 years.

(A true Extract.)

Henry Motz.

On the communication from his Lordship in the letter to the chairman, the committee put several questions to the deputy surveyor-general, who reported,

That he believes all persons holding under occupation the certificates issued prior to November 1787, did subscribe the declaration, as well as take the oaths by His Majesty's instructions required; but as to what has been done since that period, under the conduct of the land boards and his country agents and deputies, he can give the committee no certain information, but he supposes it may be obtained by the aid of those boards.

Resolved thereon to be the opinion of the committee,

1. That the several land boards be desired to make the proper inquiries, and to take course for exacting a compliance with the royal instructions, from all persons holding or to hold in future, under occupation certificates, and that they return a list into the office of the clerk of the council, of such as have neglected or shall refuse such compliance, that the grants of title may be suspended as to such as shall wilfully make default.

2. To the intent of informing the settlers of the benevolent design and true use of the royal requisitions, as well as to convince them of the solidity of the plighted faith of Government, and the manner of preserving the evidence of it, it is expedient that there be transmitted to each of the land boards (to be made known in their districts) a copy not only of the report of the land committee, but of the present report thereon.

Signed by order, 12th January 1790.

William Smith, Chairman.

His Lordship, taking the said extract into consideration, was pleased with the advice of the council, to approve of the resolves of the committee of the whole council therein contained, and to order, as it is hereby ordered, that the same be duly and punctually complied with, and carried into execution; whereof the different land-office boards, and all other persons whom it may concern, are to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

J. Williams, C. C.

(6.)—EXTRACT from the Proceedings in Council at Quebec, on Monday, 9 November 1789.

Present, his Excellency the Right Hon. Lord *Dorchester*; the Hon. *William Smith*, Esq., Chief Justice; *Hugh Finlay*, *Thomas Dunn*, *Edward Harrison*, *John Collins*, *Adam Mabane*, *J. G. C. Delery*, *George Pownall*, *William Grant*, *Francis Baby*, *Henry Caldwell*, *C. De Lanaudiere*, and *Le Cte. Dupre*, Esqrs.

His Lordship intimated to the council that it remained a question, upon the late regulations for the disposition of the waste lands of the Crown, whether the board constituted for that

* Meaning the districts west of Point au Baudet.