

Claims Reimbursement of Advances incurred in the Prosecution of useful Services, the Performance of Services of adequate Reward, and Compensation for

and the devastation of his property on the enemys frontiers in America, (3) and, seeing one of the subalterns, who had served several steps below him in the same battallion of the 60th Regiment, raised in the ordinary course to the Lieutenant Colonelcy of it (4), and other Junior Officers advanced in proportion above him, he humbly submitted to His Majesty a statement of his services praying the reimbursement which from a mere inspection of the Performance was evidently due, the promotion he had labored for, but missed, under Lord Egmont's assurances, and adequate compensation for his losses. However, nothing was effected; and the only reward he received was a Recommendation, which His Majesty was graciously pleased to approve of, from the Board of Admiralty and from the Lords of Privy Council, for some mark of the Royal Favor, "In reward of his zeal, activity, and ability in prosecuting so useful a work (5)."

Losses sustained in private Service,

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(3) Particularly in 1777, at the period of the incursions from the revolted Americans in the Bay of Fundy: These held the possession for some weeks of Des Barres's estate, (called Menaudie) they burnt many of the houses and barns, raised contributions upon his tenants, and, among others, carried off part of the stock, and two vessels loaded with the proceeds in grain. After being overpowered and driven away by the British Troops and the Militia, several hundreds of tons of hay were shipped to Poitou from the premises for the use of the British Cavalry, without any compensation whatever therefor: This estate, consisting of *Seven Thousand Acres of Land*, had been brought into a forward state of cultivation, in which, as well as in the purchase thereof, he had laid out considerable sums of money.

(4) Copy of a Declaration, which General Prevost was pleased to add to the statement of Des Barres's services addressed to His Majesty, viz.

and in Military Training

"HAVING read the foregoing statement with the Papers accompanying it, and upon the requisition of Major Des Barres of my opinion; I readily declare, that his assertions therein respecting his services, which might with propriety have been enlarged on, much to his advantage, appear to me to be justly founded; and that, instead of his being employed on extraordinary services, if he had continued to do duty with his corps, which I commanded from the beginning to the end of the War of 1756, or if he had remained attached to that particular army of which his corps composed a part, there is no doubt, but he must have been a Lieutenant Colonel in the year 1775, when the late Lieutenant Colonel Fufer obtained that appointment, who was his junior in the regiment, and who, without the smallest wish or intention to disparage the one or flatter the other, was not more the inferior in rank of Mr. Des Barres, than he was in Talents and Science, both natural and acquired.

"Barret, 1st May. 1784.

"A. PREVOST, MAJOR GENERAL."

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(5) His Majesty having been pleased to refer Des Barres's statement and prayer to a Committee of the Lords of the Privy Council, and their Lordships having requested the opinion of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty thereupon, the said Lord Commissioners advised the sum of £.3915 17s. 8d. to be paid to him for contingencies incurred on the Survey of the Coasts and Harbours, carried on under their own directions; but with respect to the subsequent expence, incurred in the course of adapting to Nautical Use the Surveys of others, as the same had been undertaken in pursuance of His Majesty's Royal Order to Treasury, their Lordships were of opinion that the consideration thereof did not belong to their Department.

Thereupon the Lords of the Committee, in their Report to His Majesty, after stating the sum proposed by the said Lord Commissioners to be allowed for Contingencies during the period of the Survey of the Coasts and Harbours in America, were pleased to express themselves in the following words, viz.

"It only remains for this Committee to state to your Majesty, and humbly to submit to your Majesty's gracious consideration the recommendation in favor of the Memorialist, contained in the Report of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty upon that part of the Memorialist's Case, which relates to compensation for his losses, and reward for his services, viz."

The Lords of Privy Council and of the Admiralty, recommended him to the King as deserving of some Mark of the Royal Favour.

"With respect to the losses, which the Memorialist may have sustained in rank and emolument in his profession of a soldier, and in his private fortune by devoting so many years of his life to the execution of an arduous and difficult Work, which must be productive of great benefit and utility, not only to your Majesty's service, but to the Public in general. We are not competent to form a judgement of the nature of these losses, sufficient for us to estimate the amount thereof, or to propose (did it belong to us to do) an equivalent compensation; but we are nevertheless of opinion, that the Memorialist may be deserving of some mark of your Majesty's favor, as a farther reward for his zeal, activity, and ability, in prosecuting and completing the above-mentioned useful work; if what is stated by the Memorialist is well founded, viz.—That, for works of a similar nature which, he humbly presumes, do not exceed those carried on under his directions, either in hazard, difficulty, time, or expence, sums of money have been allowed to the Surveyors, far beyond any claim made to the Board of Admiralty by the Memorialist."

Observations.

That the comparative condition of their Lordship's recommendation was eminently in his favor, is apparent; on comparing the sums, which, in the period, were annually granted by Parliament for defraying the relative contingencies of persons similarly employed, with the amount incurred and claimed by him, and on considering the relative dangers, difficulties and expence, they naturally were subjected to in the execution of their respective duties.

Messieurs Holland and Debrahm, engaged in 1764, and were employed under the directions of the Board of Trade and Plantations to carry on Surveys of Land in America, (which they commenced in the following year.)

In their case, they and their Assistants had their choice, in stations and weather, without interruption or risk to their persons or apparatus, whereas, in exploring, among rocks and shoals, the channels and safe pilotage into the numerous excellent harbours, discovered by Des Barres, as well as in ascertaining the Soundings and Navigation of the Coast until then unexplored, he had to anticipate and provide for many eventual exigencies under a constant variety of circumstances—the greater

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