

NOVA SCOTIA.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Despatch from Lieutenant-Governor Sir John Harvey.

— No. 1. —

(No. 121.)

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir John Harvey to Earl Grey.

No. 1.

Lieut.-Governor
Sir John Harvey
to Earl Grey.
13 June 1849.

* Page 71.

Government House, Halifax, 13 June 1849.

(Received 25 June 1849.)

My Lord,

REFERRING to your Lordship's despatch (No. 166),* of the 10th of May, accompanied by a letter addressed to your Lordship by his Grace the Duke of Sutherland, I have now the honour to report, that immediately on the receipt of those documents, I called upon the Comptroller of Customs to direct the proper officer at the port of Pictou to explain the circumstances under which head-money was collected from the passengers landed at that port from the barque "Ellen," and subsequently transhipped to Prince Edward Island.

2. From the documents enclosed, it will appear that the "Ellen" cleared for Pictou and not for Prince Edward Island; that four days after her arrival she sailed for a port in New Brunswick, leaving all her passengers (in number 126 adults) behind; that of these, but six families subsequently removed to Prince Edward Island in other vessels. Under these circumstances no legal claim to a return of head-money could be established, and however hardly the double payment exacted in the sister colony may have borne upon these poor people in this instance, I humbly conceive that very great inconvenience would result if emigrants landing in one province and subsequently dispersing into others, were encouraged to reclaim the head-money paid at the port of landing, where in a great majority of cases they would, from the prevalence of poverty and disease, be chiefly burthensome. Less difficulty would arise if each colony, collecting from ships entering its ports from the long voyage, would permit emigrants once landed in either, to pass freely into the others.

3. One of the vessels to which the Duke of Sutherland refers, landed at Pictou last season a cargo of emigrants affected with confluent small-pox. At a heavy expense to this Government they were maintained in hospital for many weeks, under the care of the provincial health officers; 23 died, and late in the autumn finding that the greater portion of the survivors were bound for Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton, I directed vessels to be hired at the public expense to convey them thither, and was compelled to advance to those going to Prince Edward Island 112*l.* 10*s.* out of the treasury to pay their head-money in that colony, a sum which the authorities of the island declined to repay.

4. Should your Lordship, with these explanations, still think that the head-money paid by the six families who have complained should be refunded, I will, on the receipt of your Lordship's further instructions, submit the question to the Council.

I have, &c.

(signed) J. Harvey.