

LOWER CANADA.

Mr. Secretary
Spring Rice to
Lord Aylmer.

RANK.	NAMES.	Company.	REMARKS.
Private	William Bond -	7th.	Discharged 31 Jan. 1832, and to reside at Probus.
—	Thomas Edrington -	—	Now serving at Woolwich.
—	James Burlace -	—	Discharged 31 March 1832, to reside at Devonport.
—	George Cooke -	—	Ditto, 14 Jan. 1832.
—	William Kemshaw -	—	Now serving at the Mauritius.
—	John Welford -	—	Ditto - - at the Cape.
—	Arthur Kelly -	15th.	Discharged 31 Jan. 1832, to reside at Omagh.
—	William Trusk -	—	} Now serving at the Cape.
—	John Cook -	—	
—	William Colwell -	—	Ditto - - at Woolwich.
—	Owen M'Grath -	—	Discharged 16 Jan. 1832.
—	William Harris -	—	} Now serving at Woolwich.
—	Henry Solrey -	—	
—	John Baird -	—	Discharged 7 Sept. 1833.
Bugler	William Cameron -	—	Now serving at Bermuda.

Sir,

Downing-street, 12th August 1834.

In reference to the advantages which are allowed to the officers of the army in the acquisition of land in the colonies, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Spring Rice to convey to your Lordship, for the information of the General commanding in chief, his opinion that it is advisable to define with more precision than has heretofore been done, the class of persons entitled to those privileges.

Land in the North American and Australian colonies has risen of late years to a value far exceeding any which could be contemplated previously, and experience has at the same time proved that the power of acquiring land with too much facility is injurious to the prosperity of the colony, and therefore ultimately unfavourable to the interests of the settlers themselves. The liberality with which the Crown lands used to be alienated, threw into the hands of individuals large tracts of land, too large to be cultivated by them, and separating one settler from another, so as to prevent the benefits of neighbourhood and mutual assistance. Besides these reasons for caution in disposing of the Crown lands, it may be remarked, that in the present condition of the colonies, the general prospects which they hold out are quite sufficient, without the aid of any peculiar inducements from Government, to attract great numbers of emigrants possessed of capital and respectability of station, so that it can no longer be necessary, as a matter of policy, and for the sake of obtaining settlers of a superior character, to offer special indulgences to any class whatever. The foregoing considerations seem to Mr. Spring Rice clearly to establish the propriety of construing very strictly the claims of persons seeking the privileges allowed to officers of the army in the acquisition of land in the colonies.

Mr. Spring Rice is of opinion, therefore, that military chaplains, commissariat officers, and officers of any of the civil departments connected with the army, should not be allowed to possess any privilege which confer a claim upon the Crown lands, whether or not some members of these classes may hitherto have been allowed, under a different state of circumstances, to participate in those advantages.

Gentlemen who have ceased to belong to the service should not, in Mr. Spring Rice's opinion, be allowed the advantages to which they were entitled when in the army. Being no longer officers, there is no reason why they should enjoy the privileges of officers. Mr. Spring Rice, however, does not wish to affect by this rule officers who desire to sell out, for the express purpose of settling in the colonies; he would only suggest that they should be required, when they dispose of their commissions, to apply for a certificate from the General commanding in chief that they do so with the view of emigrating; and he would provide that such a certificate, if produced to the governor of any colony within one year from its date, but not otherwise, should be a sufficient warrant for allowing the bearer the same advantages as officers in His Majesty's service.

Officers cannot be allowed advantages in the acquisition of land in any colony, unless it be their intention to fix their residence in that colony. In order to ensure the