

The Hon. Mr. Haviland, Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, delivered the following

Message.

C. A. FITZ ROY, Lieut. Governor.

The Lieutenant Governor lays before the House of Assembly, Copy of a communication which he has received from the Right Honorable Lord John Russell, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, with reference to a correspondence between the Right Honorable Lord Glenelg, Her Majesty's late Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, and himself, relative to the Indians in this Island. Also, copy of a correspondence which has passed with Mr. David Stewart and the Colonial Department, on the subject of the Lieutenant Governor's proposition, that some arrangement should be made for securing Lennox Island, of which he is the Proprietor, for the use of the Indians.

The Lieutenant Governor has been instructed to bring this matter under the consideration of the House of Assembly, and to propose to them that the purchase money, whatever it may be finally fixed at, should be paid out of the Colonial Revenues; and that Her Majesty's Government will undertake, from time to time, as occasion may offer, to defray the amount by the sale of Crown Lands in the Colony.

Government House, 10th April, 1840.

FROM LORD GLENELG AND SIR C. A. FITZ ROY.

No. 48.

No. 60.

Copy of a Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Sir C. A. Fitz Roy.

Downing Street, 2d August, 1838.

Sir; I transmit to you herewith the copy of a Petition to Her Majesty, from a Chief of the Micmac Tribe of Indians resident in Prince Edward Island, which has been placed in my hands by Mr. Cooper. Without fuller information than I possess on this subject, it is impossible for me to advise Her Majesty as to the answer to be returned to this Petition. I have therefore to request that you will furnish me with a full and detailed report on the state of the Indians who may be resident in Prince Edward Island, pointing out the measures which, in your opinion, would most conduce to their well being, and to the improvement of their moral and social condition.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GLENELG.

Sir C. A. Fitz Roy.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

May it please your Majesty;

The Petition of the undersigned, a Chieftain of the Micmac Tribe of the Indian Inhabitants of Prince Edward Island, in British North America,

Most respectfully sheweth—

That in former times our fathers were the owners of this Island, and fully enjoyed their acquired resources thereof, until they were visited by people of the French nation, who taught them Religion and the duties of civilized life; after which, by a treaty entered into by that nation with your Majesty's Government, our people became British subjects; since which, our tribe has been deprived of their hunting grounds, without receiving any remuneration for the loss they sustained; by which, privation and want have reduced our once numerous tribe in this Island to a skeleton of five hundred individuals, who, collectively, are no inferior to any other denomination of your Majesty's subjects, in a strict adherence to moral honesty, or in an invincible attachment to your Majesty's person and government.

That our people duly value the benefits resulting from a steady application to farming pursuits, and a settled mode of life; thereby have made frequent applications to the House of Assembly of this Island, to obtain a grant of land on which our people could permanently reside, without fear of molestation—a favour, though earnestly sought, which is yet denied us; thereby our people are still compelled to wander in the forest as an unprotected neglected race of the human species, unworthy to enjoy the patronage and favour of those vested with authority.

Therefore your petitioner humbly beseeches your Majesty to be graciously pleased to instruct your Majesty's Representative in this Colony to procure for our people a permanent location on a tract of land in this our native Island, on which we may reside and cultivate without fear of removal or molestation; for which, as in duty bound, your Majesty's petitioner and people shall ever pray.

OLIVER THOMAS LE BONE,

his mark.

Prince Edward Island, May, 1838.

Signed in our presence, C. LITTLE, J. ARBUCKLE, EDWARD DUNN.

No. 49.

No. 37.

Copy of a Despatch from Sir C. A. Fitz Roy to Lord Glenelg.

Government House, Prince Edward Island, 5th October, 1838.

My Lord;

In compliance with the desire expressed in your Lordship's letter, of the 2d August, No. 69, that I should furnish your Lordship with a full and detailed Report of the state of the Indians resident in this Island, pointing out the measures, which, in my opinion, would most conduce to their well being, and to the improvement of their moral and social condition, I have the honour to inform your Lordship, that the Indians who reside on this Island form a very small portion of the once numerous Micmac Tribe, the aboriginal inhabitants of that part of British North America out of which these lower Provinces have been formed, and of which tribe the remnant is now scattered over the Colonies of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and the Island of Cape Breton. From the

best information within my reach, I do not believe that the number on this Island exceeds 200 individuals; although it is difficult to ascertain this with any precision, as well on account of the roaming disposition of this people, as that their numbers fluctuate from their constant intercourse with the main land. From their habits of intemperance, and other causes, their numbers are rapidly decreasing, and, with few exceptions, they are sunk to the most abject and degraded state to which I should conceive it possible for human beings to arrive.

Although this tribe was, many years ago, converted to the Roman Catholic Religion, which faith is professed by the portion which inhabits this Island, I cannot ascertain that much effort has been made to reclaim them from their wandering habits, or to induce them to fix themselves at any one spot; the utmost advance which they have made towards settlement or tillage being confined to the cultivation of a few potatoes, by the small number who remain stationary during the summer months; the remainder subsist by hunting, fishing, making baskets and toys of birch bark, and begging in Charlottetown and among the settlements. No provision appears to have been made, when the Island was so improvidently granted away, for the reservation of any lands for the use of these poor people, nor has any application been made in their behalf since I arrived in the Colony; but humanity demands that some steps should be taken, in order that when the Island becomes fully settled, and when they will be of necessity precluded from rambling to and fro, as they are now suffered to do, unmolested, throughout the Island, they may have some spot secured to them, where the small number which will, in all probability, then remain, may be enabled to subsist. It would be useless to endeavour to settle them on any of the ungranted lands of the Colony. The quantity remaining at the disposal of the Crown does not amount to more than 12,000 acres, and these of an inferior description; and it is dispersed in various situations in small allotments, so that a sufficient quantity could not be found in one place, which could be rendered available for the purpose, even if there were no other objections; but there is a small Island, situated on the North-west coast of Prince Edward Island, lying between Richmond and Goodwood Bays, called "Lennox Island," the property of Mr. David Stewart, which the Indians have long considered as their own, and on which they have built a chapel, and where they have, from a very early period, buried their dead. I believe, if they could have this Island secured to them, either by a voluntary grant from the proprietor, or by the government purchasing it for their use, it would not only meet their utmost wishes, and render them perfectly contented, but, by offering them an inducement to remain stationary, afford a fair opportunity for any efforts at improving their moral and social condition. Any attempt of this nature, in their present state, I am convinced, would be wholly thrown away. Mr. Stewart has, I understand, always expressed a desire, that the Indians may not be disturbed on Lennox Island; but a future proprietor may have different views, and I therefore think it very desirable, that they should feel themselves secured in the possession of it as their own property. I am convinced they would prefer it to any other spot that could be selected for them; and I believe it would even now be very difficult to induce them to leave it, or to give it up, except by force. Should Mr. Stewart object to making over this Island to the Indians gratuitously, I should apprehend he might be induced to part with it at a fair valuation, which, as the Island is of no great extent, and the land not of a superior quality, could not amount to more than an inconsiderable sum.

In corroboration of my views on this subject, I beg to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a letter which I have received from the Roman Catholic Bishop of Charlottetown, to whom, wishing to give your Lordship the best information in my power, I had applied for his opinion.

I have the honor, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. FITZ ROY, Lieut. Governor.

Right Hon. Lord Glenelg, &c. &c. &c.

To His Excellency Sir Charles A. Fitz Roy, &c. &c. &c. Rustico, 5th October, 1838.

Sir; I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 1st instant, accompanied with a copy of a Petition to Her Majesty from the Chief of the Indians resident in this Island, in which letter your Excellency is pleased to desire me to give my opinion of the prayer of said Petition, and also to suggest any plan which I thought might possibly improve the condition of the petitioners. In order to comply with your Excellency's request, I beg first to state that the Indians of this Island have often complained that they have been more unfavourably dealt with than their brothers in the neighbouring provinces, inasmuch as they have never, like them, received grants of land whereon to settle themselves, and which those among them at least so inclined, might cultivate and live by.

This grievance they, from time to time, ineffectually represented to Her Majesty's Representatives. They applied, some years since, to the House of Assembly, with similar complaints; the then House seemed to take their case into favourable consideration, and made some steps towards making a purchase of Lennox Island, for their use and benefit, but afterwards lost sight of it, for what, I do not at this moment recollect.

That some place of rest should be provided for the Indian tribe of this Island is, in my opinion, no more than what justice to the original owners of the soil imperatively dictates; and nothing, also, in my opinion, could tend more effectually, in course of time, to redeem the Indians from their wandering life, than to locate them on lands, to the culture of which necessity will compel them to have recourse for their subsistence, as the means heretofore used by them are now failing.

What quantity of land should be given to them, I cannot take upon myself to say; but as to its situation, an isolated one would be, for many reasons, the most preferable; and though I never set much value on the purchasing of Lennox Island for their use, on account of its having, comparatively, little good land, yet I am aware that the Indians could not, without great difficulty, be induced to part with it, from the circumstances of their living on it for many years past, and their having also there their Church and Burying Ground.

Hoping that your Excellency will be pleased to excuse me in this long, imperfect, and hurried communication.

I have, &c.

(Signed) B. D. MACDONALD.

Sir Charles A. Fitz Roy, &c. &c. &c.

No. 50.

Copy of a Letter from Sir G. Grey to D. Stewart, Esq. Downing Street, 22d December, 1838.

Sir;

I am directed by Lord Glenelg to transmit to you herewith, the copy of a Despatch from Sir C. A. Fitz Roy, on the subject of the present state of the Indians in Prince Edward Island. Before taking any further steps respecting these people, his Lordship desires me to inquire whether you are disposed to make any proposition, with a view to the attainment of the object contemplated by Sir C. Fitz Roy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

D. Stewart, Esq.

94, Great Russell Street.

No. 51.

Copy of a Letter from the Right Honourable Henry Labouchere to D. Stewart, Esq. Downing Street, 15th March, 1839.

Sir; On the 22d of December last, Sir George Grey, by the direction of Lord Glenelg, addressed to you a letter, enclosing a Despatch from Sir C. Fitz Roy, on the subject of the Indians in Prince Edward Island, and requested to be informed whether you were disposed to make any proposition to Her Majesty's Government, with a view to the well-being of those individuals. On the 22d December a reply was received from your son, Mr. R. B. Stewart, stating, that in your absence he was unable to take any step in the matter. I am directed by the Marquis of Normanby to recall the subject to your recollection, and to request you to inform me whether you propose to make any communication to his Lordship on this subject.

I have, &c.

H. LABOUCHERE.

94, Great Russell Street, 18th March, 1839.

My Lord;

In answer to Mr. Labouchere's letter of the 15th inst. I beg to state, that my father, Mr. David Stewart, is still absent in Ireland: we are in daily expectation of his return; but in his absence, I can add nothing to my letter to Lord Glenelg in answer to a communication similar in purport to that now made by Mr. Labouchere.

I have, &c.

R. B. STEWART.

The most noble the Marquis of Normanby, &c. &c. &c.

LENNOX ISLAND.

(Copy.) 94, Great Russell Street, 3d August, 1839.

My Lord;

In reference to Mr. Labouchere's letter of the 15th March last, on the subject of Lennox Island, my son has informed you, as he had previously informed Lord Glenelg, that I was not in a position to make any proposition at that time owing to the want of title—for though I purchased the property in the year 1831, and have had nominal possession since 1833, when the purchase money was lodged in the British Linen Company's Bank at Edinburgh, yet, for reasons with which it is unnecessary to trouble your Lordship, it has not been until last week that the conveyance to me was completed; nor was the conveyance delivered to me until the evening of the 31st July, which will, I trust, account satisfactorily to your Lordship for the delay in complying with your Lordship's wishes, as expressed in Mr. Labouchere's letter.

Having learned, in 1831, when I was in Prince Edward Island, that the poor, harmless Indians were much harassed and annoyed by persons trespassing upon Lennox Island, which then was for sale, I agreed to purchase it, chiefly with a view to their protection, and left with my agent the most positive instructions, which have since been often repeated by letters, not to allow the Indians to be disturbed in any way, nor under any pretence—neither have they been disturbed in so far as it was in my power to prevent it; tho' I regret to learn that they have been disturbed by persons who had no right nor pretence to go upon Lennox Island, and who have thereby acted not less against my wishes, than against those of Her Majesty's Government.

I certainly have no wish to part with Lennox Island—yet if Her Majesty's Government think they can better provide for the security and comfort of the Indians by purchasing the Island for their use, I have no disposition to oppose their views, and accordingly beg to refer your Lordship to the house of Messrs. Farrer & Parkinson, to treat for the purchase. Should the Government decline to purchase the Island, I shall feel most happy to meet your Lordship's wishes, by doing every thing in my power to promote the comfort and happiness of the Indians, not only in Lennox Island, but in every part of Prince Edward Island which belongs to me. We are not only ready, but most anxious to promote the comfort, happiness, and security of every class of persons upon that beautiful Island, to the utmost of our power, as far as that can be done consistently with common justice to ourselves; and if Her Majesty's Government could put down, and keep down, the agitation which has been raised and kept up for the last seven or eight years, by parties whose objects seem to be to render all property insecure, and consequently to put an end to peaceable and industrious pursuits and habits, Prince Edward Island would soon become one of the most interesting and happy Colonies belonging to the Crown; but at present, I am sorry to say, that by means of perpetual agitation, under the most unfounded pretences, the Island is kept in such a state as to render it impossible for the inhabitants to attend to those pursuits and acquire those habits which are absolutely necessary to the prosperity of any agricultural country. Should your Lordship wish to see me, I shall have pleasure in waiting upon you, at any time you may please to honour me with an interview.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. STEWART.

The Marquis of Normanby, &c. &c. &c.

Downing Street, 16th Sept. 1839.

Gentlemen;

Mr. D. Stewart having expressed his readiness to sell to the Government his interest in Lennox Island, for the benefit of the Indians in Prince Edward Island, and having referred to you as his agent in the transaction, I am directed by Lord John Russell to request that you will state the terms on which Mr. Stewart is prepared to part with that property.

I have &c.

(Signed) JAS. STEPHEN.

Messrs Farrer & Parkinson, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

(Copy)

66, Lincoln's Inn Fields, 19th October, 1839.

Sir; We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th of last month, as to Mr. David Stewart's property in Lennox Island, and to acquaint you that we have not had an opportunity till now of seeing Mr. Stewart on the subject. We have received his directions to offer his 1400 acres in that Island to the Government for £1500, being about the same rate at which the Government are selling land there.

We have, &c.

(Signed) FARRER & CO. James Stephen, Esq.

No. 11.

Downing Street, 9th December, 1839.

Sir; With reference to your Despatch, No. 37, of the 8th October, 1838, relative to the Indians in Prince Edward Island, I inclose, for your information, a copy of a correspondence which has passed with Mr. David Stewart, on the subject of your proposition, that some arrangement should be made for securing Lennox Island, of which he is the proprietor, for the use of the Indians.

You will perceive that Mr. Stewart is willing to dispose of the Island, which is stated by him to contain 1400 acres, for the sum of £1500, "being the rate at which Government are now selling land in Prince Edward Island." I am not sufficiently informed on the subject to be enabled to determine whether this is a fair estimate of the value of the property, but from the description you have given of Lennox Island, as containing land "not of a superior quality," I should be disposed to think that too high a price has been asked—of this you will be the best judge. I have no reason to doubt that Mr. Stewart, who expresses great anxiety to benefit the Indians, would be willing to sell the property at a fair valuation.

I anticipate more difficulty from the want of funds to effect the purchase. The home Treasury cannot provide money for such a purpose; and, unless some local provision can be made for it, I fear that the attempt to locate these unfortunate people will prove ineffectual. Considerable delay would necessarily occur in accumulating from the sale of Crown Lands a sufficient sum for the purpose, and that delay would be fatal to the object in view. The House of Assembly is, therefore, the only source from which assistance can be looked for; and I should hope that, sensible as that body must be of the helpless state of these poor people, it will lend its aid in furtherance of this plan for alleviating their condition.

I have, therefore, to instruct you to bring the subject under the consideration of the House of Assembly, explaining to them what has been already done, and proposing to them that the purchase money, what ever it may be finally fixed at, should be paid out of the Colonial Revenues, Her Majesty's Government undertaking that, from time to time, as occasion may offer, repayment shall be made to the Colony, by the sale of Crown Lands.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obdt. servant,

J. RUSSELL.

Lt. Governor

Sir C. A. Fitz Roy, K. H.

CHEMISTRY.—When butter is to be made, if a little old butter be put into the cream, the butter will come from much less churning. When soap is to be made, if a little old soap be put into the ley and grease, the soap will be made with considerable less boiling.—Farmer and Gardener.

What gives a cold, cures a cold, and pays the doctor? A draft.

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