

remained a part of the County of Northumberland until a recent period.

The inhabitants were chiefly engaged in lumbering, and the timber Trade carried on in the Bay of Cheleur and the Miramichi river, gave employment to a great number of large ships, many of which were built in those ports.

The check given to these operations within the last two years, added to the financial embarrassments of the Province, had led to a suspension of the resources on which the people had mainly depended for their subsistence, and as all hope of an early revival of the Timber Trade was necessarily abandoned, as well as the prospect of obtaining advances from the Government for roads under the Grants of the Assembly, the attention of the people was directed to the only available resource in the cultivation of Land, and I have the gratification to state, that, throughout the Province, their efforts, under Providence, have been blessed with an abundant harvest. The supplies raised, being adequate to their plentiful subsistence through the winter, and in many cases, with a considerable surplus.

Besides the production of oats and potatoes, a considerable quantity of wheat has been grown, which will lessen the importation of flour from the United States, and may be expected to lead in future years to a surplus sufficient for exportation. Although Agriculture will henceforth constitute the leading pursuit of the inhabitants, and the foundation of its future prosperity, it would be wrong to overlook that the spirited improvements which have been effected in Roads and Bridges throughout the Northern Districts, by which the settlement of the Country has been facilitated, have been mainly the result of the efforts of gentlemen engaged in the Shipping and Timber Trade, and that although the system pursued has been erroneous, in drawing too largely on the Public Revenues of the Province, its progress will in a material degree be referable to their exertions.

The Main Road from Fredericton to Newcastle, and thence to Bathurst, Dalhousie and Campbelltown, on the Restigouche, are nearly completed and Bridged, and several Bye Roads are partially opened from them to detached Settlements.

The Lands traversed by these Roads are for the most part favorable for settlement, and it was gratifying to me to find that the people were prepared to appreciate the advantage of settling together.

Sometimes single families are met with, who are prosperously settled in the wilderness, but numerous children are growing up without education or the means of spiritual communion.

Where such efforts have been made to open communications through the Country, it may be expected in time that these insulated Settlements will be connected by the influx of new settlers, and this will probably ensue from the increasing attention to Agriculture, except where large tracts of land along the lines of Road and the margins of Rivers have been taken up on speculation by persons not disposed or possessed of means to improve the country.

The practice in the neighbouring States of laying out the wilderness lands in townships, and of imposing on the purchaser a moderate rate to provide for schools and roads, has induced a habit with the settlers of providing for these essential objects, which the practice in this Province of contributing to them so largely from the public Revenue, has discouraged.

The inability to provide so lavishly for them in future, I have endeavoured to impress upon the people, and I hope the effect will be to induce a disposition to bear the local charges on which their future execution and maintenance must depend.

A moderate rate upon property in commutation of statute labour would be adequate to support the annual disbursements hitherto made under the grants of the Assembly, and the capital advanced on such securities and invested in the execution of roads and perhaps the erection of school houses, would be progressively redeemed in a term of years, without imposing the whole burthen on the first settlers. Such a principle also is just, as these improvements are permanent.

The raising of funds on such securities for objects so essential to the improvement of the Country has been the only application of the public credit which I have at any time contemplated, and which under a guarantee for the due execution of the works in question, by placing them under the superintendence of an efficient department, holds out the only means by which they can be provided for until private capital can be applied to them. So far from leading the inhabitants to rely on the continuance of the system of anticipating the public Revenue for these objects, I have uniformly impressed on them the necessity of relying on themselves, and have afforded to them such an exposition of their financial affairs, that they are enabled to judge of the ruinous consequences of pursuing a system which has impaired the Provincial credit. My views were subsequently limited to the establishment of a *guarantee* fund for the existing debt, and for the completion of the works already in progress, under proper superintendence.

To meet these objects, the public resources would have been ample, notwithstanding the commercial depression—the heavy losses sustained in Government Warrants from the depreciation of the public credit, and the pressure on the money market, would thus have been obviated, and the banks would not have been so restricted in their operations by the large amount of these Warrants held by them on which no provision had been made for the payment of the interest accruing.

The suspension of this accommodation, added to other causes, led to the unusual pressure on all classes of the inhabitants, and the urgent appeals made to me to issue Warrants for Bye Road appropriations, regardless of their certain depreciation from the inability of the Government to take them up, induced me to propose to the County Magistrates to devise the means of assisting the inhabitants on their own responsibility to whatever extent might be required.\*

Their proceedings appear to have been judicious, and the result has been, that the funds which to a very limited extent were applied in small loans to enable the people to plant their lands, and which under ordinary circumstances they could have obtained from the Banks, have been amply secured in the result of the present harvest.

It was not intended that such assistance should be rendered to those classes who had a claim to aid from the Commissioners and guardians of the poor, either as Emigrants or paupers, and who generally resorted to the towns for relief, from the absence of employment in the Country. I should also observe to Your Lordship, that the settlement of this class of persons, except where funds for their employment might be provided, has never been regarded by me as favorable to the prosperity of the Colonies.

The exertions made by American Agents in the United Kingdom to induce those who possessed resources to settle in the United States, and the disappointments to which many have there been subject, I have formerly alluded to, and as lands had been laid out in locations adequate for the settlement of many thousands, if they should possess the means of maintaining themselves till their lands could be made productive, there was no ground to apprehend inconvenience from the influx of such a class, although the introduction of indigent settlers was calculated to aggravate the public distress.

Indeed, the arrival of several farmers from Rhode Island, has been hailed as a benefit, and the settlement of the Mechanics of St. John on wilderness lands is regarded as a change in the views of that class highly favorable to the agricultural prospects of the Province.

There can be no doubt that its great natural resources will in time be appreciated by others of the same class, whose views have been directed to other quarters.

I regret to have overlooked that Emigrant Agents in the United Kingdom had been appointed during Your Lordship's former administration of the Colonies; there can be no doubt that they are able to render valuable assistance and advice to the Emigrants.

The erroneous information given to them by interested persons may in this manner be counteracted, and especially where they are induced to embark for ports from which they cannot conveniently remove to their ultimate destinations.

I am fully impressed with the importance and justice of Your Lordship's observations regarding the administration of the Emigrant funds, and I hope for the support of the Legislature in directing their application more strictly to the purposes for which they are raised. It is just, however, to observe, that much praiseworthy zeal had been evinced by the local Commissioners in assisting and relieving destitute Emigrants and their families. The appointment of an Emigrant Agent (Mr. Ward) at Fredericton by my predecessor, originated in the number who came up from St. John in the River Steamboats, which ply daily, and where many are induced to repair in consequence of the practice of selling the Public Lands at the Crown Land Office, and which are bid for either by the settlers themselves or by their agents.

Mr. Ward has exerted himself to obtain employment for the Emigrants in the country, but no salary has been granted to him.

The funds raised by Emigrant Societies under the premiums granted by the Legislature to the Counties, were intended to afford assistance chiefly to the families of indigent Emigrants, who often arrive in a state of destitution, until they could obtain employment. The distresses of the country in the last year have unavoidably rendered them inoperative. All adventitious stimulus should be as far as possible withheld, but in seasons of distress at home and abroad, when multitudes of destitute people repair to the Colonies, the adoption of means of relief which is often required for the preservation of the lives of women and children, cannot always be regulated by prudential considerations, affecting the community on which they are cast. The hospitality of the people of the Province towards the Emigrants is a creditable feature in their character.

I am happy to have Your Lordship's concurrence in my opinion, that the introduction of labourers without adequate capital for their employment, is of primary importance; and as Emigrants are naturally prone to seek a settlement on land, and as such condition of the labouring class I conceive to be the most favorable for their social improvement and for the advancement of the Colonies, I have been naturally led to consider of the means of promoting this object in a manner the best calculated to secure the advantage of the Emigrant and of the country to which he transfers his labour.

Having in a long course of public service in the Colonies been impressed with the defects of the systems adopted, and having witnessed the failure of several praiseworthy undertakings, both public and private, I have been attentive to the causes which produced them.

Looking as I have done to the means of preserving those social advantages to which Englishmen justly attach so much importance, I have been accustomed to regard with regret that the settlement

\*In one County the funds of the Agricultural Society have been so applied.