

of the Colonies should depend so entirely on the Emigration of the indigent classes; and during my residence at home, I have been attentive to the means by which other classes of people could be induced to take part in such undertakings, and thus to provide for the settlement of the Colonies under the most favorable circumstances.

Having been associated with several gentlemen in an attempt to carry out these views in the United Kingdom, I only relinquished them when I proceeded to the West Indies in 1834, but not before I had assured myself of the practicability of establishing such Colonies at Home, and of the advantages to be derived from them as auxiliaries to a system of Colonization abroad. I trouble Your Lordship with these observations only that I may contribute so far as the expression of my opinion can avail in the promotion of an object which I consider would reward the exertions of those who might undertake to promote it, but apart from such views it is not unreasonable to hope that the natural advantages of this Province are such as to prove at least as attractive as the Canadas and Prince Edwards Island, where Settlements are understood to be forming by Emigrants of a superior class, who possess not only the resources required for the employment of the indigent Settlers, but who are able to contribute their valuable assistance in the preservation of those habits and institutions on which the prospects of Society more essentially depend. I need not add that they would find in the old inhabitants of the Province a disposition cordially to co-operate with them in the promotion of objects conducive to their common benefit, and calculated to perpetuate the connection with the parent country on terms reciprocally advantageous.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

(No. 13.)

[No. 100.] Fredericton, N. B. 28th October, 1842.

MY LORD,—Having since the date of my Despatch of the 14th instant, No. 97, revisited the Southern districts of the Province, I proceed to offer to your Lordship such further observations as have occurred to me in the course of my circuit.

A direct road from Fredericton to Saint Andrews on the Saint Croix River, having been opened in 1839, I proceeded by that route, passing through a prosperous settlement which had been formed by a party of Agricultural Emigrants from Northumberland in that year. These persons had been induced to come out from the prospect of employment in the settlement of the New Brunswick Company at Stanley, and disappointed in this, their views were directed to the formation of a Settlement on the projected line of road, to which their labour, with that of others, was usefully applied, and a direct Mail communication has thus been opened from hence through Saint Andrews and Saint Stephens to the United States. Adjacent to this line has recently been formed the other settlement alluded to in my despatch of the 12th of September, No. 85.

Along the entire route which I pursued, I had occasion to notice the successful efforts which had been made to improve the Agriculture of the Province, and under the depression to which the trade in all the Commercial Ports has been subject, it was gratifying to observe the prosperous condition of the farmers, notwithstanding the disadvantages arising from the suspension of public and private credit, and their inability to obtain a present market for their surplus produce.

The number of able hands heretofore annually withdrawn to engage in lumbering operations, has been seriously injurious to the Agricultural districts, not only in the neglect of such farm work as could be performed in the winter, but from the loss of the early part of the summer season, which being short, demands promptitude and the unremitting exertion of the farmer, in order to secure his crops. In the present year extensive preparations are making for the improvement of the lands by composts* of materials which can be readily obtained. The negligent husbandry which settlers from necessity have recourse to when isolated, has thus been superceded with advantage under a system of combined labour, and its intelligent application.

The practice heretofore has been for the isolated settler to cut down the forest trees, leaving the roots in the ground for several years, and cultivating the intervening spaces with the hoe, but wilderness land has recently been completely cleared at £2 8s. sterling, (£3 currency, per acre,) and subsequently improved with compost manure under the plough. Efforts are making to introduce machinery for the abridgement of labour in the fabrication of the woollen clothing commonly used by the farmers and their families. A factory of this description in a district favorable for sheep farming promises to be successful, affording as it does a market for the wool in exchange for the articles of clothing required.

The command of water power facilitates the introduction of such works, as well as the erection of corn or grist mills.

In the establishment I have alluded to, the machinery has been obtained from the United States, the duties having been remitted to the importer. Common manufactures of this de-

scription which are essential to the prosperity of every country, and ought therefore to be encouraged, are favorable to general commerce, augmenting the resources of communities, and thereby facilitating the interchange of their varied products directly or circuitously. It would be inappropriate, in this despatch, to enter on the subject of the trade of the Province, as it is affected by the British and American Tariffs, on which I shall have occasion separately to address your Lordship.

As the period approaches when the Legislature will resume its labours, I feel it to be important that the views of the Government in regard to the financial interests of the Province, should be clearly understood.

In my despatch of the 21st of June, 1841, No. 28, I observed that from the great disproportion between the extent of the lands granted, and the domains of the Crown which remained unreclaimed,* it was obviously impossible that the inhabitants of the settled parts of the Province could defray from their own resources the expense of opening so vast an extent of wilderness; but the works required being *reproductive*, there could be no difficulty in raising the funds required for the purpose, and of providing for the payment of the interest, and the ultimate redemption of the principal. On this principle I proposed in my despatch of the 15th July, 1841, (No. 37,) that a capital should be raised on the credit of the Province, and on the security of a guarantee fund, to be provided with the object of completing the works in progress, and of carrying out such further improvements as might be recommended. In the formation of such a fund it was not my intention that it should constitute as heretofore, an exclusive charge on the Provincial Revenues.

The attempt to carry out local improvements by such means having involved the Province in debt, for which no provision had been made, and as stated in my despatch of the 21st of June, would require the import duties to be lowered to prevent smuggling, and to protect the fair trader, I considered that no greater sum could be available for such fund than any surplus which might remain after defraying the expenses of the Government.

No charge however being imposed on the lands for local improvements, and many such works being in progress, a contribution from this source for their completion might be obtainable, and also from the commutation of statute labour, and if the fund thus raised should be adequate to redeem the capital advanced in a moderate term of years, it could be considered no otherwise than just that future settlers should thus be made to contribute to works necessary for the settlement of a closely wooded country, intersected with rivers and streams, the banks of which were already occupied; the establishment of tolls at a more advanced period of settlement, relieving the inhabitants in part from these charges.

In illustration of these remarks I may observe that extensive works have been executed, and some have been commenced, from no other funds than annual contributions from the General Revenue, and while the spirit of improvement in the community is to be applauded, the mode in which it has been sustained, is generally objectionable.

The commercial distress which arose towards the end of the last year, leading as it did to a decline of the Revenue, induced me to limit my views in the course of the last session to a provision for the redemption of the Provincial debt, and for the completion of the works already in progress, and if a guarantee fund had been formed, on security of which capital could have been raised for these objects, the loss occasioned by the non-completion of such works, and much of the difficulties which have since been experienced might have been obviated.

In the present circumstances of the Province, it would be impossible to calculate on any available surplus from the Public Revenue, after providing for the Provincial debt, and altho' it may be expected gradually to improve, a guarantee fund for Public Works, can only at present be derived from such rates or tolls as may be locally imposed for the execution or completion of Works which the inhabitants are willing thus to provide for; and when the Legislature has restored Public Credit by redeeming its engagements, the effect on the Provincial Revenue cannot fail to be favorably experienced.

Applauding as I do the spirit with which the Assembly has promoted many useful Works—but which were obviously beyond the present means of the Province to provide for, except by raising the necessary capital on the security of an adequate fund for its gradual redemption,—a further consideration presents itself in the necessity of guarding against the loss of such capital from the unskillful execution of the Works and the inadequate means applied to them.

The practice of carrying roads over the summit of hills to avoid the crossing of streams, and the construction of bridges, has led to the abandonment of lines of roads on which much labour has been bestowed, and the same remark is applicable where the Forest trees are merely cut down. When covered with snow, such tracts may be traversed on *Sleds*, but at other times they are impracticable, and the improvement of them is often attended with more labour than would be required for the completion of

* Earth from bogs mixed with sand and lime.

* The ungranted Lands may be generally estimated at fourteen millions of acres, and the granted Lands at three and a half millions of acres.