

ripened perfectly, and I observed those upon the highest situations as most forward and of earliest maturity.

It was only in the small openings and new Settlements that the grain seemed doubtful of ripening. The average yield may be from 15 to 25 bushels. Rye, oats and flax, do exceedingly well, and for potatoes and grass there is no superior Country. Four hundred horses with sleighs loaded with wheat, went across the Grand Portage to Quebec from the Madawaska Settlement in one winter.—See minutes of evidence before a Committee of the House of Assembly, 17th December, 1828.*

The valley of the Saint John will ultimately prove a most valuable district, and carry a dense population. *North of the Connecticut River I know of none to be compared to it.* To the present time they have been great importers of bread stuffs which they purchase with the proceeds of their lumber.† *Whenever time or chance should induce or compel them to raise their own grain, the Province will begin to start a head, and date from an era. A non-exportation Act from the United States would render them this great kindness.*

The remainder of the valley from Fredericton to Saint John is rich and fertile, of the same character as before, but improving and expanded.

[To be continued in next Supplement.]

PAPERS ON EMIGRATION.

IN CONTINUATION.

VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS IN ANTIGUA.

Extract of a Letter from a Proprietor, dated May 13, 1842.

The first and great cause of our success was undoubtedly the moral and religious instruction which for a long period had been faithfully and effectually given to the Negroes. The next was the Act of immediate Abolition without the intervention of the apprenticeship; and the third the perfect freedom of the labourers to seek a domicile wherever they pleased.

The independent Villages rendered this last perfectly practicable with us; and the discontented labourer had only to give a month's notice and he might at once migrate to one of the Villages. The stimulus also which these Villages gave to the labourer by fostering the hope of his one day becoming the owner of a house and land, was most salutary, and perhaps as an immediate cause, did more to retain the discontented at work than any other.

These Villages are prospering and extending, and I hope they will ere long render the Planter independent of the resident labourer. Then, *but I fear not till then*, the Negro houses may become 'Villages.' A great step has been made towards this consummation by the agreement of a large number of Proprietors to give the same rate of wages to the residents and to the independents. This brings the people back to the Estates, and they find it better for themselves to labour near their homes than to wander over the Island for employment. When this has become general and is fully established, the Proprietor will soon discover that it is better for himself and for all parties, to have a flourishing Village on his property, than an assemblage of decayed and decaying huts. The locality will in some instances require to be changed, and I think I shall seriously set about the formation of a Village:‡ I mean not of Tenants, but of small Proprietors. Proprietors are better in every respect than Tenants. It was the Yeomen of England that made her what she is. The general voice of an independent and moral population will always be heard and attended to. In this sense the adage is true *vox populi vox dei.*

Note.—When Slavery was abolished in 1834, a considerable number of the enfranchised Negroes left the Sugar Plantations on which they had lived as Slaves, and the most enterprising and intelligent who possessed or could raise funds, purchased at from £5 to £10 an acre small allotments which the Proprietors of some neglected Estates disposed of to them. The principal of these Settlements were formed in the neighbourhood of the Moravian Missionary Settlements where Churches and Schools were established. The Negro Settlers erected on these allotments comfortable Cottages of stone and wood, and they worked hard on the Sugar Plantations to earn the means of improving their homesteads, on which they raised a great variety of produce for consumption and for sale, affording conspicuous examples of industry and comfort in the order and economy of their families, as well as of religious and moral conduct. Besides the wages earned by them, the annual produce of their allotments was valued at fifty dollars an acre. The contrast in the condition of this peasantry with that of the Negroes living on the Sugar Plantations, was very striking—the latter continuing to live in the huts or hovels which they had occupied as Slaves, their children often neglected and brought up to idleness and vagrancy, while those of the Villagers were kept at School till able to work, and then taken out to earn their livelihood. Rural Constables were chosen in the Villages under the provisions of the Common Law, and appointed after due enquiry as to moral conduct and respectability. These men were responsible for preserving peace and good order in their communities, in which there was a general disposition to uphold the Laws. The gangs of labourers from these Settlements were in great request on the Sugar Plantations whenever there was a press of work.

*The completion of these communications would give a great stimulus to the commerce of the Province.

†Notwithstanding the depression of the Commerce of the Province and the decline of the Timber Trade, the official value of Wheat and other Bread Stuffs imported in the year ending 30th September, 1842, was £153,195, sterling—(vide Blue Book Returns, Supplement, page 263)—or 763,975 dollars. If produce had been raised for consumption, an equivalent importation to this amount might have been added to the resources of the Province, augmenting the comfort and wealth of the people.

‡Another considerable Proprietor in Antigua purposed to form on his Estate an African Village, bringing out families of men, women and children, and

REPORT.

To His Excellency Sir William Macbean George Colebrooke, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of New Brunswick, &c. &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have the honor to submit for Your Excellency's consideration, the following Report made in compliance with instructions received:

I have proceeded to examine the vacant tracts of country between the waters of Petitcodiac and the Settlements of Quaco and Sussex Vale, or such parts of them as had not been previously explored.

At the heads of Salmon River and Pollet River, there is a large tract of ungranted land of a good quality. Upon this tract extensive surveys have been recently made, and the Mechanics' Association, consisting of upwards of two hundred persons, besides others resident in the Counties of King's and Westmorland, are prepared to purchase lots, and open a very extensive Settlement.

Application has also been made for lands Northward of the above surveys, called the Gosham Settlement, where there are a number of persons settled upon ungranted lands. I am of opinion that it would be desirable to have the lands in the Gosham Settlement surveyed, and offered for sale, for as these lands are of a good quality, and are favorably situated, they would be purchased, and the squatters would have an opportunity to obtain titles upon the recent terms proposed by the Government.

A survey has also been made of lands Northward of Quaco, and near the old Shepody Road. The soil in this quarter is also good, but the surface of the country is much broken by hills, and some of the lands will be found very strong when they are cleared of timber. A number of persons are also desirous to obtain lots in this survey, and are prepared to commence clearing.

The old Road, extending from Shepody to Saint John, was almost abandoned for several years, it will now be found of great advantage to these settlers, and by opening new Roads into it, and thence to the shores of the Bay of Fundy, a new communication will be afforded to the settlers in this district.

The proximity of the above surveys to Roads already opened, and to the Bay of Fundy, are highly advantageous. At Salmon River, Martin's Head and Salisbury cove, abundant supplies of herrings and other kinds of fish may be obtained in the Summer season. There is scarcely any Pine Timber on any land in this quarter, and the fine groves of Spruce still remaining, are too remote from the Rivers or the Bay shore to render them valuable for exportation at present. The hard or sugar maple is abundant, and will supply with little labor a luxury to persons employed in clearing farms.

There are some excellent tracts of vacant lands at the sources of Coverdale River and Turtle Creek. At the latter place I observed some of the richest soil in the Province. The lands here are unimproved, but how far the ungranted lands extend I was unable to ascertain.

There is a ridge of elevated land situated between the tracts recently surveyed at the heads of Pollet River and the Shepody Mountain. The greater part of this tract is fit for settlement, but there are patches which are too rocky for cultivation.

Northward of the extensive settlement of Shepody, the hard wood trees of the forest were almost entirely destroyed a few years ago by a gale of wind, which took place when the trees were loaded with ice, and almost all their branches were broken down.

Coal has been discovered at the sources of Coverdale River and Turtle Creek, and there is Limestone in different sections of the district.

With reference to that part of my instructions wherein I was directed to inquire into the causes of complaint made by persons residing Westward of the Petitcodiac, on account of Dorchester, the Shire Town of the County, being inaccessible during the winter season, I beg leave to remark, that from the great rise of the tide in Shepody Bay, and the Petitcodiac and Memramcook Rivers, the ice is broken up, and they are frequently neither navigable for boats, nor safe to be crossed in any way: and even in the summer season the passage between Dorchester and Shepody, across the mouths of the above Rivers, is expensive, disagreeable, and sometimes dangerous.

The distance between Dorchester and Shepody, at its most remote settlements, by land, is upwards of ninety miles; and as all the Public Offices and Courts for the County are held at the former place, much inconvenience is complained of; and from the nature of the tides where the Petitcodiac and Memramcook can be crossed, persons are frequently detained, especially when the wind is unfavorable.

The inhabitants of the Western Parishes of Westmorland have from time to time petitioned the Legislature to have the country west of the Petitcodiac made into a separate County, but they have heretofore been unsuccessful in obtaining their wishes, and much dissatisfaction prevails from the expense, delay and inconvenience suffered by the inhabitants from the above causes.

Westmorland is a large and populous Agricultural County, and its area on the west side of the Petitcodiac is nearly equal in size to either the Counties of Sunbury or Kent, and that area contains a

permanently settling them in this plan, as the best means of affording them protection, and deriving permanent advantage to his Estate from their industry. Associated with the Creoles in such Settlements, he considered that they would readily acquire the same habits of order and industry.