



ROYAL GAZETTE.

[SUPPLEMENT.]

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1842.

Extract of a Report by Doctor Gesner, Provincial Geologist,
dated SAINT JOHN, November 16, 1842.

To His Excellency Sir William Macbean George Colebrooke, &c. &c.

Having within the last five years explored almost all the inhabited districts, and the chief parts of the extensive tracts of public lands within the Province, during my professional duties, my attention has been directed to the soil of the unsettled parts of the Province, and to those resources which offer encouragement to Emigrants and other persons who may be desirous of devoting themselves to Agriculture in New Brunswick. The inquiry has also been made how the ungranted lands of the Province might be made profitable to the Revenue, and advantageous to the surplus population of the Mother Country. I therefore beg leave to lay before Your Excellency a brief Report taken from observations recorded in different parts of the Province, during the explorations in which I have been engaged.

It is not necessary at present to enter upon a particular description of all the fertile tracts of waste lands which have been explored: they are to be found along almost all the tributaries of the St. John, and the upper branches of the Restigouche, and in the whole of the northern Counties.

The Province contains about 16,500,000 acres; of this quantity 12,000,000 acres are capable of immediate cultivation, and 1,000,000 may be reclaimed in a more advanced state of Agriculture. I have estimated that including the great marshes of Westmorland, only 440,000 acres are cleared.* By obtaining a credit of the Government for fifty acres of land, any person with a family, having a capital of £12 Currency, (£9 12s. Sterling,) can maintain such family until the first crop is produced, and with sobriety and industry in six years they can pay for the land with the interest on the first purchase, and purchase 50 acres more on credit. The above may be performed in a less time than six years, but I have taken this period as a medium estimate.

The lands along the southern coast of the Province, are in general much less fit for cultivation, than those of the interior and northern shores. The settlers are also exposed to the dense fogs of the coast, but which seldom reach more than twenty miles from the seaboard. The soil, from being derived from granite and other hard rock, is more scanty along the southern coast, and it is frequently too stony to be extensively cultivated. There are nevertheless many small tracts of good upland, and some fine intervals along the rivers and smaller streams.

Twenty miles from the southern seaboard the lands improve, and the whole northern side of the Province may be said to be capable of being tilled to advantage. The quality of the soil however differs in different districts, and there are many extensive tracts of waste lands of a superior quality. The several counties have been classed in regard to the lands they contain fit for immediate settlement, in the following order:—

Saint John.—There is but a very limited quantity of good ungranted land in this county. The lands eastward of Quaco, and those recently laid out between Quaco and Hammond River, are in general broken and stony, and the gravelly nature of the soil is seldom discovered until the land is cleared of its timber; there are but few intervals† in this county.

Westmorland.—In the County of Westmorland there still remain some fine ungranted tracts. They are chiefly situated at the heads of Pollet and Coverdale Rivers, and Turtle Creek, and also at the sources of the Washademoak. The soil in general is a sandy loam and it is easily worked. There is some intervalle still ungranted.

Queen's.—In Queen's County there are a number of tracts of

* From official returns 3,634,280 acres have been granted, and 13,792,272 remain at the disposal of the Crown.

† Alluvial flats adjacent to the rivers which are annually overflowed, which yield abundant hay crops.

excellent ungranted land. There is a large tract between the Nerepis Road and Gagetown, including the Victoria Settlement. Also southward of the Nerepis Road, upon both sides of the Washademoak River, above Long's Creek, and between Salmon River and New Canaan Settlement. Some of these soils are a deep red loam. Limestone was found to be abundant on both sides of the Saint John, it will be seen at the farm of Mr. Merrit and at the south entrance of the Washademoak.

Charlotte.—The best ungranted lands in this County were seen in the direction of the Magaguadavic River, and there are intervals along the principal streams. The northern part of this County abounds in granite rocks. The lands in the Tryon Settlement are in general rocky, and a part of the soil is meagre.

Sunbury.—Almost all the ungranted land in this County is of a good quality, and probably not more than one half of its surface is disposed of. There are some good intervals.

York.—The best ungranted lands in this County are situated on the southeast side of the Nashwaak, and near the Main South West Miramichi and Texas River.

Carleton.—Almost all the lands in this County are of a superior quality. Between the Saint John and the Main South West Miramichi, there is an immense tract of fertile soil, with belts of intervalle along the streams. Very extensive settlements might be opened in this quarter. Farther westward there is a mountainous ridge; even here there are some superior lands, and the scenery is truly Alpine. The Tobique River passes through a fine country for agriculture, where gypsum and limestone are abundant. The river is skirted with excellent intervals. These lands are not granted, and offer every advantage for settlement. Near the banks of the Saint John, the Grand Falls, and at Grand River, the land is good, and limestone is plentifully scattered over the County.

Kent.—There are some good soils in this County, many of them are however light and sandy.

Northumberland.—The good land in this County is too extensive to require any particular description, and there is much intervalle along the streams.

Gloucester.—The above remark will apply to the Northeastern part of Gloucester. There are nevertheless some low and swampy grounds in this quarter.

Restigouche.—The lands near the mouth of the Restigouche are mountainous and broken. Southward of Dalhousie and Campbelltown, there is a large tract of superior land; upon a part of this tract the Colebrooke settlement is situated. There are good lands upon the upper part of the river. The interior of Gloucester and Restigouche Counties have not been explored.

Heretofore the attention of the inhabitants has been directed to Lumbering pursuits, and Agriculture has been neglected. From the low price of timber, during the past season, a greater amount of labor and care has been bestowed upon agriculture, and the result has been, that the quantity of bread stuffs and other provisions raised, has been nearly doubled, and the capabilities of the soil have been more fairly tested than formerly. It has also been proved, that the climate of New Brunswick has been underrated.

It may appear remarkable that in a country where excellent soils can be purchased from the Government at a low rate, there are so many persons to be found who have settled upon the public lands without grant or licence. This circumstance arises not so much from the price of lands as from other causes.

Men with families, who have been engaged in procuring timber, have had no desire to cultivate more than a few acres; as their employment has been in the forests, their abodes are considered temporary; and therefore they have not hesitated in numerous instances to enter upon waste lands, where from the decline of their employment, they are compelled to remain.

Another class of squatters is found among those who from