

and St. John's, consisted of above 340,000 tons, and as three passengers are allowed to 5 tons and in some roomy vessels 3 to 4 tons. The mutual and reciprocal advantages of the Passenger and Timber Trades are plainly seen and the benefit accruing altogether national.

Thus far we have advanced without difficulty, the whole case being one of simple calculation.

But when we come to place the Emigrant in the wilderness part of a new country, unless he is to move under some regulated system, got up under foresight, reflection and previous arrangement, it will be like giving him a stone when he asks for bread. At present many go on without knowing the boundaries of their lots, or whether they have boundaries or not, or indeed whether they will ever obtain a title.* In all such instances are sown the seeds of disorder and disaffection to Government.

It may be well first to consider the expense actually incurred in locating individuals upon the late experimental settlements. The Emigration of 1823, after deducting costs of passage, gave £15 8 9 per head; that of 1825, £13 11 8; and a more recent experiment in the town of Ops in Upper Canada, £3 2 6; but it would be unsafe to assume either of these as data for further proceedings. In the two first cases, many abandoned their lots and raised the average cost, although their places have been supplied since, and the situation of Ops was too near to other settlements to call it a beginning in the wilderness. On this account the sum of £400 was limited to it; but I understood from a gentleman who had access to the disbursement accounts that £1000 would probably be sufficient to set a new settlement fairly afloat with the expense of Mills.†

I believe the township of Cavan in Upper Canada was settled also without advance.

In Lower Canada, the unoccupied Crown Reserves in the Townships of Inverness and Leeds, have been sold to settlers who are doing very well and free of cost to Government, so much so that the County in which they are situated contained 1st May 1829, only 523 souls, and in September 1830, it exceeded 2000, which was almost entirely owing to the increase of those townships; more settlers might have been added last Autumn, but they were deterred from an insufficiency of provision on the spot, and from the expense of drawing it from a distance. But again, this settlement of Reserves, as the name implies, was a secondary one.

Among the Reports of Committees of the House of Assembly in Lower Canada, 1829, I find an interesting communication upon the settlement of new lands, with an estimate of the cost of locating 150 poor families, stated at £900, or £6 each, with the idea not only that it is to be repaid in 6 years, but of the probability of as much more being gained by the advance exclusive of the value of lands settled, and this effect is proposed to be produced by supplying the settler with labour upon the spot in the shape of a public farm, for which he is to receive payment in provisions, and no other public work to be effected.

If it be ultimately determined in favor of the propriety of aiding the settler in the first occupancy of the wilderness, or in other words to bring the waste lands of the Crown into action, my advice would be first to determine with consideration where the settlements are to be, and then to survey the Lands into Townships and into lots of 100 acres‡ each, and this will take up six months previous arrangements at least.

Afterwards I should be decidedly of opinion to prefer giving assistance by finding labour for him to earn what supplies he stands in need of, to any advance in money or funds to be used at his own discretion. Emigrants arriving with a few pounds in their pockets are represented to hang about the Town and spend all before they move; and especially those who have been assisted by the Parishes, and the change of circumstances from parochial relief to competent rations, regularly distributed, and the independent feelings attached to the ownership of Land, all conspire to work a change in the moral feelings of the man, and the Provincial rate of daily wages will lift him above absolute dependence. The fact is he requires to be kept in a constant state of excitement and exertion against his first difficulties, to produce which some stimulant is necessary, and money is a seductive.

If labour is found for him to resort to, whenever his work is not required upon his lot during his first years farming, it would remain for us to discover some profitable investment for it; I should therefore adopt the public farm as recommended in the report, which would soon produce a proportion of all the provisions required for the young settlers, and thus far have in itself the means of paying them for their labour; but I would also find labor upon the Public Roads.§

The greatest desiderata in new Settlements are Mills and Roads. Mills may be supplied by private enterprise, but Roads come under

* The surveys are often defective and give rise to disputes and litigation, and numbers occupy without incurring the cost attending the purchase of surveyed land.

† If for 100 settlers, the charge at this rate would be £10 a head. Thus if £1000 were judiciously laid out in Roads, Bridges and Mills, at moderate rates for labour to be performed by the settlers under contract, and the outlay for roads were to be remitted in the purchase money for the lands, these improvements would be productive of increased revenue from the sale of reserved lands.

‡ 50 acre allotments are preferable.

§ In a Settlement of 40 men formed in the winter of 1841 on the Saint Andrews Road, a Bye Road, four miles in extent, was completely made at 10s. currency a rod, towards which an advance of £200 was made.

the regulation of the Law, hence the inability of young Settlements to accomplish them till they rise into opulence, and the consequent retardation in their advances. I observe the House of Assembly in Lower Canada had voted £58,000 for internal communications in 1829, also above £16,000 for Roads, and a great proportion of it for the new Settlements scattered at distances and with scanty populations. The opening of Roads would therefore be a work of Public utility, and stamp permanent value upon the Settlement and every lot in it.*

In suggesting the above ideas I have endeavoured as far as possible to incorporate the leading objects of all the different parties who have thought seriously upon the subject. Advancing assistance to the Emigrants according to the Emigration Report—the labour on a public farm by the Canadian Report—with my own addition of labor on roads, and on the latter subject I have a letter recently received from New Brunswick, particularly referring to it, in which it is spoken of in terms of approbation. It also appeared to me that this would be the most economical mode of procedure. It would not require more expenses than seem now almost indispensable, the surveying is absolutely so, that of Agents is equally wanted† to forward the Emigrant to his place of destination and place him upon his lot, the extra charge would be only that of finding provisions, which if supplied in payment for labor can be more easily regulated, modified or put an end to, than a cash advance, which always carries with it something in the way of bounty.‡ This mode would enable the Agent to proportion his assistance to the meritorious settler, and the indolent would not resort to the settlement. The price of lands would rise with the success of the operation, moral discipline and order would grow out of it spontaneously, the best foundation of all valuable institutions, and it might not be too much to ascribe their success to this original preparation of the soil.

In all systems of settlements of new lands, the strictest economy is to be observed, and the rule to be applied as far as possible is, for the lands to supply their own means of improvement.§ This may be accomplished in the open lands and moderate climate of the Upper Province; but in Lower Canada, and also in New Brunswick, some assistance will be absolutely requisite, for it is only the poorest classes who will lead the way in the woods. It does not appear necessary at present to enter fully into the detail of the system, which, if wanted, may be explained afterwards. It would, however, be well to appoint the different Agents to reside in the Country, either from Provincial born subjects, or those who have been some years in the Colony. If people of some capital or better education, could be induced to embark in the undertaking, it would also be desirable, nor would it be of trifling import if some modification of the old French Settlement be adopted, not at variance with our laws and customs. For it is to be observed, that the practical effect of their mode of settlement, is to establish a denser population or people more attached to their soil, more exclusively so to their own habits, and those habits the natural supporters of a monarchical system, the only part of the whole continent where this is the natural tendency of social Institutions. But when we view a Country to be redeemed from the wilderness to a state of agriculture, by the gradual advance of lot by lot, without an original investment of capital or improved education, or in fact controlling minds, or superior classes to concentrate, direct, or lead the common feeling, it is to be feared that such a mode of procedure would be in hostility to the principle of our Institutions. With the Americans such a retail occupation of the wilderness is unobjectionable, as it harmonizes with their habits of progressive advance: first, settlements of any kind attracts attention to the district, then speculation creeps in, and various interests get engaged in it. Enterprising young men of the professional classes follow, Villages grow up, and if any thing like Commercial enterprise can take root, the Bank completes the machinery of social life. An impulse so sudden is not to be expected in the Provinces; the better classes, who come principally from Europe, take up lots, mostly for individual occupation, have no thoughts of speculating beyond their own farms, so that there are no means of concentrating energy for public purposes, and the district, however numerous its inhabitants, seem to want a common principle of action. In the absence of such existing causes, Government seems more called upon in point of policy to set the machine in motion, but the call is still louder from the number of Emigrants now annually going to North America.¶

[To be continued in next Supplement.]

* The Legislature of New Brunswick have contributed largely to the formation of Roads.

† The appointment of intelligent and experienced Agents or Commissioners unconnected with the parties, and able to carry out the plan of settlement according to the regulations, has been found indispensable to success.

‡ In the case of Emigrants, the Emigrant Fund ought to be applied to this object. Locations being laid out and partially settled—billets on the lines of road to the Settlements would be easily surveyed.

§ The Settlers too, by diversity of their trades, may interchange the products of their labour and produce with advantage.

¶ If advantage should be judiciously taken by persons of Capital of the disposition to form Settlements, now prevailing in New Brunswick, the opening for a profitable investment is unquestionable. Assuming a dollar or 4s. per acre as the average value of uncleared forest land, the command of labour near the Settlements in progress would facilitate the execution of these improvements, which would augment its value. Roads and Bridges to connect the Settlements, if executed by capitalists, might equally entitle them to reimburse the purchase money. Capital invested also in Mills, Schools, &c., would further attract new settlers to the land, and increase the value of the proprietors reserves. The Settlements growing up around would not only facilitate the execution of the projected works, but prove to be hives of