

GRANTS OF LAND.

The regulations passed in 1843 for the granting of lands have, in some degree, promoted the settlement of the country; but a province so entirely covered with dense forest, and the more valuable lands of which are only accessible by means of roads, to be opened at great expense and labour, must depend on the application of resources which are generally beyond the reach of individuals, and which, if applied in so severe a climate, would not make any return for several years. Where roads are opened, experienced settlers accustomed to the country are found to take up lands; but to require payment for them, except by returns of labour in opening the roads, can only operate as a tax on the effective settlers, and retard the improvement of the country. A tax on wild lands, held unproductively, and applied to the opening of roads and the establishment of schools, would promote the settlement of the country by an improved population, who are unwilling to lose for themselves and their children the advantages of social and civilized life in settling in the wilderness.

The opening of railways will greatly tend to effect this desirable object; a flourishing settlement may be expected to be formed at each railway station, encouraged by a market for supplies, and the employment that would be afforded for artisans and labourers.

GAOLS AND PRISONS.

The observations I have from time to time made on the state of the gaols in New Brunswick, it is unnecessary to recapitulate. In 1842 the opinion of the Prison Commissioners in England on the state of the gaols were laid before the Legislature, whose attention has been chiefly directed to the improvement of the Provincial Penitentiary at St. John, which is still imperfect in its arrangements, especially for the accommodation of female prisoners, and for security of the male prisoners employed in out-door labour within a palisade enclosure. It would be desirable, as far as practicable, to introduce in all prisons the statutory rules in force in English prisons; and some attention has been given to these, where new prisons have been erected.

The offences which demand special notice are not numerous. Infant-murder I apprehend to be of frequent occurrence, from the circumstances under which the bodies of infants are often found; but in aggravated cases it has been found difficult to bring offenders to justice. This does not proceed from indifference to crime, but a reluctance to expose the mothers to severe punishment, where other parties are believed to have been implicated, who may merit in an equal, and perhaps in a greater degree the severity of the law. There is also a growing repugnance to capital punishment, and an evident necessity for the substitution of effective secondary punishments in cases of aggravated homicide. An Act has been passed in the last session of the Legislature to enable the Judges to award longer times of imprisonment than three years in such cases; but as I shall have other occasions to notice this subject, I will make no further observations on it in this place.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

WM. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, &c. &c. &c.

SCHEDULE OF DESPATCHES on the subject of the Consolidation of the Provincial Treasurer's and Customs' Departments.

1. Despatch from Sir William Colebrooke to Lord John Russell, No. 28, of June 21st, 1841.
2. Despatch from Sir William Colebrooke to Lord Stanley, No. 75, of Nov. 12, 1841..
3. Despatch from Lord Stanley to Sir William Colebrooke, No. 21, of Dec. 9, 1841.
4. Despatch from Lord Stanley to Sir William Colebrooke, No. 31, Jan. 29, 1842.
5. Despatch from Sir William Colebrooke to Lord Stanley, No. 24, March 22, 1842.
6. Despatch from Lord Stanley to Sir William Colebrooke, No. 146, April 12, 1843.
7. Despatch from Sir William Colebrooke to Lord Stanley, No. 71, of July 25, 1843.

No. 3.

(No. 60.)

No. 3.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Sir W. COLEBROOKE to the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE, dated Fredericton, New Brunswick, June 26, 1846.

Having with my Despatch No. 51, dated June 12, forwarded several additional returns which had been omitted in the Blue Book for 1845, I have now the honor in transmitting the duplicate to submit some further observations upon them as a part of my Report of the 11th May, No. 40.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The remarks of the Surveyor-General on the subject of Roads have originated in the reference to his Department of a number of Reports made by the Supervisors and Commissioners in pursuance of my instructions in the last year.

In the Session of 1842, I proposed to the Assembly a revision of the Road Laws, with a view to check the abuses which had obtained, and to regulate the expenditure on such routes under efficient superintendence of a Board of Works; but as no change was effected, and the Government being without funds the sums granted in that year for roads were not expended till 1844, after the negotiation of a loan in the Session of 1843.

By the provincial Laws, Road Commissioners are annually appointed in every parish by the County Sessions, who have charge of the parish roads, with authority to direct the application of the statute labour, which the inhabitants are bound to perform annually. This labour may be commuted for a money payment of 2s. sterling for each day's labour. This rate, amounting to an average of four days' labour for the adult male population in each year, would be adequate