

promote more effectually the settlement of the forest lands, an object which, from the great extent and resources of the unreclaimed territory, the value of its timber, the fertility of its soil, and its mineral productions, will be found to reward the industry applied to it.

The population of the Province in the present year—estimated at the average rate of increase of 5 per cent. per annum on the returns of 1840—may be stated at 211,493. The extent of land granted, 6,636,320 acres; and ungranted, 12,271,031 acres.

From the returns of Imports and Exports, it will be seen to what extent, as an Agricultural Country, the Province is dependant upon imported supplies of bread, corn, and other articles of subsistence, which might be abundantly raised from its soil. In this respect it is contrasted with Canada; and so great a drain on its resources could not be sustained, but from the extent of the lumber trade, by which much of the strength of the agricultural population is withdrawn from the cultivation of the land.

The whole amount of Imports in 1846, was £1,036,016, and of Exports, £886,763; and there can be little doubt, that without diminishing the resources of the timber trade, not only would it be practicable to render the Province independent of supplies of grain, meal, fish, &c., but to add to its resources by a large export of these commodities. The price of them in the present year has been considerably raised above the rates stated, owing to the dependance on the foreign markets for supplies, and they are at present on a level with the prices in the United Kingdom, occasioning much distress to the labouring classes.

Circumstances having occurred to draw attention to the importance of accelerating the occupation of the vast and fertile territory at the disposal of the Crown in this Province, it is earnestly to be desired that a comprehensive plan of systematic Colonization should be devised, and encouraged, which by holding out the possession of land as a primary inducement to an efficient class of settlers, who would be qualified to form a prosperous yeomanry, would enable them to rely on co-operation and support from a proprietary class of settlers, who possessing adequate resources, would identify their interests with their own, and preserve the communities thus formed from the sacrifice of those advantages which they so much appreciate at home. To effect this object, it is necessary that the lead should be taken by proprietors in the United Kingdom, who are interested in the welfare of their tenantry, and who, engaging in the formation of settlements in the Colonies, should be prepared to take an active and prominent part by the execution of such works as would identify their interests with the fortunes of their retainers.

I am aware of the difficulties which have arisen from the pressure of population, and the indigence of vast numbers, but if the system which has led to these results cannot longer be pursued without an aggravation of the evils which have already proved so formidable, and as the Emigration of the destitute has not prevented an augmentation of their numbers at home in a greater ratio, it is time to consider whether a more effectual remedy will not be found in holding out public encouragement to the formation of prosperous settlements in these fertile regions, by those who are the most competent to carry out the arts and improvements of their own country, and to apply the ample resources of the United Kingdom to the support of the more indigent and inefficient, until by sufficient training, they may eventually be enabled to emigrate with advantage to themselves and the Colonies.

The example that might be set by the landholders of the United Kingdom, would lead, I should hope, to the establishment of a proprietary class in the country, whose effective and intelligent co-operation would supersede the necessity of that detailed interference of the Government in operations for the conduct of which it is less competent.

To encourage the formation of prosperous settlements, either by association, or through the undertakings of gentlemen of property, it would be sufficient to make some public provision for the maintenance of Churches and Schools, till the unreclaimed lands should afford the means of providing for them.

The necessary provision to be made for the accommodation of the settlers, and for opening communications, must necessarily absorb for a time their available resources, even after the produce of the reclaimed lands may become adequate for their subsistence, but they would sooner be independent of extraneous assistance when associated in communities, than under the system of scattered and desultory settlements which have been made by indigent persons who have taken up lands, often remote from settlements already formed, and regardless of the consequences to themselves and their families from the absence of all civilizing influences.

No alteration in the state of the Schools took place within the last year, but in the present year an Act has been passed for improvement of the Parish Schools, in which it is provided that the Lieutenant Governor and Council are to constitute a Board of Education, and that a Normal School should be established for the training of Teachers. The provision made by the Legislature for Parochial Schools, if applied in aid of a local rate, would be adequate to effect a great improvement in the system, and it would possess the advantage that while the people would not be required to pay more than they do at present for the education of their children, the obligation of all who possessed property to contribute, would lead largely to augment the funds, while it would induce those who have children to keep them at School, who now are often led prematurely to withdraw them, and this to save the contribution they are required to make. A sense of the advantage which would result from this

important change, will, I hope, induce the Legislature to provide that the public contribution should be given in aid of a local assessment for the Parish Schools.

From the "Education Returns" it will be seen, that in King's College there are eight resident and eight non resident Students, in the Grammar Schools 345 Scholars, and in 567 Parish Schools there are 16,066 children of both sexes under instruction, or about eight per cent. of the estimated population of the Province, if the number in the private Schools should be added, which are not included in the returns.

I have, &c.

W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, &c. &c. &c.

## CANADA.

*Resolutions to be proposed by Mr. Merritt, in Committee of the whole House, on Thursday the 8th July, 1847.*

1. *Resolved*, That from documents in possession of the House it is evident that every effort is being made by the neighboring State of New York, not only to secure to itself the trade of the West, but to attract the transit trade of the British Provinces to the City of New York—and that a constitutional provision has been made for establishing a Sinking Fund, derivable from the Tolls of the Erie Canal, to pay off the existing Public Debt.

2. *Resolved*, That the present rate of Tolls levied on a ton of Merchandise from Buffalo to Albany, a distance 366 miles, is \$4.80, or 24s. currency; and on a barrel of Flour 31 cents—which, in the year 1846, yielded a revenue of \$2,800,000.

3. *Resolved*, That the Provincial Government has created a Public Debt of nearly £4,000,000, principally in the construction of Canals connecting Lake Erie with the Ocean, which Canals yet remain unfinished.

4. *Resolved*, That the entire revenue from Public Works in this Province amounts to £44,335 3s., a sum susceptible of a ten-fold increase, by the adoption of measures calculated to counteract the efforts of the State of New York, by opening out the natural channel for the transmission of the products of the Wheat growing States of the Union, and the products of the Province, to Britain, at a lesser cost than the same can be shipped via New York.

5. *Resolved*, That, in the opinion of this House, the greatest exertion should be made to finish the Public Works the present season—that the resources to be derived therefrom be made available to secure a revenue, in default of which, the Provincial Debt cannot be provided for, while Taxes will continue to increase, and the inhabitants of the Province will not be in a position to compete successfully for this trade.

6. *Resolved*, That the comparative distances and dimensions of the two routes from the great Lakes to the Ocean, via the Saint Lawrence, and through the Erie Canal, clearly prove the advantages the former possesses—the one having only 66 miles of artificial navigation, while the other has 366—the one, on the completion of the Works, being capable of conveying Vessels carrying 4,000 barrels, while the other admits of craft not over 800 barrels, and that, too, with the actual necessity of transshipment.

7. *Resolved*, That in 1845-6 the average price of freight on Merchandise from Albany to Buffalo, was 40s. per ton—of which the State received 24s. and the Forwarder 16s.

8. *Resolved*, That in 1843-4 the average freight of Flour down was 3s. per barrel—of which the State received 1s. 9d. and the Forwarder 1s. 3d.

That in 1846 the Toll was reduced to 1s. 6½d., and the freight increased to 2s. 2½d.

That the average price of freight on the Saint Lawrence between Kingston and Montreal, a distance of 160 miles, was, on Merchandise up, from 30s. to 35s., and on Flour descending, 1s. 6d. to 2s.

9. *Resolved*, That less than one-half the Tolls charged on the Erie Canal would be ample for the Saint Lawrence route.