

road between Quebec and Fredericton, and the opening a water communication between Missiskoui Bay and the Richelieu, thus giving us a better communication with Lake Champlain, are of national importance, as being necessary to the military defence of the country in the event of a war. The establishment of one or more harbours on the shores of Lake Erie is another work of the most pressing necessity, and one which the province cannot be expected of itself to undertake. There are others, such as the Welland Canal, in which the Crown already possesses a large stake, and the completion of which is no less essential in a political than a commercial point of view. I more especially advert to the Welland Canal, because it is at this moment one of the most important works in Canada. During the last season the revenue derived from it was one-third greater than in any preceding year; and there is every prospect of our obtaining the passage through it of all the western trade. But if this Canal were allowed to fall into decay, the Americans would renew their favourite project of a Canal on their side of the river, and would be encouraged to proceed in the works which they have already commenced for the enlargement of the Erie Canal.

The settlement of emigrants on wild lands, taken in connexion with the exertions which individual landowners are now prepared to make for the same purpose, and the prosecution of the great public works to which I have alluded, will absorb a very considerable number of emigrants. The municipal bodies also which, under the ordinance recently passed by the Special Council, will at an early date be called into being in Lower Canada, may reasonably be expected, by undertaking public works, to create a considerable demand for labourers in this province; and I trust that those improvements which in Upper Canada have been commenced by individual enterprise, or from provincial resources, may to a great extent be resumed in the spring.

There is, moreover, a spirit of renewed activity and enterprise among the whole British population in both provinces, which affords ample security that no difficulty will arise in finding employment for well conducted emigrants; and it will be my endeavour to turn these fortunate circumstances to the best advantage. With this view I shall take all the means in my power, through the land agents distributed in the different sections of the province, and through other channels, to ascertain the wants and capabilities of each, the inducements which they hold out to the emigrant, and the facilities which they may afford for his permanent settlement. All the information which I can collect on those points will be communicated to the emigrant agents at Quebec and Montreal, so that the emigrant on his arrival may at once be enabled to decide to what point

it will be most advantageous to him to proceed.

I have already directed that, to prevent the delay and expense to which purchasers of land have heretofore been exposed, every land agent in the province should for the future be furnished by the Commissioners of Crown Lands with diagrams and specifications of all Crown Lands for sale within his district.

To guard against double sales, the land agent must of course communicate with the central office before concluding a sale; but the delay thus caused will be comparatively unimportant.

I am convinced that this alteration will be received as a great boon by the inhabitants of these provinces.

With a view also to facilitate the settlement of the provinces, I further propose to invite individual proprietors who may desire to sell their lands, to send in descriptions, with all necessary particulars, to the offices of the several Crown Lands agents. Those officers will not, however, act in any way as private agents, or undertake to sell private lands; they will merely afford the means of informing the public of the extent of lands to be sold in each district, the name of the owner, and the price demanded. Proprietors taking advantage of this arrangement would be required to pay a small fee for the custody of their charts and papers, the amount of which I shall settle with the Commissioners of Crown Lands.

It may be objected that such an arrangement will, for the present at least, tend to diminish the sales of land the property of the Crown, and to some extent this will probably be the case; but the settlement of the country in the most advantageous manner is so much more important for the public interests than the present amount of the land revenue, that I look upon this objection as of no importance.

Your Lordship will allow me to suggest, that every means should be taken to urge on intending emigrants the necessity of arriving in the country as early as possible after the opening of the navigation. The season is so short, that unless a settler is on his land by the beginning of June, there is no chance of his being able to make any provision for his subsistence before the ensuing winter; while during the winter the severity of the weather precludes almost all out-door labour. It is likewise important to the health of the emigrants that they should arrive before the great heat of the summer commences.

I shall take an early opportunity of transmitting to your Lordship the answers to the questions prepared by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners. I have caused them to be distributed very generally throughout all the provinces, and some delay has oc-