

Great Britain and Ireland, in what time do they usually acquire a knowledge of the use of the axe, and what are the obstacles which settlements attempted to be made by them have encountered and how could they be best surmounted.

A. I have observed many Emigrants from Great Britain and Ireland acquire a perfect knowledge of the axe in five or six months, the greatest difficulty is to acquire a knowledge of the mode of clearing new lands to advantage—it is a difficult art and requires much experience, this on a general scale might be in some measure overcome by settling experienced men promiscuously and from whose examples the Emigrants would soon learn, or otherwise employ a man in each township who has a perfect knowledge of the proper method, to give instructions to settlers, which in a short time would render them expert in the task.

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*John Neilson, Esquire*, a Member of this House made answer to the following Questions.

Q. Have you had any experience in laying out and making roads through wild lands, and if so, will you inform the Committee of what you think the best and cheapest plan for opening roads through such lands?

A. I have had some experience of the kind at Valcartier, where I personally superintended the opening of a road through the woods of nearly three miles in length from St. Ambroise to the River Jacques Cartier; I have also had several other roads made in that quarter; last fall I had a very good Cart Road, through the bush made for 10s per Arpent, or about £13 10s. per mile. If I intended to get a new Road laid out and made, to effect a first settlement at a distance in the woods, I should proceed in the following manner.

The first step to be taken would be to employ three trusty Indians, or others accustomed to the Woods and Country work, by the day, to explore and mark out the easiest and nearest place for a road, avoiding steep Hills and Morasses, by which a Common Horse and Cart might transport, say five Cwt. without unloading. If the Road is not well laid out by men who know what it is to drive a Horse and loaded Cart in the woods, the labour and Costs will be endless and perhaps altogether lost. On the Report of the Indians or others well qualified as above, the road might be visited and proposals for contracting issued immediately by posting in public places and notifying by *Crie* on a Sunday after Divine Service at the Church door.

The Road should be cut twelve french feet wide, and the whole width cleared off; the stumps taken out or cut below the