

CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE

A similar concession having been granted to several railway companies, where the occupation of the ground did not interfere with proposed defensive works, I see no objection to the accommodation now asked for, being afforded to the Toronto and Guelph Railway Company for a continuation of their line to Port Sarnia; but the demand of 331 acres appears exorbitant, and as 100 feet in width is sufficient for a double track, I recommend the Company be only allowed to occupy such quantity, in addition thereto, as may be necessary for a terminus, if one should be required on the bank of the River St. Clair.

The land the Company desire to lease contains, as above stated, about 331 acres, whereof 170 acres are swamp.

* See *P. S.*

The value of the land is 10 *s.* per acre for the dry land, and * £... per acre for the marsh.

No revenue is derived from the property.

The Lieutenant General Commanding, in forwarding to me his opinion on the present application, has been pleased to favour me with the copy of a note made by the late Lieutenant General Sir B. D'Urban, Commander of the Forces, respecting the importance of occupying Port Sarnia Reserve, by a tower and battery, but it will be seen by the enclosed plans that the railway works will not interfere with either of those projected works.

I have, &c.

(signed) *M. C. Dixon,*

Colonel Commanding, Royal Engineer, Canada.

Lieutenant General

Sir John Fox Burgoyne, G. C. B.,

&c. &c. &c.

P. S.—With respect to the foregoing valuation of the Reserve, the land for agricultural purposes would not realise more than the sum stated, namely, 10 *s.* per acre, whilst, perhaps, in the hands of a speculator, 100 *l.* per acre might not be thought too much for the whole property.

(signed) *M. C. D.*

P. S.—In obedience to your Minute, No. 4908, I forward a copy of a sketch, which was attached to the note of the late Lieutenant General Sir B. D'Urban, referred to by the Lieutenant General Commanding in the Military Secretary's letter of the 6th May last, and have marked on the plans returned with this letter, the ground necessary to be retained for the towers and batteries at Point Edward. The Ordnance own no property opposite to the Black River, whereas the second tower and battery referred to by Sir B. D'Urban would be erected, such site being on an Indian reserve, which is in course of sale for settlement by the provincial Government.

(signed) *M. C. Dixon,*

Colonel Commanding, Royal Engineer, Canada.

12 September 1853.

Enclosures to the foregoing,

(R. 7259.)

Gentlemen,

Toronto, 5 January 1853.

I AM instructed by the directors of the Toronto and Guelph Railway Company, to ask if you will consent to lease them any portion of the Ordnance property at Port Sarnia. They are especially desirous of obtaining possession (as tenants) of the point of land projecting into the river above the village.

It is the intention of the Company to extend their road to Sarnia, and they are anxious to obtain the right of occupying the land referred to, as presenting the most eligible point for connecting with the navigation.

The Respective Officers
H. M. Hon. Board of Ordnance,
Montreal.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. Shanley,*

Chief Engineer,

Toronto and Guelph Railway Company.
