

Right hon.
C. P. Thomson to
Lord John Russell,
26 May 1840.

this city, to whom I shall give the same discretion, under the superintendence of the executive, and I lately directed Mr. Hawke, the immigrant agent in Upper Canada, to attend me here for the purpose of conferring upon the subject generally.

It was Mr. Hawke's opinion, in which I concur, that by appointing the usual agents in the different stations of Upper Canada, and through their exertions in collecting information upon the places where labour is in demand, the greater number of emigrants at present arriving or shortly to be expected may be advantageously placed; and additional facilities will be obtained for this purpose if the public works in Upper Canada, of which I have lately authorized the continuance, can be carried on.

If, however, the emigration shall be carried to the extent during the season, which there is reason to believe, it is not to be expected that either the demand for labour from individuals, or the limited extent to which public works can be carried in the financial state of the province, will suffice to meet the demand for employment, and it will therefore be necessary to adopt some measures for providing for some of those persons.

The disposal of the Crown Lands in Upper Canada is still partially restricted by an Act of the Legislature, but as the House of Assembly have addressed Her Majesty in the most earnest terms on the subject of emigration, and have expressed their readiness to concur in any scheme by which it may be facilitated, I shall not hesitate to authorize the concession, with a view to settlement of small portions of land to emigrants, provided this can be coupled with their employment on some public work, such as a road, which may be wanted through the district; and I have put myself in communication with Sir George Arthur, with a view to carry into effect such a plan, if called for.

Pending any general arrangement for the settlement of emigrants, and for the disposal of Crown Lands, I consider this course the most advantageous I can adopt; for I should be extremely sorry to lose the opportunity which seems to be afforded this season, by voluntary emigration, of augmenting the British population of these provinces; and to see this useful body of men pass into the States.

I have, &c.

(signed)

C. Poulett Thomson.