

Location and Area.

The district to which this report relates is in the Province of Quebec, south of the St. Lawrence, between the St. Francis and Chaudière rivers. The area over which work was done is less than 10 miles in width, and about 80 miles in length. The northern extremity, near Beauceville, is 40 miles from the St. Lawrence river, and the most southerly point to which the work has been carried is near Richmond about 60 miles from the St. Lawrence.

History.

General History.—The close of the French régime in Canada—1763—saw many parts of the St. Lawrence plain opened for settlement; but the highlands were as yet untouched, and remained so for a generation later. Following the separation of Upper Canada (Ontario) from Lower Canada (Quebec) in 1791, a more vigorous colonization policy was adopted by the latter Province, and the survey of the highlands was begun. By the mode of survey then adopted, the land was divided into townships, approximately square; and these were subdivided into ranges and lots. The shape thus given to land holdings distinguished the district from the portions previously surveyed in the plain, in which long ranges parallel to some line of travel were subdivided into long, narrow farms. From the mode of survey and the location of the district, it gained the name of the Eastern Townships.

The earliest settlements were made about the beginning of the 19th century by emigrants from the neighbouring New England States; a portion of whom were United Empire Loyalists. The first lands occupied were those along Lakes Memphremagog and Massawippi, and in the valley of the St. Francis river.

In order to connect these early settlements with the city of Quebec—both for commercial and strategic purposes—a road, which still bears his name, was projected by Governor Craig in 1805. It was afterward built from Quebec to the St. Francis river, at Richmond. By means of this road and the Gosford road, which was built some years later, farther to the eastward, emigrants from the British Isles rapidly occupied the northern part of the district.

Between 1850 and 1855 the main line of the Grand Trunk railway was built from Montreal to Portland; thus crossing the district