

ability to carry out its plans effectively and in a confidential dispatch from Sir John Colborne to Mr. Spring Rice, Colonial Secretary, dated 2nd December, 1834, he discussed in detail the merits of the different Colonisation Societies as a supplementary statement to his public dispatch, No. 72, of the same date. In this confidential dispatch he again discussed the prospects of the Colonisation Association of Ireland and said that it could only be of a very limited assistance. He further recommended that the plan proposed of granting long leases should be abandoned and that the settlers should have the right to purchase their lots at any time it might suit their convenience. He also objected to the large collection of the labouring classes, as proposed by the Association, without the presence of persons qualified to act as magistrates. Sir John objected to the Ottawa Association which, he believed, had principally in view the engaging largely in the timber trade and would soon strip the whole district and exclude the Quebec merchants from a trade in which they had long been engaged. Returns to the end of 1833 of the lands sold or granted will be found in Series Q, volume 383-2, beginning at page 273. The returns show of land sold and granted: Crown lands in Lower Canada, page 273 verso, and of Clergy Reserves in the same province, page 274. The returns for Upper Canada are more elaborate and with letter from Mr. Peter Robinson, the Commissioner of Crown lands, extend from page 274 to 276, the last return being of the names of officers of the Army and Navy, who received orders for the remission, in accordance with their rank and service, of the purchase money of land purchased by them.

With respect to the progress that could be made in clearing land, Sir John Colborne writing on the 14th January, 1834, said that "a good chopper will clear an acre per week or rather underbrush and cut down an acre a week, leaving the operation of removing the logs to be undertaken at the most convenient season," which is a wise distinction between the preparation for clearing and the actual clearing of the land, the burning of the brush piles and the logs occupying some time. In regard to the experiment of raising funds by a loan on Crown lands for settling, Sir John reported that it could not be safely tried in any other colony on a large scale. The reason he gives for its safety in Upper Canada was the rapidly increasing value of the land, so many settlers constantly arriving with capital to purchase and where provisions could be procured to any extent at short notice. For the purpose of settlement authority was given to the Commissioner of Crown lands to sell the military reserve adjoining the town of York. The plan at page 74 of volume 381-1 of series Q will explain how the land was intended to be laid out and may be studied with interest by inhabitants of Toronto, as will also be the price of acre lots disposed of as a test of the value of the reserves at that date. Eighteen lots of an acre each were offered for sale in November 1834. They sold for £7,500 being an average of £416.13.4 per acre. According to Mr. J. Ross Robertson's "Land marks of Toronto," the population of Toronto in that same year (1834) was under 9,000, by the census return of 1891 it had increased to 181,220 taking the municipality as a whole, the population of the city as constituted with electoral districts for representation in the House of Commons was 144,023 the larger figure being the population of the city as an incorporated municipality. On the 20th March, 1834, Sir John Colborne wrote to Mr. Stanley, Colonial Secretary, that he had assented to a bill to extend the limits of the town of York and to incorporate it under the name of the city of Toronto. According to Sir John Colborne "many of the inhabitants were averse to a resumption of the original name of this part of the