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ON THE ADVANTAGES

ARISING FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT

OF THE

CANADA EMIGRATION ASSOCIATION.

The obstacles in the way of emigration have been so serious an impediment to the prosperity of the British provinces in America, that I presume it may be taken for granted all those who have it in their power to assist in the removal of these obstacles will consider it their duty to do so.

The principal circumstance which has prevented the settlement of the Crown Lands has been the distance to which emigrants settling on them must be removed from markets to which they might carry their produce, and from the advantages of society.

The reason that the emigrant purchasing Crown Lands has been thus sent far back into the wilderness in solitude has been, that the land located in the best situations, near to the older settlements and towns, and in the vicinity of roads and navigable streams, has been already taken up, and is much of it in the hands of persons who hold it in considerable quantities, and can afford to keep it in its wild state until they can obtain what they consider to be a suitable price.

These circumstances have occasioned the tide of emigration to be diverted from Canada to the United States, where emigrants have considered that they would settle themselves to greater advantage. The consequence has been that the small capitalists, artizans, and labourers, of Britain, have contributed to improve the country and add to the resources of the neighbouring republic, instead of conferring these advantages on this Province.

There is no well wisher of Canada but has lamented this untoward state of things, however hopeless he may have been of any adequate remedy being provided for what appeared so irremediable an evil. Nothing indeed but the public spirit of the land-owners themselves, grounded in the wise conviction that self-interest and the public interest are, in the end, not only compatible but identical, could have removed so serious an obstacle to the settlement of the country, since whatever may have been the good intentions of the home and provincial governments, they could not have interfered with the rights of property on the part of the land owners. It is therefore extremely gratifying to observe these individuals themselves