

pine—and thus encouraged squatting, in lieu of legitimate settlement. The lands are put up to auction at a minimum upset price of from 2s. to 20s. per acre; out of which very little indeed goes to form a fund for improvement—or what we must regard as the grand preliminary PREPARATION—without which, land, at any price, is valueless; and the Canada Company, too, owning vast territories on Lake Huron, at the same time dispose of large tracts at a price varying from 10s. to 25s. per acre in the wilderness.

18. There is no wild land-tax or tax on absentees. Large grants of uncultivated lands are in the possession of individuals; blocks of 20,000 to 40,000 acres have been sold at 6d. per acre, and remain still in a state of nature; and thus in every possible way we find squatting, land-jobbing, and other detrimental practices. The great grievance of the clergy reserves has been somewhat modified in consequence of the efforts and policy of Lord Sydenham; but the township corporations (in whose election the squatters have an equal voice) moderately tax the colonists, while the whole proceeds of the land sales go into the common fund of the province—scarcely a pound being laid out in roads through the district of the timber trade—though they have lately begun to contribute to the construction of slides over the Rapids. Seeing that large tolls also are levied, it is obvious that a considerable portion of the proceeds of sales should be devoted to the improvement of the district, though Mr. Pemberton thinks that objections would be raised to reserving any portion for the employment of emigrant labour.

IV.—Evidence of M. H. Perley, Esq.

1. Mr. Perley is a native of New Brunswick, his family having been settled in the colony for six generations. He has been four years Emigration Officer at St. John, for the province, and Commissioner for Indian affairs.

2. Of 9,600 emigrants who reached New Brunswick in 1846, 9,000 landed at St. John, 9,500 were from Ireland, only 60 or 70 from England; 4,500 proceeded to the United States; 5,000 were absorbed locally.

3. The progress of emigration is as follows:—in 1843, 392 persons; 1844, 2,600; 1845, 6,000; 1846, 9,600. The progress of population during the last 65 years has been—1783, 12,000; 1803, 27,000; 1834, 120,000; 1846, 200,000. [The population of the whole of this vast colony being thus about equal to that of one of the parishes of London.]

4. The imports in 1842 amounted to 200,000*l.*; in 1846, to 600,000*l.*, or 3*l.* per head of the population.

5. The area of New Brunswick is about 19,000,000 acres, of which not 7,000,000 are located; 12,000,000 ungranted; little more than half a million cleared, or 1-37th of the whole; the quantity of land sold in 1846 was 48,995 acres.

6. Mr. Perley submits a table of particulars relative to the lands granted and ungranted to each colony; but, as printed in this Blue-book, there is an evident mistake of between two and three millions of acres in each column. We, therefore, interpolate in this place a table, compiled from Mr. Perley's official Reports, which embraces the whole of these particulars, with additional information.