

NEW
BRUNSWICK.

11. Under present circumstances, it appears to me that the existing population is sufficient for the amount of labour to be performed; and until material changes take place in the business and affairs of the province, I can hold out little or no encouragement to emigrants of the labouring class.

All of which is respectfully submitted by your Excellency's

Very obedient servant,
(signed) *M. H. Perley*,
H. M. Emigration Officer for
New Brunswick.

Government Emigration Office,
St. John, N. B., 8 January 1856.

EXTRACT from Letter to the Hon. the Provincial Secretary, dated
Government Emigration Office, 22 January 1855.

CROWN LANDS.

11. THE mode of disposing of Crown lands is such as at present to offer serious obstacles to those who desire to purchase for immediate settlement.

12. The practice heretofore permitted of allowing persons to obtain orders of survey, and under those to select the finest and choicest tracts on the banks of rivers, or in other favourable situations, is exceedingly injurious and greatly to be deprecated.

13. I suggest that lands should be surveyed in townships, or districts, and none sold for settlement save in the surveyed portions. In Canada, the lands in certain surveyed townships only are offered for sale, and no sales are permitted in other townships until a certain proportion of those first offered have been sold. By this arrangement, settlements are formed and extended effectively, roads are well made and kept up, and the evils attendant on small and widely-scattered settlements, without places of worship or schools, and costing large sums of money for bye-roads, are altogether avoided.

14. When Lord Stanley was Colonial Minister he recommended the Legislature of Newfoundland to insert a clause in their Land Bill, declaring that if lands should be once, or oftener than once, exposed to auction and not sold, the Lieutenant-Governor might be afterwards at liberty to dispose of them without competition, at the last upset price at which they had been offered. This plan has been adopted in Canada, and is believed to have worked very advantageously.

15. If a diagram of one or more settlements had been lodged at this office at any time during the last three years, with authority to sell vacant lots previously offered at auction and not sold, I feel assured that much land would have been disposed of to actual settlers, and the settlement of the country greatly promoted.

16. Should this plan be adopted, I suggest that the purchaser should in all cases deposit the purchase-money in a bank, or branch bank, or with the deputy treasurer of the district, to the credit of the receiver-general; the deposit receipt to be handed to the local agent, who shall thereupon grant a location ticket, and forward the receipt to the Crown Land Department, whereupon the grant should issue. This mode would greatly simplify the accounts, and obviate the necessity of taking security from the agents employed. Their commission could be settled at the end of each quarter or yearly.

I have, &c.
(signed) *M. H. Perley*,
H. M. Emigration Officer.
