

commendation of the kind, but I cannot state more about it. I know large capital has been involved in the different sections in the lumber business, since the present mode was adopted.

4. What effect would it have upon the Public Revenue, provided the Waste Lands of the Crown were disposed of, as suggested by Mr. White of Michigan. Please refer to his evidence, as filed before the Committee; and if carried out, what effect would it have upon the emigration to this colony?—The system recommended by Mr. White, as obtaining in the United States, would increase the direct and immediate revenue from the Lands. My object would not be to create a revenue, but to secure the Lands by the action of Government, and without intermediate jobbers, to a contented population, having improved or ready to improve them. Mr. White's system has its advantages; it is easier and less costly for Government. But I consider that it is less advantageous to emigrants, and to the young people of the country. Cash payments when the price is moderate, may not be its worst feature; I prefer a moderate delay after payment in part. The absence of limit as to extent in the purchases, and of conditions as to settlement and improvement, would induce, even with a good system of taxation, those speculations, by keeping lands in their wild state, until high prices can be obtained, which Mr. White admits to exist, and to be in some cases injurious. Although they could not be entirely checked by any restrictions, owing to the inability of the poor and ignorant to protect their own rights, those restrictions are efficient for the most part. The difficulties with squatters, and of squatters among themselves, are one of the evils of a new and rapidly filling country. As far as public order is concerned, they would still exist under the American system, with this addition, that the settler would oftener be deprived of the value of his work. When the proprietor is unknown, residing at a distance, or unreasonable, the squatter would go on for a long time improving without security. Under any system, both for the Canadian and the Emigrant, ignorance, carelessness, incorrect or false information, and neighbourhood associations, induce settlers to choose and open a favourite lot without much enquiry as to title. I do not mean that Government ought to encourage squatting, nor to meddle in the quarrels of squatters as long as the lands are not open for sale, or the occupiers are not ready to purchase. But as those evils must exist, government should at all events have it in its power to give the right of pre-emption to the *bonà fide* improver, divide the lot, or secure some recompense, according to equity, in case of conflicting claims by actual improvers. This is done now with tolerable efficiency by the Department, directly and through its agents. Although the information is sometimes untrue or deficient, the truth is oftener arrived at. I confess great improvements may be introduced in the settlement of those difficulties; some local authority besides the Agent might be called to interfere. I cannot however omit to remark that the settlement of those quarrels has been, and will be the main cause of the unpopularity of the Department. Besides the delays which the nature of the enquiry must bring, the losing party will always have, in good faith too in many cases, a frightful story of injustice and persecution ready for public men or for newspapers. I indicate an evil and don't know the remedy.

5. Is it your opinion that the Trade between Great Britain and this Colony would be sustained if the public domain is placed at the disposal of private speculators; under such circumstances could it be expected that the same number of ships would arrive at Quebec annually, or would it not have the effect of placing the legitimate trade now carried on between Quebec and Great Britain, in the hands of the Americans, and to a great extent divert the same to the United States.—The evil of the present system of lumbering is, that it destroys to no purpose valuable trees or portions of trees unfit for exportation, but still of considerable worth for internal use. However, the restricting of lumbering operations on lands disposed of by Government, would at once cut off the supplies from the