

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

the month of March, 1833. Writing to Mr. Stanley on the 30th of May, 1833, he said he had applied to Lord Goderich for his support of a plan for protecting and providing for some of the numerous destitute boys who were running wild about the streets of London, whose only means of subsistence arose from the commission of crime. Some had been sent to the Cape and others had been under his care and acquiring habits of industry, and he proposed in the May letter to have some of these latter sent to be settled in Canada, their outfit and passage money to be paid out of their wages. In a letter written by Mr. Wilson to Mr. Hay, the latter was informed that a committee was to be formed at Bytown, on the Ottawa, to receive and dispose of the boys. Writing on the 19th of June, he said he was anxious to send some of the boys to Canada who would, he wrote, "proceed direct to Bytown, on the Ottawa, where the necessary steps have been taken to form a committee for their reception and distribution." (Series Q, volume 379—3, page 645).

Sir John Colborne, after making inquiry wrote that none of the inhabitants of Bytown had any knowledge of such a committee as Mr. Wilson spoke of, and recommended caution as to bringing boys as proposed. "I should not," he said, "recommend encouragement to be given to any scheme for conveying boys to Canada, unless an establishment could be formed for their reception and accommodation till they could be disposed of among the farmers of the different districts." (Series Q, volume 381—3, page 734).

In the absence of the supposed arrangements a meeting of the leading inhabitants of Bytown was held, at which a committee was appointed to receive the boys who had been sent, and to house them until they could be disposed of. (Pages 739, 740).

The motive of Sir John Colborne's opposition to the scheme of Mr. Wilson appears to have arisen from caution and not from hostility to any feasible plan of settlement, but the contrary and he speaks in terms of praise of the plans of the Colonisation Society of Ireland as being so beneficent and precisely calculated to remove difficulties could certain obstacles be got rid of that stood in the way of the scheme. He pointed out the distress and embarrassment incurred by intending settlers with large families, which were compelled to wait until the heads of families could secure employment. In order to prevent these and kindred evils, agents were stationed as already mentioned at Quebec and other points to give such information as might be required and on arrival in Upper Canada the agents were to procure conveyances for the destitute to districts where work was carried on, or to townships where they could be employed in clearing land. It is clear from this that by the word "destitute" is meant men who were in need of immediate employment, not their helpless families.

One of the projected societies, "The North American Colonial Association of Ireland" applied to purchase the triangular piece of land in the Huron tract adjoining the territory of the Canada Company, but this proposal Sir John Colborne declined to recommend. The block asked for contained according to a diagram and report about 500,000 acres, (Series Q, volume 383—2 plan at page 258, report at page, 260.) From what has been said above it will be seen that the decision of Sir John Colborne not to recommend for acceptance, the proposal of the North American Colonisation Society of Ireland did not arise from any objection to the society itself, but to doubts as to its