

the Liverpool line, on board which passengers are treated with great care and kindness.

3. Fully one-half the immigrants of the season left the province soon after their arrival. Of those that remained, one portion joined friends and relatives who had sent for them; and another portion, chiefly German paupers from Wurtemberg, went at once into the almshouse, where most of them still remain.

4. The depression in the prices of ships and timber still prevails, owing to the continuance of the war, and consequently there is but a limited demand for labour in the ship-yards and saw-mills of the province.

5. During the whole of the past year operations have been suspended on the railways which were previously in course of construction, and hundreds of railway labourers have left the country, as well as many of its inhabitants.

6. In 1847 I had the honour of pointing out to a Committee of the House of Lords various defects in the management of the Crown lands of New Brunswick as regarded settlers. Since that time, I have continually urged upon the Government of this province the necessity of amending the Crown land system. In my last annual report, I brought the subject under the notice of your Excellency, and entreated that some change might be made in a system which I had every reason to believe had deterred, and continued to deter, many persons of the most desirable class from purchasing land and becoming settlers. In January last I brought the subject specially under the notice of the Government, by a letter to the provincial secretary, an extract from which is appended, and to which I beg most respectfully to refer. As the same system still continues in full force, I beg again to reiterate my objections to it, and to express my belief that it is the worst Crown land system in these North American provinces.

7. During the past year, I have had the opportunity of visiting the neighbouring provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, each of which is making greater progress than New Brunswick. As compared with Canada, this province appears to be not merely standing still, but absolutely retrograding.

8. The area of New Brunswick is estimated at 17,677,360 acres, of which, as appears by the census of 1851, only 643,954 acres have been cleared for cultivation, being less than four per cent. of the whole quantity.

The population, now amounting to 200,000 souls or less, is scattered along the watercourses of the country, or along the margin of the sea. The whole interior, and the great bulk of the country, yet remains covered with a dense forest and in a state of primeval wilderness. The communications are kept up by means of the rivers and streams, by roads not of a durable character, by bridges of perishable materials, and by the sea.

9. It is understood the railways proposed to be constructed will follow the existing lines of settlement, and leave the interior of the province in a great measure still untouched. It would seem necessary therefore, in order to sustain the proposed railways, and open up the country, that a great arterial system of roads should be devised, which would render the best land and the varied resources of the province readily accessible. A comprehensive system of great roads, constructed with reference to their permanency, with bridges of a durable nature, and with townships laid out along such roads in proper form, under a judicious system of sale and settlement, would soon render the country attractive, and hold out inducements to emigrants and settlers which are now wanting.

10. I feel satisfied, as well from information which has reached me, as from my own observation, that there has been a considerable stream of emigration from this province during the past year, and I believe, that unless active and vigorous measures are adopted to check it during the coming season, especially by a change in the mode of managing the Crown lands, and by an extensive system of public improvements of various kinds, the stream will continue to flow more largely, and the population of the country will begin to diminish sensibly.