

COPY or EXTRACTS of CORRESPONDENCE between the War Department and the Canadian Government, respecting the Transfer and Sale of LAND at *Sarnia*, for the use of the GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY of *Canada*.

— No. 1. —

(Ordnance, No. 110.)

Office of Ordnance, Montreal,
11 July 1853.

Sir,

WE have the honour to forward herewith for the consideration of the Master General and Board, applications that have been preferred on behalf of the contractors for the construction of the Toronto and Sarnia Railway, with the view of acquiring by purchase those portions of the Ordnance Reserve at Point Edward in Sarnia, which are not required for military purposes, and of renting the land which is reserved.

The quantity of land required by the Railway Company is stated by the Commanding Royal Engineer, in his Minute of 18th May, to be 331 acres, of which 170 are swamp, and we would respectfully invite the Master General and Board's attention to that officer's opinion as to the value of the property, and to the Honourable J. A. Macdonald's communication of the 9th ultimo, in which the reasons for so large a space of ground being required at the terminus of the Canadian Grand Trunk Railway on Lake Huron are explained, and as it is doubtless of much importance to the Company that they should receive as early a notification as possible of the ultimate decision of the Master General and Board upon their enlarged requirements, we forward the present report without awaiting the receipt of the instructions which the Commissioner Royal Engineer, in his Minute of the 8th instant, states he is expecting, in reference to his report to the Inspector General of Fortifications of the 18th May.

We have, &c.

(signed) *William Bell*,
Colonel Commanding, Royal Artillery.

M. C. Dixon,
Colonel Commanding, Royal Engineer.

M. W. Blenkarne, D. O. S.

G. Butler, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

J. S. Elliott,
O. S., Head Quarters.

Enclosures to the foregoing.

Gentlemen,

Toronto, 5 January 1853.

I AM directed by the directors of the Toronto and Guelph Railway Company to ask if you will consent to lease them any portion of the Ordnance property at Port Sarnia. They are especially desirous of obtaining possession (as tenants) of the point of land projecting into the river above the village.

It is the intention of the company to extend their road to Sarnia, and they are anxious to obtain the right of occupying the land referred to, as presenting the most eligible point of connecting with the navigation.

I am, &c.

(signed) *W. Shanley*,
Chief Engineer, Toronto and Guelph Railway Company.

The Respective Officers,
Her Majesty's Ordnance, Montreal.