

were delayed more than six weeks at Gentilly, and obliged at last to await the winter-roads, in order to get through it. The Department of Public Works has recommended the immediate repairing of this road, from the Parish of Gentilly to Saint Louis, in Blandford. It is perhaps the most urgently needful improvement to be made by the Legislature for the Townships, in the southern section of the District of Three Rivers. In order to convince the most sceptical of this, it will suffice to inform them, that along this road are conveyed, every year, more than a thousand barrels of potash and pearlash. There were manufactured in 1850; 675 barrels of pearlash, in Arthabaska and Chester, 325 barrels in Stanfold, and nearly as much in Somerset.

The Blandford road is the most frequented by the inhabitants of Blandford, Stanfold, Arthabaska, Maddington, Somerset, Chester and Warwick, and of the north part of the Township of Halifax: for these Townships are mostly inhabited by settlers from the District of Three Rivers. We ought here to remark, that, in comparison with the other parts of the country, the county of Nicolet has done most to colonise the Eastern Townships; nevertheless, the absence of easy communication between the parishes of the county and the Townships, has produced a numerous emigration to the United States. But the majority of the settlers in Kingsey, Horton, Aston, Bulstrode, Blandford, Stanfold, Arthabaska, Somerset, Chester, and in the north part of Halifax, came from the parishes of Saint Gregory, Bécancour, Gentilly, Nicolet, and Saint Pierre-les-Becquets; and it is also the youth of these parishes who settle the rich lands of Wotton, Stratford, and Winslow.

The inhabitants of the county of Nicolet may justly boast, then, of having been the earliest pioneers in one part of the Eastern Townships. They it was, who, in the face of great and numerous obstacles, by dint of mere courage and without protection, have marked out the track for succeeding settlers. Had the country, for whose prosperity these hardy men laboured with such energy, encouraged their zeal, how