

fifty acres each, upon condition of actual settlement, and clearing a space of ten acres in the front of their locations, erecting a dwelling-house, &c. for themselves, and clearing one half of that portion of the road lying in front of their lot of which their ground forms a part."

One reason stated why emigrants have preferred the United States to Canada is because the country there settles more regularly. When a township is commenced it is soon filled up since individuals do not hold their lands in large quantities long unoccupied. On this account it is said there are no large tracts of wild land intervening between the settled and the settled neighbourhoods. The reason why speculators do not long hold their lands in this way to the inconvenience of the public and of emigrants in particular, is that they cannot afford it, at least by the provisions of the government it is rendered not their interest to do so. This is on account of the tax which practically exists on wild lands in the possession of individuals. This is not a direct tax, but the expences with which such lands are encumbered operate indirectly as a tax on them. These expences are for the erection of school houses, and the support of schools, and for making roads, and keeping them in repair.

It appears that there have been no such stimulants to the possessors of wild lands in Canada either to provide for their being settled or to dispose of them to those who are disposed to do so, consequently the proprietors could afford to hold their lands in an unimproved state.

This has, it appears, been one cause of the existence of those large tracts of unsettled lands situated in the best locations as before stated, and intervening between the Crown Lands and the old settled districts. The tax on wild land in Canada at present I understand is one penny for every five acres, or 100d. for every 500 acres annually, which is little more than nominal.

Late events however it would appear have opened the eyes of landed proprietors to the advantages of adopting a plan for the settlement of their property, and hence the admirable plan of the "Canada Emigration Association" is formed. As however it will be of little use their giving land to poor settlers who have no means of improving them, it is earnestly to be hoped that their appeal to the province for pecuniary support in this laudable undertaking will be liberally responded to, that the means may thus be supplied of supporting families on their lands till they can prepare them for yielding a support.

I understand there is every probability in the ensuing session of the Provincial Legislature that an act will be passed in reference to this subject of a beneficial character, which it is much to be desired may be done.

The settlement of the poorer class of emigrants is only a small part of the advantage which is likely to attend the success of this plan. When it is found that the country is actually filling up, (which, by the bye, it already has done far more than is generally supposed in Britain,) and that to emigrate is not to bury themselves in a wilder-