

Mr. *Win. Hall* of the City of Quebec, appeared, and made answer to the following question.

Q.—What in your opinion are the Causes, which have prevented the the Roads from being made in the Townships, and what are the disadvantages under which grantees and actual Settlers labour?

A. The Causes why Roads are not made, under the act of the last Session of the Provincial Parliament, “for making Roads through the granted Lands in the Townships,” and the many grievances that Individuals labour under, can be proved without any difficulty.

The provincial Legislature ought to prevent foreigners from coming into the Country and taking possession of the uncultivated Lands against the will of the owners.—These people settle on those Lands, cut down the best timber, erect small Log houses and clear perhaps a few acres—this they call improvement—but in the course of a few years the most valuable timber is destroyed and the Land is worth less than it was in a state of nature, and if the owner wishes to dispose of this Land or even to settle a friend or a relation on it, he is deprived of his own property, unless he begins an expensive Law suit with the settlers of this kind, who are here called Squatters, which the great distance from Courts of Justice renders almost impracticable. Even should the owner succeed in expelling these people, in that case before leaving it they burn and destroy the Buildings, and the property is then worth less perhaps than the Costs of suit.

These Squatters after leaving the Land, immediately commence depredations on another Spot.—They are mostly people from the United States, and in the event of a war with that Country would all quit these Lands; they are therefore bad subjects and not to be relied upon, notwithstanding which they receive the same protection from our Laws during their residence in this Country as good subjects receive.

Any Legislative measures which could be adopted to prevent these encroachments in future, or to dislodge the Squatter with less Expeance, would encrease the value of Lands in this Country, and enable better and fitter men to establish themselves thereon.—These Squatters are chiefly of that description of people who abandon their Country, being Vagrants, through dread of the State Prison.

I shall now proceed to particular Roads.

*Craig's Road.*—In 1805, I paid out of my own pocket £130, to assist in opening that Road—the first opening of this Road was made by subscription—Sir *J. H. Craig* then made a further opening as far as River St. Francis—afterwards the Commissioners for internal Communications for the District of Three Rivers, spent a considerable Sum of Money on this Road and opened it as far as the back part of Shipton. The Commissioners for internal Communications for the County of Dorchester made this Road to the District Line of Three-Rivers on two points, got the same *verbalisé* by the Grand-Voyer, and requested Commissioners for the District of Three-Rivers, to meet that Road on