

poses (Series Q. vol. 219-1, page 65). The friends of Mr. Papineau according to the statement of a correspondent in Montreal of Mr. Gillespie, entertained feelings of the greatest hostility to the British American Land Company on account of its promise to use the most valuable means of improving the country both physically and morally. (Series Q. vol. 224-2, page 347). Writing in London on the 2nd February, 1835, Mr. N. Gould said that the clique, as he called Mr. Papineau and his followers, advertised that the British American Land Company had no claim or title to the land and warned emigrants and settlers against having any transactions with the company, meaning no doubt that the House of Assembly would annul the transaction with Government. "It is certain," Mr. Gould continues "that the company will require all the assistance both of the Home and of the Colonial Government to force itself into operation." (Series Q. vol. 224-2, page 375).

Mr. Roebuck, who was acting as agent for the House of Assembly, moved in the beginning of April, 1835, that the Act constituting the British American Land Company should be annulled, but the subsequent history of the company, were there no other evidence, shows the want of success that attended the motion. There are various plans of the counties in the Eastern Townships acquired by the company and also a statistical statement of the Eastern Townships compiled from Bouchette's work; for these reference may be made to volume 213 at various pages and to the agreement already referred to, which is in a printed paper at page 266, showing that the company purchased 847,661 acres of Crown lands for which up to the end of March, 1837, the company had paid £19,200 and expended on public works £15,754 5s. 6d., a total amount of £34,954 5s. 6d.

As will be seen above the charge made against the British American Land Company by the House of Assembly was that the shareholders were seeking to obtain political power by the purchase of lands in Lower Canada. The petitions of Mr. D. B. Viger and Mr. A. N. Morin against granting the charter contradicts, at least by implication, although not in direct terms, the charge, the petition describing the shareholders as speculators, seeking to acquire in whole or in part the Crown lands in the province. The object of speculators being to derive profit from their investments, the two statements neutralise each other, as they could not be at once speculators looking for a return for their invested capital and persons looking for political power by the expenditure of their capital in the acquisition of lands from which no return could be expected. The question of settlement no doubt occupied the minds of the directors and of dividends to accompany the settlement engaged the attention of the committee and shareholders, leaving little thought for political considerations.

In Upper Canada a movement was made to have changes in the method of disposing of the Crown lands, the then method being represented by the House of Assembly as one of the obstacles which retarded the settlement of the province. In transmitting the petition Sir John Colborne represented that steps had been taken, substantially as suggested by the House of Assembly, to remove as far as possible the obstacles to settlement, deputy surveyors having been placed in every district who had been instructed to communicate to intending settlers full information respecting the waste lands of the Crown and to explain to them the method of disposing of them. The policy of settling boys who would otherwise become criminals was urged by Henry Wilson, of Essex, in