

settlers, sappers, miners and engineers, and an army of labourers to work on the canal and a number of tradesmen and merchants, always intent on pushing their trade to the extreme confines of civilization.

By the succeeding year 1827, there was a settlement in Lower Town almost entirely on Rideau and Sussex Streets, while a few houses had been built on what is now Wellington Street. The Government had erected barracks for the Regulars on the side of the present Parliament Buildings, and the chief building on Rideau Street was the Civilian Barracks, also erected by the Imperial Government for the accommodation of labourers. The above with a double row of houses extending from Rideau Street to the present Laurier Avenue Bridge constituted in 1827, the Village of By Town.

With this inrush of what appeared to be permanent settlers, came the realization that real estate in the locality should no longer be considered as fit only for farming purposes. As did the real estate promoters in the North West in the days before the war, so did Messrs. Sherwood and LeBreton realize that their property lying close to By Town would ultimately develop into one of great value, and they accordingly considered the question of subdividing and selling it in lots.

Before doing so, however, it was necessary that they should remove the squatters who had settled near Richmond Landing on their property. The constant disputes in the Courts had moreover cast doubt on their title to the property. This doubt was accentuated by reason of the very strong stand that Lord Dalhousie, Governor-General of Canada, took in connection with the squatters. Lord Dalhousie as early as 1822 in a letter to Berrie had said—

“I am more than ever confident that the purchase of Captain LeBreton is an illegal purchase of the Landing lot”.

And again in 1828 he wrote to Mrs. Frith, the wife of the man who looked after the dock at Richmond Landing, and said,—

“I am confident that he has no fair claim nor legal right to it, and on the part of the Government I have maintained the Firths in their possession and I think they ought to be maintained in it against the pretensions set up by Sherwood and LeBreton”.