

fine lakes, and extensive marshes, together with other advantages, will make this country one of the most important sheep and cattle raising districts of *Canada*.

To induce settlement into these townships it will be necessary that they should be surveyed, as squatting is not now recognized by the government. The survey not being completed is therefore in itself a sufficient obstacle to the settlement of any country, I would also remark that the more approaches there are to a new country the more rapidly will it become settled up, if therefore the Mississippi or snow line were opened on the East and West of the Hastings's Road, the approaches would be doubled, and settlers would most probably increase in the same ratio.

I have now laid before your honourable committee the advantages of this part of the country for settlement, but although most of my observations may be applied to the townships to the north of these, I would not be understood to speak in the same terms of those to the south, as they are altogether of a different and more discouraging character.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Your most obdt. servt.,

J. CLERK.

[No. 7.]

Letter from *William Harper, Esq., of Millbridge, County of Hastings, C. W.*

MILLBRIDGE, TUDOR, Oct., 7, 1863.

HON. SIR,—In answer to your circular which I received yesterday, I beg to say there are twelve townships in the rear of this county, amongst which are *Cashel, Limerick, Grimsthorpe, Wollaston, Lake, Monteagle, &c.*, which is all open for settlement, the greater part of which is suitable for farming purposes, and well adapted for arable cultivation, the soil being a light loam and good for most kinds of grain, about five-sixths of these townships still belong to the crown. The forest growth is mostly hardwood, maple, beech, elm, &c., the more northern townships is to a great extent pine land. The government price is seventy-five cents. per acre paid down or one dollar per acre in five equal annual installments.

There is in this township about forty farms, with an average clearance upon them of from twenty to thirty acres, which might be bought at from four to six dollars per acre, some of the owners of these are such immigrants as have not been used to hard labour and would like to move to the front towns where they would get more suitable employment, and others are such as are of an unsettled disposition and would like to move further back; the farms are in general one hundred acres each.

In my observation as to the success of immigrants in this locality, I have always found that those who have been used to labour regularly for their living and are of hardy and robust constitutions are certain of success, whilst those who have held good situations and have saved a little capital find it very hard to live here after that little capital is expended, even when that has been employed to make clearances and farms for cultivation. I think if any working man will work and constantly attend to his farm he will succeed, getting a good living as well as acquire a property.

This township is very rich in minerals, as copper and lead, especially the latter, there are two lead mines just commenced to be worked, and one copper mine being worked in *Lake*. There is lead ore of excellent quality to be found on most of the farms in this township on the surface of the ground, and the prospects for miners is very promising, and I think the laborious, healthful immigrant from a mining district would be the most suitable for this part of *Canada*.

The only obstacle in the way of making this part of *Canada* a great country is the want of roads, it is a great drawback to getting the country settled, and to the farmer or settler, for it takes nearly half the price of his grain to draw it to the front; but it will be the greatest obstacle to the developement of our mineral resources, as lead and copper must necessarily involve heavy carriage: a railway would be the remedy, a well graded and macadamized road would be very beneficial.

I beg to remain, honorable Sir,

Your humble and obdt. servt.,

The Hon. Geo. Alexander.

WILLIAM HARPER.