

Information was also required, in the form of affidavits, respecting the timber on the lot, the reason of this being that if there was oak or pine on the banks of a river, the Crown reserved it for the navy. Serious difficulty arose over the question whether the islands should be considered as part of the broken front. This proved a stumbling block and the matter dragged for some time. Judging that if he owned the main land, the islands would be of no use to anyone else, Randall, in February 1809 accepted a patent for lots 38 and 40, together with broken fronts, and a lease for lot No. 39 and the broken front between it and the river. In this way he became possessed of a block of land which is now bounded on the east by Bronson Avenue, on the south by Carling Avenue, on the west by Bayswater Avenue, and on the north by the Ottawa River.

Immediately on obtaining the grant of lot No. 40, Randall erected a small building in the little bay below the Falls where the water works aqueduct now empties into the river, (later known as Richmond Landing), and made preliminary arrangements to commence operations. He expended probably £500 upon plant and equipment.

Randall was now at the height of his prosperity. His indefatigable industry and perseverance had made him one of the large land owners in the Province. At this time, in addition to owning 950 acres of land at the Chaudiere, he had 450 acres abutting on the water power on the Rideau at the mouth of the Jock, 1200 acres on the south side of the river Welland, near Niagara, 400 acres in the County of Dundas, 400 acres in the County of Leeds and his mercantile establishment at Cornwall, and his flour and grist mill, and iron-works, known as the Bridgewater Works, at Niagara Falls.

Everything indicated that with the rapid growth of population in the Province great wealth would assuredly come to him. Fortune had smiled on him, but the smile was about to change to a frown.

In connection with his mercantile and milling business, it had been necessary for him to give very extensive country credits, and on the failure of his British and Quebec agents, Messrs. Burton & McCullough, he was obliged shortly after obtaining the grant of the Chaudiere property to surrender his