

I have indeed avoided all discussion on that part of the subject ; nor would any measure be taken without the most ample opportunity being afforded to your Lordship to mature and report your own opinions for the assistance of Her Majesty's Government.

Lord John Russell
to Lord Sydenham,
26 March 1841.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Russell.*

Enclosure in No. 1.

(385.)

To the Right honourable Lord *John Russell*, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Encl. in No. 1.

The MEMORIAL of the Governor, Deputy Governor and Directors of the British American Land Company, the Governor, Deputy Governor and Directors of the Canada Company, the Governor, Deputy Governor and Directors of the North American Colonial Association of Ireland, Doctor Thomas Rolph, and others, having an interest in the prosperity of Canada.

Sheweth,

THAT your memorialists are impressed with a strong sense of the great natural resources of Canada, and consider the backward and stagnant condition of that important colony, as compared with what they are persuaded might have been its position under happier circumstances, as a serious national misfortune.

That they are convinced that the impediments which have hindered the developement of those resources are by no means those of nature, which, on the contrary, has been eminently bountiful in every essential respect, especially in bestowing upon the colony the noble waterway of the St. Lawrence, and so large a portion of its tributary streams.

That, regarding, therefore, the unfavourable condition of Canada as solely attributable to errors in the system of its management and to the neglect of the means of improving its natural advantages, your memorialists would strongly impress upon Her Majesty's Government the benefit that would accrue to the colony from the complete opening of the St. Lawrence for the navigation of vessels of considerable burthen, a benefit the value of which may be partly appreciated from a view of the advantage which the adjoining state of New York derives from the Erie Canal.

That your memorialists regard the insufficient number of public roads, and the bad state of those that exist, as another principal cause of the stagnant condition of the colony ; the want of proper ways of communication greatly tending to discourage and prevent the settlement of the country.

That your memorialists are strongly persuaded of the great importance of adding, as quickly and largely as possible, to the British population of Canada, and that it is indispensable to this object that the colony should be rendered attractive to emigrating capitalists as well as to labourers, by undertaking such public works of communication, both by water and land, as may tend to hold out to such parties a sufficient assurance that they will improve their fortunes by settling there.

That if public works of the nature pointed out were undertaken, the result would not be merely an increased flow of emigration to Canada, but that the persons of every class resorting there from the United Kingdom would be fixed, by the attractions suited to their respective stations in life, on the British side of the frontier.

That your memorialists have not indicated the measures by which alone a settlement in Canada can be made desirable to British emigrants to any extent commensurate with the importance of the objects in view, without being prepared to show, at the same time, by what means operations of the nature suggested might be carried on.

That your memorialists submit that funds for the prosecution of all the public works which they have pointed out as indispensable to the prosperity of Canada are available in the vast provincial property, now scarcely of any value, which exists in the shape of waste land and timber vested in the Crown ; a property which, if placed under proper management, and judiciously disposed of, with a single view to the increase of the colonial revenue, would afford an ample security for loans which might be raised in this country to be exclusively appropriated to public works and emigration, which, again, would add enormously to the value of the lands and timber reserved for subsequent disposal, and consequently to the means of promoting the grand public objects for which it is desired to cause them to provide.

That, in order to render the public lands of Canada available for these all-important colonial purposes, it will be necessary, in accordance with the principle recognized by the Crown in New Brunswick, to place them at the disposal of the legislature of the United Provinces.

That though your memorialists are of course aware that the revenue derived from the public domain has been placed at the disposal of the local legislature, yet the disposal of the lands themselves, and of the timber thereon, remains still vested in the Crown, whereby,