

the survey, I think myself bound to agree with your wishes so far as I have it in my power so to do.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

ROBT. DOUGLASS.

Hon. Thomas Baillie, Sur. Gen., &c. &c.

Deputy LAYTON'S Report.

*Richibucto, 11th December, 1848.*

To the Honorable Thomas Baillie, Surveyor General,

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular bearing date the 16th November last, in which I am directed to transmit to you my recommendations and suggestions for connecting Settlements, &c., in this District :—

In obedience to which, I beg to suggest the prolongation of the Road already laid out in the Louisburg Settlement on the South Branch of Saint Nicholas to the Cockburn Road. I cannot speak from my own knowledge of the quality of the Land through which it would pass, but have every reason to believe from reports which I have heard, that the tract is a very eligible one. There would be nothing but small rivulets to cross, requiring no Bridges of any magnitude; the probable expense of construction would be very difficult for me to estimate, as so much must depend on the manner in which they are to be built; but I am of opinion that it might be opened eight feet wide, levelled, and made passable as a winter Road, at an average cost of £40 per mile. This Road will be in length three and a half miles, thus requiring the sum of £140.

It will be seen, upon reference to the sketch which accompanies this, that a Road has already been surveyed by me, connecting that part of Louisburg which is on the West Branch of the Saint Nicholas with the Cockburn Road, also that a Road has been surveyed joining together these two Settlements, and which I have particularly to recommend should be prolonged so as to connect with the Settlements on Mill Creek, Buctouche. Such a Road will ere long be made; but if left to Bye Road Commissioners, with their present system, it cannot be expected that they will make anything of it but a bungle. The length of this Road would be four miles, and would require about £160 to make it passable as a bridle Road, running in its whole distance through an entire tract of excellent Land. From this point a very advantageous connection might be made with the Great Road at the Chockpish Settlement, which would also pass through an entire tract of good Land.

I have made the above recommendations with a full conviction of their great utility. One evil only will arise, an evil which is more or less felt in every Settlement throughout this part of the Province. I allude to "forestalling;" for no sooner is a Settlement formed, or a road opened, than these forestallers pounce upon the best and most convenient tracts, and keep them in reserve for their children, thus profiting by the toil of the poor Settler, and retarding the general progress, by preventing others from becoming Settlers in consequence of there being no vacant Land adjoining the Settlement. I beg to suggest, for your consideration, that if some measures could be devised to check this forestalling, that the real settlement of the Country would thereby be very much accelerated.

I know of other good tracts of Land in this District, but which are as yet too remote from other Settlements to be thought of at present.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. G. G. LAYTON, D. S.

To the Hon. Thomas Baillie, Surveyor General, &c. &c. &c.