

the imagination, of the sterile and rocky character of the country, the difficulties that beset the path of the backwoodsman, the penury and generally abject condition of the settlers, &c.; two reasons suggest themselves to account for this, the fact that the Bobcaygeon Road divides two Counties, and that the Victoria people endeavour to prevent anyone going back into Peterborough County, and the Peterborough people any one going into Victoria, and the natural desire that there may be among the settlers along the road to sell their own farms and move back into a more fertile territory. With permission of the Author, a few extracts are made from letters that appeared in the *Peterborough Review* in 1869, and which it will be seen are compiled from official sources :--

THE HURON AND OTTAWA TERRITORY.—“Those who have paid but little attention to this subject, have but a very faint idea of the vast extent of territory lying immediately to the north of us, and sufficiently far south to permit of profitable settlement.

“While our newspapers are crowded with glowing descriptions of the fertility of the “Fertile Belt,” how few have endeavored to diffuse reliable information regarding a territory lying at our very doors, a territory containing an area greater than that of one half of the old surveyed townships in the Province of Ontario, and nearly equal to that of the states of New Hampshire and Massachusetts combined, possessing resources capable of affording profitable employment to thousands whose industry would confer great benefits, not only upon this particular Province, but on the whole Dominion.

“Without in any way desiring to belittle the great west, which we all hope soon to have incorporated as part and parcel of the Dominion, I may be permitted to venture the opinion, that the future of the Huron and Ottawa Territory is of far greater importance to this Province, more particularly this portion of it, than the settlement of the “Fertile Belt.”

“According to official documents, the area contained in the limits to which I have already referred, is as follows :—

	ACRES.
Newly Surveyed Townships.....	3,785,581
Unsurveyed portion.....	6,683,867
Making a total of.....	10,469,448

“Of the surveyed portion there has been published by the Crown Lands Department a very useful map, which represents, by the use of three different colours, the general character of the new Townships, in so far as their agricultural and timber resource are concerned. By reference to this map it will be observed that about one third of this portion of the Territory is colored red, which is intended to indicate the land best adapted for settlement, fully another third is coloured yellow, which denotes “fair land, sandy soil, mixed timber, but generally “pine”; and the remainder is colored blue, denoting “rough rocky land, timber, principally “Hemlock and scrubby pine.” In proof of the correctness of the general estimate thus formed, I may mention that in the County of Peterborough the settlement is progressing most rapidly in those townships in which the red colour predominates, even although they are nearly in every instance the