

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

petition of drivers inhabitants of the Eastern Townships, situated in the County of Buckinghamshire, was here shown to the Witness,] afford readier means of settlement; and what means of communication with the old Settlements have the families now established in these Township. ?—Yes; the want of communication considerably retards the settlement in these parts. Jos. Bouchette Esqr.
11 Dec. 1828.

Have the persons holding land in these Townships themselves worked at the opening of the Road prayed for, or of any other ? —Yes; and especially the inhabitants of Blandford, who have themselves opened a good winter Road between the 1st and 2d ranges, where a piece of Land, 66 feet wide, has been specially reserved in the Letters Patent of this Township; and according to the Report of my Deputy, who surveyed and laid out the Township in 1821, the place where the Road passes appears to be the most fitting, and offers easy means of settling on the road itself, to 132 inhabitants, at 100 acres each, and I am informed that many Settlements are already made on this Road.

Is it beyond the means of the Settlers in these parts to open and complete the said Road ?—I believe very much beyond them.

At what distance from the Settlements on the banks of the Saint Lawrence are the new Settlements on the River Becancour; and would these last have no means of communication by any other line than that on which the Petitioners pray that a Road may be opened ?—The Settlements in these parts are most numerous on the River Becancour than elsewhere, and from these Settlements to those of Gentilly the distance is between five and six leagues. I know of no route by which the communication could be more easily effected than by passing between the 1st and 2d ranges of Blandford.

Do you know what reasons the Petitioners have for desiring a Road between the 1st and 2d ranges of Blandford, rather than elsewhere ?—Because it would evidently be of more advantage there than elsewhere; more easily made and more certainly kept in repair: 1st. Because Settlements are already commenced there, and 2dly, Because the Lots of the 1st and 2d Ranges having their respective fronts on this Road, they are nearer to each other, and there will be house, and clearings on both sides of the Road, and lastly; Because the Crown and Clergy Reserves are at a distance from this Road, which is a point of the greatest importance.