

In all my travelling through the interior of this province, particularly in the north-eastern part of it, I have not met with such a large tract of beautiful country as that lying between the Salmon River and Green River, extending back about from 10 to 15 miles, thence extending itself on a parallel course with the River St. John upwards of 30 miles. Allowing a fifth of this tract for waste land, which may not be, probably, fit for settlement, it would be capable of containing 2,300 families, giving to each family 100 acres. * * *

In order to afford a facility of improvement in this section of the country, it would be essentially necessary to bridge the main River St. John, about 200 yards below the great pitch of the Grand Falls, the cost of which would be amply paid in a very short time by the sale of the Crown lands, and the other additional revenues that would arise therefrom.

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I have, &c.

(signed) *Michael Harley*, D. L. Surveyor.

The Honourable Thomas Baillie.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY.—Deputy *Carruthers*' Report.

Sir,

Bathurst, 8 December 1848.

In reference to your circular of 16th November last, the receipt of which I have the honour to acknowledge, I beg to state that the evils flowing from the present scattering mode of settlement, and the benefits to be derived from concentration, have been generally admitted on all hands. The appropriations for roads are generally found insufficient to complete the necessary communication for any one new settlement, while partial attempts are made to many. This is found a great obstacle to the favourable progress of new settlers.

If a system of concentration be adopted in Gloucester, I would recommend the following tracts, as they possess the advantage of rich soil and convenience to market, viz :—

A line of road from Teague's Brook, connecting the settlements on the bay shore with the settlement on the Innishannon Brook, and thence to the upper part of Caraque Settlement, would pass through a fine rich tract of country, and if surveyed, would be speedily occupied. Distance from Teague's Brook to Smith's, on the Innishannon, six miles; thence to the Caraque Settlement about seven miles. This road, if opened, would form the great road of communication from Bathurst to the Ports of Caraque and Shippegan. The bridges required on this line would be small in extent, three in number, and probable cost, 40 £. The land extending south from the Innishannon, and the south branch of Caraque to the Pockmouche River, are of a superior quality, and I think, if a portion of them were surveyed, would soon be occupied. The road leading from Smith's, on the Innishannon, to the bay shore, passes through a good tract of land, and if surveyed, would readily be occupied.

A prolongation of the line of road leading through the Rose Hill Settlement, on the south side of the Tattagouche River, would open up a fine tract of country, being only a short distance from the town of Bathurst. If surveyed, this tract would be settled at once; only one small bridge would be required; cost, 6 £. to 8 £.

A disposition seems general to settle the district of land stretching from the Nigado River to the St. John's Settlement in rear of Green Point; this is also a desirable tract of country, and doubtless would be speedily settled, if communication through it was opened up—distance four miles; a road might also connect this tract with the bay shore—distance two miles. One bridge only would be required across the Elm-tree River; probable cost, 20 £.

From the Anderson Settlement, in rear of Belle-dune, a road may be extended to connect with the settlements west of the line dividing the counties; this would open up a good tract of land, and induce to the settlement thereof; distance four miles.

A line of road from Smith's, on the Middle River, passing through block 12, range 14, on Little River, thence on to the Pabineau River; thence extending on towards the Big River of Nepisiquit, would open up an excellent tract of country for settlement.

Good roads equal to any in the province, stumped, levelled and properly thrown up, or turnpiked, 20 feet in width, can be made through all the aforesaid tract of land, at the rate of from 3 s. 6 d. to 4 s. 6 d. per rod.

I would most respectfully suggest, as the best mode to effect concentration, that applicants for land should be confined to the districts laid off for the purpose, by refusing the accommodation of paying by instalments all persons elsewhere.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Matthew Carruthers*.

The Honourable Thomas Baillie, Surveyor-general,
&c &c. &c.