

Lake Ontario to the present Town of Peterboro', which, as indicating the then condition of the country, may be interesting to the reader. "On the 11th August," said Mr. Robinson "I embarked five hundred on board of a steam-boat, and landed them the next day at Cobourg on Lake Ontario, a distance of one hundred miles; the remainder of the settlers were brought up in the same manner, the boat making a trip each week. Our route from Cobourg to Smith, at the head of the Otonabee River, lay through a country as yet very thinly inhabited; the road leading from Lake Ontario to the Rice Lake (12 miles) hardly passable, and the Otonabee River in many places very rapid, and the water much lower than it had been known for many years. The first thing I did was to repair the road, so that loaded waggons might pass; and in this work I received every assistance from the magistrates of the District, who gave me fifty pounds from the District funds; and this sum, together with the labour of our people, enabled me to improve the road in ten days so much that our provisions and baggage could be sent across with ease, and three large boats were transported on wheels from Lake Ontario to the Rice Lake. The Otonabee River is navigable for twenty-five miles, although in many places it is very rapid, and at this season there was not water enough to float a boat of the ordinary construction over some of the shoals. To remedy this difficulty, I had a boat built of such dimensions as I thought might best answer to ascend the rapids, and had her completed in eight days. So much depended upon the success of this experiment that I felt great anxiety until the trial was made; and I cannot express the happiness I felt at finding that nothing could more fully have answered our purposes, and this boat, sixty feet in length and eight feet wide, carrying an immense burthen, could be more easily worked up the stream, than one of half the size carrying comparatively nothing. Now that I had opened the way to the depot at the head of the river, there was no other difficulty to surmount than that which arose from the prevailing sickness, the fever and ague, which at this time was as common among the old settlers as ourselves. The first party I ascended the river with consisted of twenty men of the country, hired as axe-men, and thirty of the healthiest of the settlers: not one of these men escaped the ague and fever, and two died. * * * The location of the Emigrants, by far the most troublesome and laborious part of the service, was completed before the winter commenced, and I had a small log house built for each head of a family, on their respective lots, where they reside."

As already observed, this Emigration was conducted under the auspices and at the expense of the British Government. The expenses attending it amounted to £21 5. 4. sterling per head. Each head of a family was located upon 100 acres of land. He had a small log House built for him, and was furnished with 15 months provisions. In addition to these he received 1 cow, 1 American axe, 1 auger, 1 handsaw, 1 pickaxe, 1 spade, 2 gimlets, 100 nails, 1 hammer, 1 iron wedge, 3 hoes, 1 kettle, 1 frying pan, 1 iron pot, 5 bushels seed potatoes, 8 quarts Indian corn; and if they were very poor, blankets in the