

UPPER CANADA.

Visct. Goderich to
Sir J. Colborne.

provided for consistently with the new regulations respecting land. From the tenor of all these communications I trusted that you would gather my intention, that indigent emigrants should never, except as a measure of the last necessity, be settled on lands allowed them on more favourable terms than to any other class. When, therefore, I approved the settlement of poor emigrants reported in some of your despatches last year, I proceeded on the supposition that the parties could not have been possibly provided in any other way; I by no means proceeded on an assent to the doctrine, that, as every industrious emigrant can in two years become an owner of land, it is better for the province that he should commence immediately on his own property. It is precisely by the prevention of this event that I think the rigid establishment of a high minimum price will be beneficial. I know not how to propound, in plainer terms than I have already done in my despatch of the 21st November 1831, the necessity that there should be in every society a class of labourers, as well as a class of capitalists or of landowners. The high rate of wages and the scarcity of labour is the complaint of every growing society; to force that condition artificially, by tempting into the class of landowners those who would naturally remain labourers, appears to me a course opposed to the dearest interest of the colony: it is injurious to the individuals themselves, who would eventually profit by passing through two years of labour, and then enjoying the services of others doing the same, than they can profit by the immediate acquisition of land, with no capital and no supply of labour. I object, therefore, to favouring indigent settlers, either in the price of their land, or in the period of credit allowed to them: I object to it as regards the revenue, both because it directly depreciates the value of land, and because it operates indirectly to the same end, by diminishing the number of competitors for land on the usual terms. I object to it as it affects the welfare of the colony, because, as I have stated, to the good of every society a supply of labour, and a division of labour, must be indispensable. For these reasons I have to desire, that in future no one class of emigrants may be allowed to acquire lands on more favourable terms than another, but that all shall be required alike to make their purchases at sales, where the lands shall be put up at a minimum price; and that those emigrants who may not be able to pay the price, shall be left to work for themselves at wages, until they can earn the means of buying in accordance with the established regulations. The only event in which I could sanction an exception in favour of indigent emigrants would be, the case of there being no other possible means of providing for their subsistence than by their settlement on land.

I have, &c.

(signed)

Goderich.

— No. 9. —

Extract of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-governor Sir *John Colborne*, addressed to Viscount *Goderich*; dated York, 16th April 1833.

Sir J. Colborne to
Visct. Goderich.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 1st January, respecting the revenue arising from the sale of Crown lands, and the distribution of emigrants; and with reference to the view your Lordship has taken of these subjects, I beg leave to offer such remarks as may show the results most desirable to be produced in this province from the periodical emigration, and the considerations by which I have been influenced in encouraging a valuable class of emigrants to settle on the wild lands of the Crown.

In carrying into effect arrangements proposed for the advancement of the agricultural interest of the colony, and for the improvement of the territorial revenue, it is not only necessary to bear in mind the present political state of the province, and the injudicious manner in which the land in the front townships has been granted; but that the four or five townships, in a northern direction from the St. Lawrence and the Lakes Ontario and Erie, are for the most part occupied by the U. E. Loyalists, or settlers from the United States, and much intersected by clergy reserves, the Crown reserves purchased by the Canada Company, blocks of land set apart for the support of schools, and large improvident grants made at an early period; that as the Canadian farmers improve their estates slowly, and are contented with small profits, they do not employ labourers constantly; that the rates of wages cannot undergo, generally, any material change in this province,

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