

the Northumberland Emigrants on the Great Road leading from Fredericton to Saint Andrews, beg leave to submit a Report of our proceedings for the past year, accompanied by some observations on the progress of the Settlement.

The settlers having severally made clearances on their lots in the summer and autumn of 1837, and being desirous of removing their families from Fredericton to the Settlement before the winter roads were broken up, we deemed it most prudent, under all the circumstances, to effect their transportation in April last, in order that they might be on the ground to attend to getting in their crops, as also to procure employment on the Great Road leading through the Settlement.

This step was not taken by us without a great deal of deliberation, as it became absolutely necessary to incur considerable expense in sending out provisions to support them during the spring season, and while the roads were almost impassable.

From the difficulty of procuring employment for them here, and the consequent probability of their becoming entirely unproductive of earnings—from the extreme anxiety of them all to work on their lots, and from the certainty that they would find a great deal of employment on the roads during the summer season, we concluded that their removal to the Settlement in April was the very best course we could adopt, and in the execution of this purpose we incurred the responsibilities of employing teams and purchasing provisions.

The gross amount advanced by us up to the first day of February, is £696 8s. 7d. Of this amount, we have received from the Supervisors of the Saint Andrews Road the sum of £196 13s. 3d., being the amount of earnings of the Settlers for labour done on that Road during the past summer, leaving a balance due us of £499 15s. 4d. yet unpaid.

The amount would not have been near so great had it not been for the unpropitious spring of the past year, for so complete was the failure of the crops, notwithstanding the most unexampled industry and perseverance of the Settlers, that they were almost entirely thrown upon the public for subsistence.

Situated as we were, we had either to furnish them with the necessaries of life ourselves, or commit them to the Overseers of the Poor, and as in either case the Legislature would be called upon to reimburse the expenses of their support, we preferred looking after them ourselves.

There are twenty three families settled on the Road, making in all one hundred and thirteen souls. They have cut down about 200 acres, and have at least 160 acres fit for crop the ensuing spring; and we have much pleasure in reporting most favorably of their conduct, and deem them a most valuable acquisition to the Country, and especially to the Road on which they are located.

All which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed)

L. A. WILMOT, }
JAMES TAYLOR, } *Commissioners.*

2d March, 1839.