

from existing settlements or navigable waters. No new settlement can support itself far from the aforementioned aids. To attempt them is a disadvantageous waste of means which ought to be more usefully employed.

It is necessary however to explore a country to a considerable extent beyond the immediate site of an intended settlement, in order to ascertain whether it possess those prospects of future prosperity, which in no small degree depend on its situation in respect to adjacent tracts of land.

The inhabitants of a small tract of the most fertile soil are never so thriving as those even of an inferior soil, when surrounded by extensive tracts of fertile land, particularly if the roads of communication of the latter to their markets lie thro' the lesser tract.

The general Geographical knowledge of Lower Canada, shewing the existing settlements and the courses of the Rivers towards their mouths, is sufficient to point out where exploring parties ought to be employed with a view to the forming of new settlements. The Surveys of the Townships have given much information, and the Topography of the Country is well known to its inhabitants, although much of it is in the way of being lost. The Indians whose knowledge of this sort exceeds that of any other description of people are disappearing. The *Voyageurs et Coureurs de bois*, persons formerly employed in trading with the Indians, and who traversed the country in every direction, are nearly extinct. There are, however in every Parish many persons employed in agriculture, who make long excursions into the rear of the settlements at certain periods of the year for the purpose of hunting and fishing, from whom much information might be had of the nature of the Country in different directions, and of great utility for forming a judicious choice of places, where exploring parties might be advantageously employed.

Heavy expenses attending those parties and useless attempts ought to be carefully avoided.—Where the expenses are permitted to be high, the undertaking becomes a job for senseless and useless persons, and as these expenses must be borne by the public, an outcry is soon raised which puts a stop to almost every useful undertaking of the kind.

I should conceive that a party consisting of one intelligent person, well acquainted with the inhabitants and the soil and climate of Lower-Canada, and able to keep a journal, as manager.

Three Indians who have frequented the tract to be explored and who are active and sober and of good character.

One Canadian farmer who has made excursions into the country to be explored.

One American farmer who has been accustomed to open new settlements—would be sufficient for exploring any tract adjoining the existing settlements in Lower Canada that might be thought worth the trouble and expense.