

township in terms expressive of contempt for their poverty. I believe the most prosperous township in western Ontario cannot show a record as glorious as that of the famine-stricken Irish who by squatting, buying imperfect titles or otherwise, made this rocky township one of the most populous, and, I believe, one in which the freeholds are the least encumbered by mortgages of any in the Province.

It is not convenient to provoke the personal ardor of local criticism which always assails him who freely attacks deep-seated local prejudices. Having no special antipathy to any particular lumberman, municipal council, or other functionary or person, I omit such mention of places as might localize my attack. But being careful that my facts shall not lie, I turn to page 12 of the Census Report for 1851 and select a township on the Laurentian formation with fifty occupiers of land, having under cultivation about fourteen acres each, holding altogether about 6,000 acres. I know that in this township one ex-member of the Provincial Assembly owns 10,000 acres; another, I believe, about 2,000 acres. I know that there are 25 square miles under timber license. The township covers an area of about 60,000 acres. In 1867 it appears to assess about 32,000 acres and 190 ratepayers. Its centre is about thirty miles from a larger and better market than the township whose history has been sketched in the preceding paragraph. It has a better soil. It has, however, scarcely one-fourth of the population and not one-half of the quantity of tax-yielding land, and not one-fifth of the assessed wealth. The reason is: that township by virtue of its early grant to U. E. Loyalists was exempt from the operation of timber licenses; this township by the operation of timber licenses has excluded settlement. What will be the relative results ten years hence? That township will have fully as much wood land as this, and treble its population and wealth. I think it is fair to assume that all this is due to the blundering policy of the Crown Lands Department. I may be told that while settlement was being concentrated upon the poor lands of the former township, the latter had to