

other. This vast territory promises to become, at no distant period, the richest the most populous, and the most flourishing part of Lower Canada; not only on account of its climate, milder than that of the shores of the Saint Lawrence, of the immense extent of excellent and fertile soil which it includes, and of its abundant streams of water, but also, and more especially, because that part of our fine country borders on the territory of our industrious neighbours, and must be traversed by the main lines of communication between the two countries, as by the railroad from Montreal to Melbourne on the Saint Francis, and from Melbourne to Portland on the Atlantic, and soon hereafter, we trust, by that from Melbourne to Quebec.

The six great counties which the Eastern Townships comprise, Sherbrooke, Stanstead, Shefford, Missisquoi, Drummond and Megantic, contain according to Mr. Bouchette's computation, 4,886,400 acres of land, and their population does not, according to the (approximate) returns of the Population of Lower Canada of 1848, exceed 69,168 souls. In order to arrive at an (approximate) estimate of the numbers which the Eastern Townships might contain, we will suppose that two-thirds only of the superficial acres, that is 3,257,600 acres, are occupied, omitting the other third as worthless and unproductive, and allow one hundred acres to every settler, the result will be 32,576 landed proprietors. In 1842, the number of rateable landed proprietors in Upper Canada was about 65,000, the number of acres in occupation, 8,613,591, making 133 acres each; the population of Upper Canada was then 486,055. We may therefore conclude, without fear of being charged with exaggeration, that the population of the Eastern Townships will soon reach the number of 243,027 souls, that is to say, a number equal to half the entire population of Lower Canada in 1831. We would have the reader to observe, that the computation of 1,628,800 acres as unproductive, is far beyond the mark, inasmuch as the Eastern Townships, like Upper Canada, contain tracts of land considered to be unproductive, but very fit, in fact,