

Mechanics' Settlement. As I have never explored this section of country, all the information I possess is derived from other sources. I am also informed there is good land north-east of the old Shepody Road, and also south-east thereof, extending nearly to the bay shore, but I am unable to give any correct statement thereof.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

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All of which is respectfully submitted, &c.

Honourable Thomas Baillie, Surveyor-general,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Samuel Fairweather,*
Local Deputy, King's.

ST. JOHN.—Deputy Cunningham's Report.

Sir,

St. John, 29 November 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your circular letter of the 16th instant, to which I now proceed to reply.

At the eastern extremity of the county of St. John a considerable stream, called Goose River, empties into the Bay of Fundy; at its mouth there is a good harbour, well sheltered, where vessels can lie at all times in perfect safety. There is in this harbour an admirable site for ship-building, and it would form a good station for prosecuting the fisheries in its vicinity.

I propose that a road should be laid out from this harbour, up the valley of Goose River, and wholly on the western side of that river, to the southern range of lots in the Mechanics' Settlement.

From the harbour to a point on the Shepody Road, where my survey in 1842 connected with that road, is about 12 miles, in which distance no bridge would be necessary.

After leaving the sea-coast the road would pass along a table-land, covered with heavy timber, and possessing a deep soil of good quality. The country is well watered, and in every respect fit for settlement and cultivation.

At about half the distance from the bay to the Shepody Road, the road I propose would intersect and cross a new road running easterly from the Londonderry Settlement to Shepody, and a communication would thus be opened with both those settlements.

The proposed road would be of great advantage to the Mechanics' Settlement, by opening a short and easy communication with the sea, at a safe harbour.

In the southern ranges of the Mechanics' Settlement, the best land in that settlement is to be found; but very little of it has yet been taken up, owing to the want of access; as this fine tract would be laid open by the proposed road, it would soon be sold and settled, while the whole settlement would be benefited in every way.

I may mention, that I recently left the harbour of St. John at 10 o'clock, A. M., in a pilot boat, and with a moderate breeze reached the anchorage at Goose River at 6 P. M.

The advantage of such a water communication between the city of St. John and the Mechanics' Settlement, as well as with all the rest of the wilderness country in its vicinity, cannot be too highly appreciated.

I have reason to believe that a similar line of road from the mouth of Point Wolfe River, up the valley of that river, to the interior, might be laid out with great advantage, but as it is not within my district, I merely allude to it.

There is considerable vacant land at the western extremity of this county as yet almost unexplored and unknown. As there are no settlements with which it could be connected advantageously, I am unable at present to make any recommendation respecting it.

My experience in land surveying leads me to concur most fully in your views of the most objectionable practice of permitting individuals to select land under warrants of survey after the fashion now in use.

Instances have come under my notice, where a party, by selecting 100 acres of choice intervalle land on the banks of a river or stream, has so located it as to prevent the sale of any land in the vicinity, or the formation of a settlement in an eligible situation.

The party thus securing the first 100 acres, virtually obtained the control of the whole district; such practices cannot be reprehended too strongly.

I have, &c.

The Hon. Thomas Baillie, Sur.-gen.

(signed) *John Cunningham.*