

REPORT of the COMMISSIONER of INQUIRY into the State of the North American Provinces, 1830.

MY LORD,

London, 20 January 1831.

IN compliance with instructions from the late Secretary, Sir George Murray, dated 26th April 1830, I have visited the British Provinces in North America, and have the honour to present to your Lordship a Report of my proceedings therein,

And remain your Lordship's most obedient and very humble servant,

J. Richards.

To the Right Hon. Viscount Goderich,
Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial
Department, &c. &c. &c.

UPPER CANADA.

I SAILED from Portsmouth on the 4th May, *via* New York; but owing to a long passage, and bad state of the roads through the Genessee country, did not arrive at York, in Upper Canada, till the 22d June. My principal object in that journey, was to obtain a comparative view of the American prices of labour, modes of settling, &c., with those of the British Colonies.

I immediately delivered my letter to Sir John Colborne, who introduced me to the heads of departments, with directions to furnish me with all the information in their power, and during my whole stay in his province, I received from him all the assistance which his zeal and advice could contribute to the objects of my mission.

At the Surveyor-general's Office I learned that the quantity of land in the surveyed townships must have been somewhere about fourteen and a half millions of acres, nearly seven times the clergy reserves, or 2,071,375 acres, it having been the practice to reserve one-seventh for the clergy and one-seventh for the Crown, in single separate lots, of 200 acres each: and that the surveyed townships would appear thus:

	Acre.
Granted prior to 1804	4,500,000
Granted since 1804	3,800,000
Remaining ungranted	1,537,439
To be settled by Colonel Talbot	302,420
Crown and clergy reserves, two-sevenths	4,142,750
Acres	14,282,609

A great proportion of the Crown reserves have been sold to the Canada Company, and a very valuable part of them given to the University, in exchange for unimproved townships, from which it already receives a revenue of 1,600 *l.* per annum.

But from the most accurate calculation which we could afterwards make, it appears that there may be about five million acres, or more, open for settlement, without going north of the back line, where a further tract of seven or eight millions may be found.