

REPORT

OF THE

SURVEYOR GENERAL OF NEW BRUNSWICK

UPON THE PRESENT STATE OF THE

CROWN LANDS.

Surveyor General's Office, 7th February, 1849.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

In November 1847, I was called upon by His Excellency Sir William Colebrooke, to submit to him a Report on the state of the Crown Lands of this Province; which Report was laid before the Honorable the House of Assembly on the 28th January, 1848, and with that document I believe Your Excellency is already acquainted.

As the time however appears to have arrived when the voice of those will be heard who desire to promote the Agricultural Interests of the Province, and render it less dependent on Foreign Countries for Bread Stuffs, I trust I may be excused, if, in submitting to Your Excellency this Report of the transactions of the Land Department during the past year, I shall exhibit some statistics connected with the improvement and permanent settlement of the Province; and should my remarks be considered as scarcely belonging to me officially, I have to crave Your Excellency's indulgence; and if it be a fault, that it may be attributed to the love I bear the Province, and not to any attempt impertinently to interfere in matters which do not strictly appertain to my office.

The transactions of this Department may be classed under three heads, viz:—Lands, Timber, and Minerals.

The number of Petitions received for the purchase of Land from 1st January, 1848, to 1st January, 1849, is 969, which on an average of 100 acres each, would comprise 96,900 acres. Of this number 838 have required to be surveyed at the expense of the applicant, of which 510 are not yet returned as surveyed, and consequently no further action has been had upon them. The total number of acres which have been surveyed within the year is 31,350, at a cost to the applicants of £831, averaging about 6½d. an acre, or £2 14 2 per lot of one hundred acres, a sum far exceeding that for which the same work could be performed by the Government under a systematic arrangement of Survey.

Having so frequently entered my protest against the present mode of allowing every person to cause a survey to be made of Crown Lands in any shape and in any position he may see fit, upon which, in too many cases, no money is paid into the Revenue, I have nothing more to urge at the present moment beyond the assertion, that the man does not live on the face of the earth who can correctly compile those surveys; and the truth of this will one day appear.

The whole quantity of Land purchased during the year 1848 amounted to 26,761½ acres, of which, 14,777 acres have been paid for in full, and upon which £1,789 19 3 have been received; leaving 11,984½ acres which have been sold under the Instalment system, and upon which £473 3 4 have been received.