

PETERBOROUGH, Ont., November 27th, 1869.

C. J. BLOMFIELD, Esq.,

*Manager Canadian L. & E. Co.,*

DEAR SIR,—

I have much pleasure in acceding to your request to give you my opinion of, and experience in the Canadian Land and Emigration Company's Township of Dysart, for your own information and the benefit of intending settlers. I left England on the 30th of September last, reaching Peterboro' on the Tuesday week following, and on the Friday left by stage for Bobcaygeon, by stage to Minden next morning, thence by royal mail skiff to Haliburton, where I arrived about 8 o'clock the same evening, the whole distance being about 72 miles. I would remark that the difficulty of reaching the Townships is a great drawback to the settlement, and I am convinced that were the projected railway open, or even a direct and good carriage road, it would assist more than anything else to the rapid settlement of the Company's Townships, many intending settlers having been disheartened by the difficulties of the road and returned to the front without reaching the Township of Dysart. Before leaving Peterborough on my stating that I was going through to Haliburton I received very discouraging accounts of the country, and truly the road between Bobcaygeon and Minden is extremely rough, and the country rocky and apparently unproductive, so that I was agreeably surprised at the general appearance of Haliburton.

As I went there with a view of seeing for myself the nature of the country, and the prospect it held out to the English settler, before making any investment, I worked round amongst the farmers collecting all the information and opinions I could. On the whole I am favorably impressed with the country, though very different to anything I had anticipated. The soil in parts, more especially round the lake shores, encumbered with large granite boulders, is a light loam, well adapted for the growth of all the harder sorts of grain and roots, which attain great perfection. I was assured by several persons, speaking from their own experience, that the cost of the land clearing, fencing and cropping is more than returned in the first two years. The land is very thickly wooded with hard wood, such as elm, maple, &c., which, in the event of the railway being built, will be of considerable value. What particularly struck me was the hopefulness and contentment of the settlers, one even looking on the granite boulders as a source, if not of wealth, at least of convenience, when he would be able to put up his stone house and replace the rail fences with stone walls.

The farmer need fear no difficulty in disposing of his produce, all that he can raise will, for many years to come, be eagerly purchased at his own door by the lumbermen at as good prices as he would obtain at the front after being at the expense of sending it there.

I had an idea on leaving England the Government Free Grant Lands