

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 8c

township of Ops to be succeeded the following year by increased settlements. The selection of the village or headquarters of the township does not seem to have been fortunate in the first instance, as the land was low and swampy, but was subsequently improved by cultivation. Sir John's idea was to attract a considerable number of settlers to a township, by whose united means, he believed, many of the difficulties inseparable from the early days of settlement would be avoided, and what was of the greatest consequence, roads could be immediately opened. He also objected very much to the method of paying those employed for the settlement of the Crown territory by granting so much land for each settler placed on the lots. This he regarded as an expensive method attended with many disadvantages, as, for instance, the portion thus given remained unoccupied, producing the same inconveniences as reserves and waste lands, whereas, the only cost to the Crown, by settling as he proposed, would be the amount expended for erecting log houses for the accommodation of settlers and for provisions to part of them for two months. In May, 1829, his anticipations were of the brightest character and he saw in his mind's eye the whole vicinity of Ops covered with good roads in a very short time. In a private letter to Sir George Murray, dated in the following August, he continued to press his scheme, on the supposition that the lands sold to the Canada Company would revert to the Crown in consequence of the non-fulfilment of the conditions. "If the whole property," he said, "revert to the Crown, any million of acres divided into lots of 100 each and granted on certain conditions to poor emigrants, reserving each alternate lot for sale government would place twenty-five thousand paupers on 500,000 acres and gain, by following the system, £125,000 in five years." The statement is not very exact, but Sir John evidently meant that each family to whose head 100 acres would be granted consisted of five individuals which would make 5,000 heads of families receiving 100 acres each. His further proposal was, that each head of a family should be placed, with his family on his lot and furnished with provisions and means to the extent of £10 currency for each individual member, £5 of this to be returned in five years, on completing the payment of which he would have the right to receive his deed. The £250,000 required to place and assist the settlers, he calculated, would be repaid in five years by the sale of the reserved lots and the £125,000 would be received from the settlers on the other lots.

In November of the same year (1829) he complained, as far as official reticence would allow, that he had been obliged to discontinue his plans of settlement on the ground as stated by the Colonial Secretary, that he could not sanction an innovation which might lead to unlimited expense. In answer to this, Sir John pointed out that at Ops he had settled sixty families, at a cost of £400 for log houses, provisions and superintendence. The two first instalments would more than cover this expenditure, and the whole of the payments on this account by settlers to government in five years would amount to £1,200, not to speak of the great increase in the value of the Crown reserves caused by this settlement. In reference to the Lanark settlers, he stated that although they had been settled on bad land they were willing to pay the present value of their lots to reduce their debt. The clergy reserves were selling at from seventeen to twenty shillings an acre, the purchasers being farmers in well settled townships, who acquired land for their sons, near their own property. The Lanark settlers had, before purchasing, been under the impression that each of their children was entitled to a grant of 100 acres on coming of age, but Chief Justice Robinson, to whom the question was