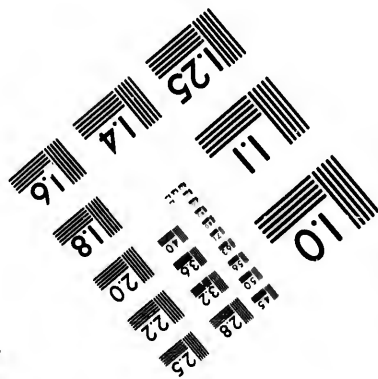
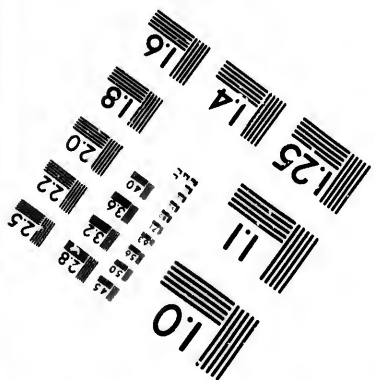
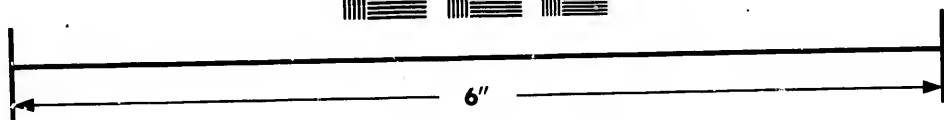
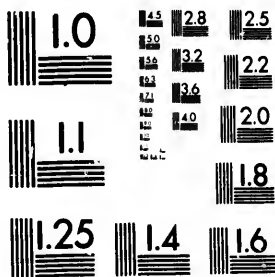


**IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)**



**Photographic
Sciences
Corporation**

23 WEST MAIN STREET
WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580
(716) 872-4503

**CIHM/ICMH
Microfiche
Series.**

**CIHM/ICMH
Collection de
microfiches.**



Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions / Institut canadien de microreproductions historiques

© 1984

Technical and Bibliographic Notes/Notes techniques et bibliographiques

The Institute has attempted to obtain the best original copy available for filming. Features of this copy which may be bibliographically unique, which may alter any of the images in the reproduction, or which may significantly change the usual method of filming, are checked below.

L'Institut a microfilmé le meilleur exemplaire qu'il lui a été possible de se procurer. Les détails de cet exemplaire qui sont peut-être uniques du point de vue bibliographique, qui peuvent modifier une image reproduite, ou qui peuvent exiger une modification dans la méthode normale de filmage sont indiqués ci-dessous.

- Coloured covers/
Couverture de couleur
- Covers damaged/
Couverture endommagée
- Covers restored and/or laminated/
Couverture restaurée et/ou pelliculée
- Cover title missing/
Le titre de couverture manque
- Coloured maps/
Cartes géographiques en couleur
- Coloured ink (i.e. other than blue or black)/
Encre de couleur (i.e. autre que bleue ou noire)
- Coloured plates and/or illustrations/
Planches et/ou illustrations en couleur
- Bound with other material/
Relié avec d'autres documents
- Tight binding may cause shadows or distortion
along interior margin/
La reliure serrée peut causer de l'ombre ou de la
distortion le long de la marge intérieure
- Blank leaves added during restoration may
appear within the text. Whenever possible, these
have been omitted from filming/
Il se peut que certaines pages blanches ajoutées
lors d'une restauration apparaissent dans le texte,
mais, lorsque cela était possible, ces pages n'ont
pas été filmées.
- Additional comments:/
Commentaires supplémentaires:

- Coloured pages/
Pages de couleur
- Pages damaged/
Pages endommagées
- Pages restored and/or laminated/
Pages restaurées et/ou pelliculées
- Pages discoloured, stained or foxed/
Pages décolorées, tachetées ou piquées
- Pages detached/
Pages détachées
- Showthrough/
Transparence
- Quality of print varies/
Qualité inégale de l'impression
- Includes supplementary material/
Comprend du matériel supplémentaire
- Only edition available/
Seule édition disponible
- Pages wholly or partially obscured by errata
slips, tissues, etc., have been refilmed to
ensure the best possible image/
Les pages totalement ou partiellement
obscurcies par un feuillet d'errata, une pelure,
etc., ont été filmées à nouveau de façon à
obtenir la meilleure image possible.

This item is filmed at the reduction ratio checked below/
Ce document est filmé au taux de réduction indiqué ci-dessous.

10X	12X	14X	16X	18X	20X	22X	24X	25X	28X	30X	32X
					✓						

The copy filmed here has been reproduced thanks to the generosity of:

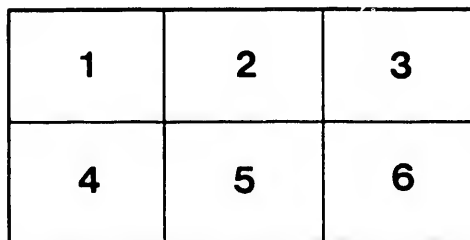
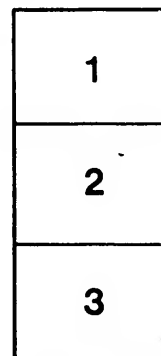
Seminary of Quebec
Library

The images appearing here are the best quality possible considering the condition and legibility of the original copy and in keeping with the filming contract specifications.

Original copies in printed paper covers are filmed beginning with the front cover and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression, or the back cover when appropriate. All other original copies are filmed beginning on the first page with a printed or illustrated impression, and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression.

The last recorded frame on each microfiche shall contain the symbol \rightarrow (meaning "CONTINUED"), or the symbol ∇ (meaning "END"), whichever applies.

Maps, plates, charts, etc., may be filmed at different reduction ratios. Those too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom, as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method:



L'exemplaire filmé fut reproduit grâce à la générosité de:

Séminaire de Québec
Bibliothèque

Les images suivantes ont été reproduites avec le plus grand soin, compte tenu de la condition et de la netteté de l'exemplaire filmé, et en conformité avec les conditions du contrat de filmage.

Les exemplaires originaux dont la couverture en papier est imprimée sont filmés en commençant par le premier plat et en terminant soit par la dernière page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration, soit par le second plat, selon le cas. Tous les autres exemplaires originaux sont filmés en commençant par la première page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration et en terminant par la dernière page qui comporte une telle empreinte.

Un des symboles suivants apparaîtra sur la dernière image de chaque microfiche, selon le cas: le symbole \rightarrow signifie "A SUIVRE", le symbole ∇ signifie "FIN".

Les cartes, planches, tableaux, etc., peuvent être filmés à des taux de réduction différents. Lorsque le document est trop grand pour être reproduit en un seul cliché, il est filmé à partir de l'angle supérieur gauche, de gauche à droite, et de haut en bas, en prenant le nombre d'images nécessaire. Les diagrammes suivants illustrent la méthode.

COMMUNICATIONS

**WITH GOVERNMENT RESPECTING THE
FORMATION OF A COMPANY**

FOR THE

IMPROVEMENT OF THE NAVIGATION OF THE OTTAWA,

**AND FOR PROMOTING THE SETTLEMENT OF THAT PART
OF THE COUNTRY.**

KINGSTON:

PRINTED AT THE BRITISH WEAIG OFFICE.

1841.

210

COMMUNICATIONS

WITH GOVERNMENT RESPECTING THE
FORMATION OF A COMPANY

FOR THE

IMPROVEMENT OF THE NAVIGATION OF THE OTTAWA,
AND FOR PROMOTING THE SETTLEMENT OF THAT PART
OF THE COUNTRY.



KINGSTON:

PRINTED AT THE BRITISH WING OFFICE.

1841.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

11
12

COMMUNICATIONS, &c.

At a meeting of the inhabitants of Bytown and its vicinity, held in Kirk's Hotel, on Tuesday, the 22d of June, 1841, called for the purpose of taking into consideration the steps which had been formerly taken for the formation of a Company to improve the communication from Montreal to Lake Huron, by the way of the Ottawa River, and for promoting the settlement of the country; also with the view of submitting the subject to the notice of His Excellency, the Governor General.

When Daniel Fisher, Esq. of Bytown, being called to the Chair, and Dr. A. J. Christie appointed Secretary, Robert Shirreff, Esq. Fitzroy Harbor, opened the meeting by explaining the various proceedings which had taken place on the subject, when the following Resolutions were moved and carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. R. SHIRREFF and seconded by Mr. FRASER,

1st.—That arrangements have been made by a body of most respectable capitalists in England, to form a Company with the view of improving the communication between Montreal and Lake Huron, by the way of the Ottawa, and of promoting the settlement of the adjoining country; that for these important purposes a proposal was made to Government in a letter addressed to Mr. Secretary Rice, dated 24th June, 1834, (see Appendix, No. 1.) signed by twenty seven Noblemen and Gentlemen, who, with others, we have every reason to believe, are still willing to engage in the undertaking.

Moved by Mr. McINTOSH and seconded by Mr. SHIRREFF,

2d.—That the proposal mentioned in the foregoing resolution was referred by the Home Government to Lord Aylmer and Sir John Colborne, and highly approved of by their Excellencies; and al-

though in consequence of the disturbed state of public affairs soon after that period, the measure was postponed by Government, and subsequently the disastrous events of 1837 and 1838, and the agitation of several political questions have caused a delay in bringing the matter again under the notice of Government; yet the subject has never ceased to be one of great interest to the people of both sides of the Ottawa.

Moved by Mr. LANG and seconded by Dr. CHRISTIE,

3rd.—That we have already, in common with the other inhabitants of this part of the country, expressed our views of this measure in four numerously signed memorials to Government; and we would refer particularly to the resolutions agreed to at a meeting held at New Edinburgh, (see Appendix, No. 6,) to a memorial founded thereon, addressed to His Excellency the Earl of Durham, (see Appendix, No. 7,) to his Lordship's favorable reply, (see Appendix, No. 8,) and a subsequent letter on the subject from Mr. Buller, dated 24th October, 1833, (see Appendix, No. 9,) in which we are encouraged to persevere in the attainment of the important object in view.

Moved by Mr. W. LANG and seconded by Mr. SCOTT,

4th.—That owing to the interruptions in the navigation of the Ottawa, the upper parts of that river are difficult of access, particularly as it respects newly arrived emigrants, the settlements already formed there being chiefly the arduous work of people inured to the woods, that in the prospect therefore of a large accession to the population of the Colony, the improvement of the Ottawa is still more necessary.

Moved by Mr. BERKE and seconded by Mr. PERKINS,

5th.—That the people of this place and neighborhood are subjected to great inconvenience from the want of several public works, respecting which they have already made representations to Government, and which we doubt not would be among the first undertaken by the proposed Company.

Moved by Mr. McTAGGART and seconded by Mr. KENNEDY,

6th.—That a Company combining in their operations a simultaneous improvement of the communications of this part of the country and the settlement of the waste lands, and by which British capital would be brought to bear extensively on these objects, appears to us one of the most effectual means of accomplishing them. That besides the introduction and diffusion of capital, employment would be thereby

afforded to emigrants on their arrival, and the opening up a commercial intercourse between the Ottawa and Lake Huron be greatly facilitated.

Moved by Mr. CURRY and seconded by Mr. HURON,

7th.—That the Memorials to the Provincial Government already mentioned, and other communications which have taken place on the subject, be printed in the form of a pamphlet for the use of the members of the Legislature, and others who take an interest in the improvement of this part of the country.

Moved by Mr. STEVENSON and seconded by Dr. CHRISTIE,

8th.—That in order to further this great and important measure, Charles Shirreff and Robert Shirreff, Esquires, be nominated to proceed to Kingston, to submit the subject to His Excellency, the Governor General, together with the documents relating thereto.

Moved by Mr. JOYNT and seconded by Mr. LEGGART,

9th.—That a Committee be appointed for receiving subscriptions towards defraying the necessary expences in promoting the object of this meeting, and to consider what further steps should be taken in the matter, and that the Committee be composed of the following gentlemen, (five to be a quorum,) with power to add to their number. That Dr. A. J. Christie be Secretary and Convener, and James Stevenson, Esq. Treasurer:—

Dr. Christie, Captain Baker, Messrs. Fisher, Fraser O'Connor, Chitty, R. Wright, Stevenson, Blackburn, Egan, Day, Pinhey, D. M'Laren, J. Grierson, M'Intosh, George Buchanan, Patterson, Stewart, N. Sparks, M'Dougall, O'Neill, Radford, Kerr, Thomas Read, Charles Shirreff, Robert Shirreff, John Robertson, M'Naughton, Perkins, Taylor, Mason, M'Millan, Lewis, Lyons, Tripp, Dickson, Barreille, Gregory, Aumond, Robert Lang, George Lang, Bucham, William Thomson, and Charles Symmes.

Moved by Mr. INGLIS and seconded by Mr. BLASDELL,

10th.—That a copy of these Resolutions, signed by the Chairman and Secretary of this meeting, be transmitted to His Excellency, the Governor General, and that His Excellency be respectfully requested to take the same into his favorable consideration.

Moved by Mr. SHIRREFF and seconded by Dr. CHRISTIE,

11th.—That the thanks of this meeting be given to Daniel Fisher, Esquire, for his able conduct in the Chair.

(Signed,) DANIEL FISHER, Chairman.
A. J. CHRISTIE, Secretary.



APPENDIX.

No. 1.

(COPY.)

LONDON, 24TH JUNE, 1834.

SIR,

Two applications being already before His Majesty's Government on the subject of colonizing lands on the Ottawa, one addressed to the Right Honorable Lord Howick, on the 29th September, 1832, by Mr. Robert Shirreff, and the other to Mr. Secretary Stanley, in the autumn of last year, signed by Mr. Ravenshaw, Mr. Solby, and Mr. Douglas, on behalf of themselves and others connected with the trade of London, and likewise a representation by Mr. Hamilton on behalf of the North American Colonization Association of Ireland, dated the 29th of November, 1833, we now jointly beg leave to bring the subject again under the notice of the Colonial Department, and to request your early and favorable consideration of it, so as to enable the united Company, proposed to be formed, to take prompt measures properly to prepare in Upper Canada for the reception of laborers from the United Kingdom, and in particular from Ireland.

The tract of country which we have in view to colonize, with the sanction of His Majesty's Government, is that which lies between the River Ottawa and Lake Huron to the south of Lake Nipissing, and in the rear of the present settlements in the Newcastle and Midland Districts, but separated from them by an extensive barren space. The precise boundaries are more particularly pointed out in the paper and map which accompany this. Although the above tract appears to be extensive, yet it is ascertained that a great proportion of it is land unfit for cultivation, and much of the surface, water.

We likewise respectfully submit that as the plan of emigration which we have in view is an extensive one, embracing the population both of Ireland and Scotland, as well as England, a proportionably large tract of land in Canada will be necessary to carry the proposed objects into effect.

We shall again merely allude to the advantages likely to arise from the above mentioned part of Canada being occupied by a body of settlers closely connected with the Mother Country, and attached to its institutions, and

likewise to the tendency which these settlements must have to establish a direct communication between Montreal and Lake Huron, by the way of the Ottawa; and to increase, not only the internal trade of the Canadas, but likewise their commercial intercourse with those flourishing parts of the United States—the Michigan and North Western Territories.

Should Government be pleased favorably to entertain this proposal, the projected Company is intended to embrace the Irish Association already alluded to; the whole to be conducted under the control of a Board of Directors in London; consisting of a Governor, Deputy Governor, and ten Directors, with Branch Committees in Scotland and Ireland, to be formed of gentlemen of those countries respectively. It is intended to invite Sir Josiah C. Coghill, Bart., George A. Hamilton, Thomas Popham Luscombe, Robert Rowe, and Thomas Wilson, Esquires, as a temporary Committee for Ireland, to assist in carrying into effect the objects of this application.

We beg in conclusion to request that you will favor a deputation from the undersigned with an interview, at which the plans and views may be submitted to you more in detail; and that you will have the goodness to address your reply to Mr. Ravenshaw, at the East India House.

We have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient humble servants,

(Signed,) Fitzwilliam,
Clifden,
R. Derry,
Alexander Perceval,
Robert L. Dundas,
Henry F. Stephenson,
W. T. Copeland,
William Verner,
R. A. Ferguson,
A. Winstoir Barron,
John G. Ravenshaw,
Gosford,
G. H. Barnett,
George Hawthorne,

(Signed,) Thomas Edgar,
John Macdonald,
Henry Wm. Hobhouse,
J. Gordon Duff,
Robert Chaloner,
Neville Reid,
James Barnett,
Henry Douglas,
Robert Shirreff,
Charles McGarrel,
John Whyte,
Isaac Solly,
Charles J. Barnett.

To the Right Honorable
THOMAS SPRING RICE,
Secretary of State, &c. &c. &c.

No. 2.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE EARL OF ABERDEEN, HIS MAJESTY'S
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIAL DEPARTMENT.

The Memorial of the Undersigned Merchants of Bytown in Upper Canada;
and others connected with the Trade of the Ottawa.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

That your Memorialists being at present in the Country, have learnt with concern, that the troubles existing in Lower Canada have induced His Majesty's Government to withhold at present their sanction to the formation of a Company in London, for improving the Navigation of the Ottawa, and promoting the settlement of the waste land near it.

That your Memorialists would humbly express their great regret—that a measure so earnestly desired by the whole population of that important part of Canada, should ~~be~~ be retarded by the agitation in another Province of questions in which they are not in the smallest degree interested.

That the Agricultural settlers and other Inhabitants, near the Ottawa, are at present laboring under the greatest inconvenience from the formidable impediments on the Navigation of that River and the want of good Roads, which the operations of the proposed Company would tend greatly to remedy.

That the persons engaged in the Lumber Trade so extensively carried on near the Ottawa, have at present to suffer great delay and loss of property, in descending the River with their Rafts, and that the obstruction of the different rapids, by which that delay and loss is occasioned, might in a great measure be removed by a Company having sufficient capital at their disposal.

That your Memorialists have not the smallest reason to suppose that a Company of such a nature, as the one projected, could be the occasion of the least discontent to any party whatever in Canada.

That other parts of British America are receiving extensive benefit from Joint Stock Companies formed in the Mother Country, and that from the remoteness of the Ottawa, from the several situations where these Companies are established, the inhabitants of that part of the country derive no advantage from them. On the contrary the efforts made by these associations to direct Emigrants to their own lands and neighborh^or, must prevent many persons selling on the Ottawa, who might otherwise do so.

That it has been ~~probably~~ known in Canada for some time past, that the establishment of a Company in London for the important purposes above mentioned has been ~~completed~~, and that there has not been the slightest opposition to it from any party.

That the people of the Ottawa presented Addresses to the Governors of Lower and Upper Canada, strongly praying their Excellencies to recommend

the formation of the proposed London Company, to His Majesty's Government. And their Excellencies have been pleased to return the most favorable answers to these Addresses; the disappointment occasioned to the inhabitants of the Ottawa districts, will be very great, should the Company not go into operation this summer; especially on the reason given, for the delay has not arisen amongst themselves, but in another and remote part of Canada.

Your Memorialists do not think it necessary to go at length, into the importance of the objects which would be embraced by an Ottawa Company, but they may be permitted to observe, that the settlement of the waste lands near that River is now almost at a stand, for want of the aid of such an association. That the operations of the Company would very much increase the commerce of Montreal and Quebec, and that the utmost effect of these operations in opening a communication with Lake Huron, in the direction of the Ottawa, would add greatly to the means of defending the Canadas in the event of a war with the United States, and have a most beneficial effect on the prosperity of these Provinces.

Respectfully requesting your Lordship's favorable consideration of the above.

Your Memorialists have the honor

to be, your Lordship's,

Most obedient humble servants.

(Signed,)

Pollock Gilmour & Co., Merchants, Montreal, Quebec, and Glasgow.
 Hector Russell, " Glasgow and Montreal.
 Wm. Cormack, " Quebec, Montreal, and Toronto.
 A. Laurie, " " " "
 C. J. Dunlop, Partner of the House of Billingham & Dunlop, Montreal.
 Wm. Stewart, Merchant, Bytown, U. C.
 John Fowler, " Montreal.
 Alexander Thomson, " "
 John Greenshields, Jr. Merchant Montreal.
 James Miller, " "
 Robert Weir, Jr. " "
 William McIntosh, Montreal, and Ottawa River.
 James Scott & Co. Merchants, Montreal, and Glasgow.
 William Smith & Co. " " "
 Gordon Shedden & Co. " " "
 David M'Kinlay, " "
 James Munson, " Glasgow and Montreal.
 James Pinkerton, Senr. " " "
 Robert Rodger & Co. " and Quebec.
 Gillespie, Stuart & Co. " " "
 John Reid, & Co. " " and Upper Canada.

April 2, 1836.

No. 3.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY SIR JOHN COLBORNE, K. C. B. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
OF THE PROVINCE OF UPPER CANADA, &c. &c. &c.

May it please Your Excellency,

We the inhabitants of that section of the Canadas, bordering on the Ottawa and in its neighborhood, feeling the great disadvantage we labor under from want of necessary improvements in the navigation of that river, and sensible at the same time of the absolute want of means in this Country, for such an important object; have learnt with the greatest satisfaction, that a Joint Stock Company is now organizing in Great Britain and Ireland, of sufficient magnitude, and with ample influence and funds, to carry this essential measure to an extent which must ensure success to the undertaking, and produce great benefit to the Colony.

Your Excellency must be aware that although the Ottawa is one of the finest and largest rivers on the Continent of America, and runs through the very heart of Canada; yet, from obvious causes, very little settlement has as yet taken place upon it. It is situated at a distance from the seats of both the King's Governments, and has not, hitherto, excited the same interest which the lands in their neighborhood have done—consequently little or nothing has been attempted towards the removal of the obstructions in its navigation, nor in the improvement of roads, &c. in its Districts—and had it not been for the encouragement given to farming by the ready market created by the timber cutters, the Ottawa would have run through a wilderness to this day.

The Establishments of the Canada Company and of the British American Land Company, although no doubt, beneficial, are, however, operating as additional bars to the settlement of this part of the country. The upper parts of Canada beyond Toronto, must receive great advantage from the exertions of the Canada Company; and so must the Eastern Townships in Lower Canada from those of the British American Land Company—but the district of the country through which the Ottawa runs is so very distant and distinct from the operations of both these Companies, that so far from receiving benefit from them, they are effectually preventing the increase of its population—so that the formation of these companies makes one for this part of the country more and more indispensable; while its distance from the situation of the other Companies, would prevent any inconvenient interference.

We humbly hope that the above observations will meet Your Excellency's favorable attention, and we would express our confidence, from our conviction of Your Excellency's uniform wish to promote the prosperity of every part of the Colony; that, if the matter be referred to Your Excellency, you will give the formation of such a Company, every encouragement and facility; so that it may enter as speedily as may be on operations, which may soon place Canada in a most commanding position; by putting her in the exclusive posses-

tion of the shortest outlet to the Ocean from those gigantic Lakes in the interior, which are surrounded by a vast extent of country capable, from its fertility, of supporting many millions of inhabitants, and where settlement is now making most rapid progress; particularly in the Michigan and North West territories; to which, if an opening, by the Ottawa, to Lake Huron, be accomplished, Montreal will be the nearest market by many hundred miles.

It may be remarked that the stupendous advantages which must be derived from a navigable communication with Lake Huron in the direction of the Ottawa, could never by any possibility, be taken from Canada; for by no exertions in any other direction could a communication be made, so short, or so safe. It would also be guarded completely by its natural situation, from all interference of our neighbors, for through the whole extent of the line, it would be at such a distance from the frontier, that it would never give access to any other, than our own markets and seaports of Montreal and Quebec.

We hope we are not taking too much liberty in humbly requesting that this address to Your Excellency may be transmitted to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

We have the honor to be, with the greatest respect, &c.

Bytown, 19th September, 1834.

[Signed by 447 of the Inhabitants of the Districts bordering on the Ottawa.]

ANSWER FROM HIS EXCELLENCY SIR JOHN COLBORNE, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF UPPER CANADA.

Government House,
Toronto, 5th November, 1834. }

SIR,

The address relative to the improvement of the navigation of the Ottawa, forwarded with your letter of the 16th ultimo has been laid before the Lieut. Governor, and I am desired by His Excellency, to request that you will acquaint the Inhabitants of the Bathurst and Ottawa Districts, by whom you have been deputed to transmit it, that he shall have great satisfaction in being enabled to submit for the consideration of His Majesty's Government any scheme, which has in view the important object of settling the fertile tracts between the Ottawa and Lake Huron, and rendering the Lakes in that quarter available for a direct commercial intercourse with Lake Huron.

His Excellency will not fail to transmit your address to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have the honor to be, &c.

WM. ROWAN.

To CHARLES SHIRREFF, Esq.

An Address of the same tenor having been presented to Lord Aylmer, Governor General, His Excellency was pleased to return the following Answer.

Castle of St. Lewis, }
Quebec, 5th November, 1841. }

SIR,

With reference to the address which has been recently placed by you in the hands of the Governor in Chief, from a large and respectable body of the Inhabitants of that section of the Canadas bordering on the Ottawa River, and in its neighborhood, stating the great disadvantages they labor under from want of necessary improvements in the navigation of that River, and express their satisfaction at having learnt that a Joint Stock Company is now organizing in Great Britain and Ireland of sufficient magnitude and with ample influence and funds to carry this essential measure to an extent which must ensure success, I have been directed by His Excellency to request that you will have the goodness to acquaint the Parties by whom that address has been signed, that the improvement of the navigation of the River Ottawa is an object which has engaged much of his attention, and that they may confidently rely on his best endeavors in the promotion of it. His Excellency trusts that this general assurance on his part will be deemed a sufficient answer to their address under existing circumstances. Should the subject of it be referred to him by His Majesty's Government, (which from the tenor of the address it would appear there may be grounds to expect) he will not fail to give it all the consideration which its great importance demands.

In the meanwhile His Excellency will lose no time in transmitting their address to the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, in compliance with the desire therein expressed.

I have the honor to be, &c.

H. CRAIG, *Civil Secretary*,

To CHARLES SHIRREFF, Esq,

No. 4.

MEMORIAL TO EARL GOSFORD.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONORABLE EARL GOSFORD, GOVERNOR
IN CHIEF AND HIS MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONER TO CANADA, &c. &c. &c.
The Memorial of the undersigned Inhabitants of the Districts of Lower and
Upper Canada, situated on and near the Ottawa, and others connect-
ed with and interested in the trade of that River.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

That a Company with ample means and influence has been formed in London, for improving the navigation of the River Ottawa and promoting the settlement of that important part of the country, with a view also of ultimately opening a communication in that direction, to Lake Huron.

That addresses by a numerous and respectable body of the Inhabitants of the Districts near the Ottawa, have been already presented to their Excellencies the Governors of the provinces of Lower and Upper Canada, earnestly requesting their recommendation to the Home Government, to sanction the said Company, and that both their Excellencies have expressed themselves favorable to the measure, and have transmitted these addresses to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

That although it has been publicly known that such a Company was forming, and expected to go into immediate operation, yet no opposition nor objection has been made to it. But on the contrary the immense importance of the undertaking has been universally acknowledged, and it has been hailed as one of the greatest improvements that could be contemplated in Canada.

That under these circumstances your Memorialists have heard with deep regret, that His Majesty's Government have hesitated to allow the Company to commence its operations immediately, and they would humbly beg leave to state, that seeing nothing is asked of His Majesty's Government, but a grant of waste lands, at a value to be paid in improving the navigation of the River Ottawa, and as until that is done, these lands must remain useless and inaccessible, they would earnestly hope that the political discussions in another and distant part of the province, will not induce His Majesty's Government to reject the means now offered to accomplish the measure so essential towards the settlement of this inland and central section of the country.

That much pains have been taken in England and Ireland to form this association and which is now in a state sufficiently organized for immediate operation. But as many of its members are engaged in pursuits more directly interesting to themselves, there is great danger if further delays take place, that the whole scheme may be broken up, and thus His Majesty's Government may lose an opportunity which may never occur again; of accomplishing without any burden on the public purse, a work not only of great magnitude but of infinite consequence to the British Mercantile interests, for it will give unrivalled

control over a great portion of the central trade of this continent by bringing Montreal nearer to the great North Western Lakes by many hundred miles, than any sea port in the United States.

Other great advantages may also be stated that will arise from the undertaking such as opening an immediate field for settlement, through the heart of the country, by which it will be strengthened and thrown into a more substantial shape, the chief population being hitherto along the frontier.

A military highway would likewise be formed by this communication, in the direction of the Ottawa, to the interior of the continent, giving also ready and safe navigable access to the arsenal of Penetanguishine. The facilities which this Company would give to the lumber trade, by the proposed improvements, should also be noticed. It is a trade of the greatest consequence to this country, timber being the chief export, and it is of no less importance to Great Britain, as a means of keeping her from being dependant on the Baltic for that necessary article. The chief seat of this trade is the Ottawa, and the impediments in the navigation at the falls and rapids, have occasioned hitherto much loss both of lives and property. And it may be stated that serious disturbances have taken place among the numerous laborers in the higher parts of the River which cannot be easily quelled, in consequence of their distance from the settlements and the civil power, all which inconveniences would very soon be removed by the operation of this Company, which is ready to pour into the heart of the country, a steady population, to improve it for their accommodation.

For these important reasons your Memorialists earnestly hope that your Excellency will see it good to recommend to His Majesty's Government not to delay any longer their sanction to a measure which must tend so much to the prosperity and tranquility of this country, and they would humbly request that this Memorial as on former occasions, may be transmitted to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Your Memorialists have the honor to be,

With the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient humble servants.

Signed by 1246 land holders and others, in the neighborhood of the Ottawa,
October, 1835.

No. 5.

CORRESPONDENCE OF CHARLES SHIRREFF, ESQ. WITH STEPHEN WALCOTT,
AND T. F. ELLIOT, ESQUIRES.

(COPY.)

QUEBEC, 22D OCTOBER, 1835.

SIR;

Circumstances having led His Majesty's Government to delay making final arrangements with the Company which has been formed in London for improving the navigation of the Ottawa, the Inhabitants of the Districts bordering upon that river have authorised me to present to the Governor-in-Chief the Memorial which accompanies this letter. I beg leave therefore to trouble you with it, and I would earnestly and humbly solicit His Excellency's favorable attention to it.

There are to the Memorial twelve hundred and forty-six signatures, not only of the most respectable inhabitants of those Districts, but including also a considerable number of names of the first respectability in Montreal and Quebec, for the objects contemplated are not merely of deep interest to those who reside near the Ottawa, but are considered of great importance to the country at large.

I have the honor to be, respectfully,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed,) C. SHIRREFF.

STEPHEN WALCOTT, Esq.
Secretary, &c. &c. &c.
Quebec.

(COPY.)

QUEBEC, 4TH NOVEMBER, 1835.
ALBION HOTEL.

SIR,

His Excellency the Governor in Chief having signified his intention of submitting to the Royal Commissioners the Memorial I have had the honor of presenting, respecting the improvements in the navigation of the Ottawa, and as the season will soon oblige me to return home, I must beg leave humbly to request an early opportunity of stating to the Board, more fully and particularly than may appear in the Memorial, the important benefits which must result from the undertaking.

It may be noticed that this is not a petition merely from persons associated for the purpose of a land speculation but it is an earnest application from a large and respectable body of the inhabitants of a very extensive District, who look forward to the operations of this Company as the great means of promoting its settlement and prosperity.

As the matter was referred to the local Governors and approved of by them, we do not know any circumstance which can have retarded the arrangements, but a wish on the part of the Minister for Colonial affairs to receive a report from the Commissioners before closing finally with the Company, I would humbly therefore venture to submit, that an early consideration of the subject, may be of essential consequence, not only to prevent the loss of another season, but to save the scheme altogether from being broken up, which if it should unfortunately happen, I am persuaded would become a matter of regret to the Commissioners themselves when made fully aware of its importance.

I have the honor to be, respectfully,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) C. SHIRREFF.

T. F. ELLIOT, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.
Quebec.

QUEBEC, 14TH NOVEMBER, 1835.

SIR,

In answer to your letter of the 4th instant, requesting an interview on the proposal to form an Association for holding lands on the Ottawa, and for improving the navigation of that River, I am directed by the Commissioners to acquaint you that they have perused the petition which you have borne to Quebec, and have adverted to the former communications on the same subject, of which copies are deposited in the Records of this Government, but that the duty of the Commissioners being primarily to enquire into

grievances which have been the subject of public complaint, they do not feel themselves at liberty to turn their attention from the matters with which they are at present occupied to a consideration of the plan for a Company which you have submitted.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

THOS. FREDK. ELLIOT.

C. SHIRREFF, Esq.
Albion Hotel.

(COPY.)

QUEBEC, 16TH NOVEMBER, 1835.

SIR,

It is by no means my intention in acknowledging the receipt of your favor of 14th instant, to press any further at present on the Commissioners, the consideration of the plan which has been submitted for a Company to improve the navigation of the Ottawa. I can only hope for the reasons given in the Memorial that the Commissioners will be able, at an early day, to take up the subject.

I am desirous, however, to endeavour before leaving Quebec, to meet the objection which has been hinted of the Ministry entertaining fears that another Company might interfere too much with those already formed.

It was one of the first steps in this business to obtain and transmit home the sense upon it, of almost the whole of the principal Merchants in Montreal, whose experience and local knowledge of the country led them to state as their opinion, that three points or situations for Land Companies could not be better chosen, and so far from dreading the interference of a Company on the Ottawa, many of those who signed the paper which was then transmitted, were stockholders in the other Companies.

It is surely obvious that such Companies planted judiciously throughout the country must be the most expeditious means of increasing both capital and population. But if the plan be confined to the two Companies already formed, it would be a hurtful monopoly. It would in a manner shut up every other corner of the country, for the inducements which such Associations can hold out, will always lead the bulk of the emigration their way. I humbly think, therefore, that as the system has been commenced it ought in justice to other parts of the country to be carried on, and we have the experience of our neighbors to prove it is a good one for a new country. Those Companies will for their own interest lose no time in opening roads and providing other facilities for their settlers, and thus the general improvement and settlement of the country would be accelerated much more than if the lands remained in the

hands of Government. We have only to look at the present operations of the British American Land Company to prove this fact.

I beg leave to close these observations by an extract from the address presented in September, 1834, to the Governor in Chief and also to the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada:—

“The Establishments of the Canada Company and of the British American Land Company, although no doubt, beneficial, are, however, operating as additional bars to the settlement of this part of the country. The upper parts of Canada beyond Toronto, must receive great advantage from the exertions of the Canada Company; and so must the Eastern Townships in Lower Canada from those of the British American Land Company—but the district of the country through which the Ottawa runs is so very distant and distinct from the operations of both these Companies, that so far from receiving benefit from them, they are effectually preventing the increase of its population—so that the formation of these companies makes one for this part of the country more and more indispensable; while its distance from the situation of the other Companies, would prevent any inconvenient interference.”

The question in short may be reduced to this simple statement, must that important section of the country containing one of the finest and largest rivers in North America, remain a wilderness, and the people who have settled in it, continue to labor under every disadvantage, or will Government sanction the application of the means which are now fully provided for removing the obstructions to the increase of its population, and for accelerating and ultimately accomplishing a communication, which a single glance at the map of this continent will shew, must, before many years elapse pour into Canada an increase of trade and prosperity far beyond all present calculation.

I have the honor to be, respectfully,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed,) C. SHIRREFF.

THOMAS FREDE. ELLIOT, Esq.
Secretary to the Royal Commissioners,
&c. &c. &c.
Quebec.

No. 6.

PUBLIC MEETING AT NEW EDINBURGH.

At a Meeting held at New Edinburgh, for the purpose of considering the best means of furthering the laudable views of the Government, in the enquiry to be made by CHARLES BULLER, Esquire, Chief Commissioner for Crown Lands and Emigration.

THOMAS MCKAY, Esq. M. P. P. was called to the Chair, and ROBERT LANG, Esq. appointed Secretary.

Mr. McKay explained the nature of the meeting as follows:—A few years ago a proposal was made by influential noblemen, capitalists, and merchants in England, for forming themselves into a Company to open up a communication from Lake Huron to the Sea, by the Ottawa River, and upon such terms as were likely to be advantageous to this section of the country. The offers made by the proposed Company to the Colonial Secretary were so much akin to the preamble of the Chief Commissioner's warrant, that it has been thought advisable to draw his attention to the proceedings of the year 1835, as regards the proposal.

The inhabitants bordering upon the Ottawa and its neighborhood, sent a petition to Lord Aylmer, and one to Sir John Colborne, signed by 447 names, craving that their Excellencies would investigate into the merits of the proposal made by the London Company, and if they found it to be of such immense advantage to the country as described, that their Excellencies would recommend it to the favorable consideration of the Home Government. These petitions were, it seems, very favorably received, as appears from the replies from their Excellencies:—

Lord Aylmer in acknowledging the petition says—"He requests that the parties who signed the petition be informed that the improvement of the River Ottawa is an object which has engaged much of his attention, and that they may confidently rely on his best endeavours in the promotion of it; and should the subject be referred to him by His Majesty's Government, that he will not fail to give it all the consideration its importance demands."

Sir John Colborne says, in acknowledging the petition—"That he will have great satisfaction in being enabled to submit, for the consideration of His Majesty's Government, any scheme which has in view the important object of settling the fertile tracts between the Ottawa and Lake Huron, and rendering the Lakes in that quarter available for a direct intercourse with Lake Huron."

The Hon. T. Spring Rice and Lord Glenelg viewed the matter in a very favorable point of view. Both said it was a "*question only of time*," giving the parties to understand that the formation of a Company in London, *at that time*, would be strongly opposed by the party in Canada who were averse to the introduction of British capital and British population. The time seems now come for stirring up the question, and I leave it to the meeting to propose such resolutions as they may deem proper.

Proposed by Mr. McTaggart, seconded by Mr. J. Stevenson, Junr.

Resolved—That the meeting respectfully call upon their member, **Thomas McKay**, Esquire, to procure for them a copy of the Report of the Surveyors who were appointed by the Government to Survey and Report upon the practicability of opening up a navigation from Lake Huron to Montreal by the River Ottawa.

Proposed by James Stevenson and seconded by Mr. William Lang.

Resolved—That the opening up of the trade of the Great Western Lakes and States to Montreal, by the short route of the Ottawa, is an event to be hailed as a precursor to the future prosperity of the Colony in general. That the terms upon which the London Company came forward in 1834, are fraught with many valuable advantages to the Colony by the circulation of such a vast sum of money in the Province, and by peopling the Waste Lands.

Mr. Stevenson laid before the meeting a map shewing that the distance from *Lake Huron to Montreal* by Lake Nipissing and the Ottawa in the proposed route, is not much above 450 miles, whereas by the present route from *Lake Huron to Montreal* by Lake Erie and Ontario, it is above 840 miles.—Mr. Stevenson also laid before the meeting a very able paper on the subject, written by Charles Shirreff, Esq. of Fizooy Hanton, opening in a clear manner the many advantages to be derived by opening up the trade of the Western Lakes and States to Montreal. Mr. S. read the names of the gentlemen, who, in 1835, were ready to advance the capital, provided the Government would incorporate them as a Company, and these names convince the meeting that had Government granted the request, the Ottawa ere this, would have presented a heart-cheering appearance. The list of names were as follows:—

(Signed,)

Earl Fitzwilliam	G. H. Barnett, Esq.
Viscount Clifden,	George Hawthorne, Esq.
Bishop of Derry,	Thomas Edgar, Esq.
Alexander Perceval, M.P.	John Macdonald, Adjutant
Robert L. Dundas, Lord of	General,
the Admiralty,	Henry W. Hobhouse, Esq.
Henry F. Stephenson,	J. Gordon Duff, Esq.
Alderman W.T. Copeland,	Robert Chaloner, Esq.
M. P.	Neville Reid, Esq.
William Verner, M. P.	James Barnett, Esq.
R. A. Ferguson, M. P.	Henry Douglas, Esq.
A. Wenston Barron, M.P.	Robert Shirreff, Esq.
John G. Ravenshaw, Esq.	Charles McGarrel, Esq.
a Director of the East	John Whyte, Esq.
India Company,	Isaac Solly, Esq.
Earl Gosford,	Charles J. Barnett, Esq.

Mr. S. stated the advantages in a political point of view that Government would gain by the formation of such a Company, in securing a strong interior population, away from the contamination of Republican principles, and called upon all who had the interest of the colony at heart to join in petitioning His Excellency the Governor General to assist in forwarding the views of the proposed Company, provided the terms they offered were in accordance with the interest of the Colony.

Proposed by Archibald McDonell, Esq. J. P. seconded by Mr. Moffatt,
 Resolved—That this meeting use every exertion to convince the Imperial Parliament, that the best interest of the Colony will be studied by giving encouragement to capitalists to settle amongst them, and particularly to encourage the Company who recently wished to be incorporated for the purpose of opening up the navigation from Lake Huron to the sea port of Montreal by the River Ottawa.

Proposed by Robert Lang, Esq. and seconded by Mr. Fraser,
 Resolved—That the view which our late Lieutenant Governor, Sir F. B. Head took of the resources of that noble River, the Ottawa, in his opening Speech to Parliament, is in accordance with the opinion of every one who has taken the trouble to consult the local advantages offered to commerce, by improving the navigation of the Ottawa.

Proposed by B. Billings, Esq. J. P. seconded by Mr. Scott,
 Resolved—That our respected member, Thomas McKay, Esq. with the following gentlemen form a deputation to wait upon His Excellency, and to hand him a copy of the proceedings of this meeting with the map and comparative remarks, on the projected communication with Lake Huron:—R. Lang, Esq. J. P., A. McDonell, J. P. and J. Stevenson.

Proposed by William Lang, Esq. seconded by Mr. Durie.
 Resolved—That a copy of these Resolutions be made out and forwarded to Charles Buller, Esq. Commissioner of Inquiry for Crown Lands and Emigration, with a view of drawing his attention to the importance of furthering the views of the proposed Company, and that Bradish Billings, Esq. J. P. be added to the deputation to wait on His Excellency.

(Signed,) THOMAS MCKAY, Chairman.
 ROBERT LANG, Secretary.

New Edinburgh, 16th July, 1833.

No. 7.

MEMORIAL TO LORD DURHAM.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE OTTAWA, AND WATER COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THAT RIVER AND LAKE HURON.

On Thursday the 30th ult. a Deputation from a Meeting recently held at New Edinburgh, on the Ottawa, waited on His Excellency the Governor General, and presented the following Address.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

The Improvement of the Navigation of the River Ottawa, and opening a communication by that river to Lake Huron, having been long considered measures of vital importance in a Commercial, Agricultural, and Political point of view, not only to Canada, but to the Mother Country, repeated applications on the subject have been made to the Governors of the Colony; and also for the attainment of these objects an attempt was made to form a company in London, which was so far in train in the year 1835, (composed of men of the first respectability and influence,) as to require only the sanction of Government to commence its operations; and although the ministry have uniformly expressed their approbation of the measure, and their sense of its importance, yet political changes, and the state of political affairs in this country, have hitherto thrown obstacles in its way.

Your Memorialists are encouraged to address your Lordship on the subject, from the impression, that it is the wish of your Lordship to apply the power with which your Lordship is invested, in the most beneficial way for the Colony, and being persuaded that there is not perhaps another object, to which your Lordship's attention can be directed, that would have a more practical effect, in promoting emigration, and the settlement of a most important section of the Country. These considerations have led to the meeting from whence the resolutions accompanying this address have emanated.

Your Lordship's Memorialists are confident (notwithstanding the delay which has taken place,) that if your Lordship should, after the investigation you may consider necessary, recommend the measure to Government, a company can still be formed of sufficient means and influence, to carry through the undertaking.

Instead of troubling your Lordship with a recapitulation of the reasons formerly urged in favor of the measures—if it be not taking too much liberty, your Memorialists beg leave to refer to the Address presented to their Excellencies Lord Aylmer, and Sir John Colborne, a copy of which accompanies this.—Their favorable replies are embodied in the resolutions of the meeting.

An Address to the same effect was presented to the Earl of Gosford, signed by about twelve hundred individuals.

All which is humbly submitted to your Excellency's favorable consideration.

(Signed,) by T. McKay, M. P. P., and 1224 others.

No. 8.

REPLY.

To this Address His Excellency was pleased to return the following answer:—

I have attentively examined the projected measure for improving the navigation of the River Ottawa, and opening a communication by that River to Lake Huron, which you wish that I should recommend to the Imperial Government.

Convinced of the importance of the objects contemplated by you, and indeed deeply impressed with the necessity, with a view to the ultimate success of my mission, of encouraging the emigration of people from Britain to this part of Her Majesty's dominions, and the investment of British capital in Colonial improvements, so that the vast and naturally fertile territory intersected by the St. Lawrence and its tributaries, may no longer present a lamentable contrast with adjoining states, as respects production, advancement and prosperity; I should have at once complied with your wish, if it had not appeared to me, on full reflection, that your objects may be more surely and satisfactorily attained by some little delay in the pursuit of them.

You are aware that I have issued Commissions of Inquiry in all the Colonies comprised under my general government, for the purpose of framing a general measure with respect to the disposal of Crown Lands; a measure of which the

whole aim, scope, and tenor will be the promotion of British emigration, and the improvement of these colonies by attracting to them a portion of the superabundant capital of Britain. From the enquiries already made, I am satisfied that such a policy may be adopted with great benefit to the Mother Country and infinite advantage to these colonies. I intend that the plan founded on that policy, which I contemplate recommending, should be matured in time to form part of the political arrangements for the future government of these colonies, which it is my duty to suggest to the Imperial Legislature. With this intention, I am unwilling to entertain at present any particular scheme involving a disposal of Crown Lands. But as I also propose affording to Her Majesty's subjects in these colonies an opportunity of becoming fully acquainted with the general measures for the future disposal of Crown Lands, which I may determine on recommending; as I believe that your project may, without any alteration of its leading principles, be so modified in the details as to agree with that general measure, whereby you would become entitled to my strenuous support, and the most favorable consideration of Her Majesty's Government; and, finally, since I shall be happy, as soon as possible after you shall have become acquainted with the general measure contemplated by me, to concert with you the best means of so recommending your project, it appears to me desirable that all further communication on the subject should be postponed until after the General Commission of Crown Lands and Emigration shall have made their Report. In proposing this delay, I have no other aim, as respects your great scheme, than its earliest and most complete success.

No. 9.

CASTLE OF ST. LEWIS.)
OCTOBER 24TH, 1838. {

SIR:

I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General, to express his regret that in consequence of his sudden departure from this country for England, it will be impossible that he should concert with gentlemen interested in the proposed water communication between Lake Huron and the Ottawa, any measure for carrying that object into effect. The subject, however is of so great importance to the Commercial and Agricultural interests of the two Canadas, that His Excellency sincerely hopes it will not be allowed to drop, and should the parties most deeply interested in the matter, see fit to employ an agent in England to urge their wishes upon the notice of Her Majesty's Government, they may rely upon His Excellency's best exertions in promoting their views.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

(Signed,)

CHARLES BULLER.

Charles Shirreff, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

