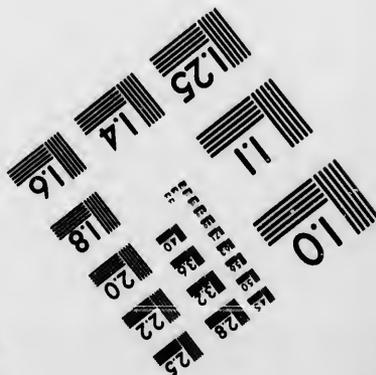
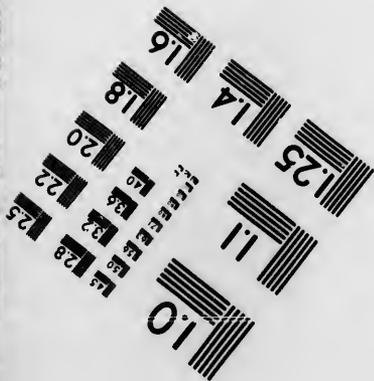
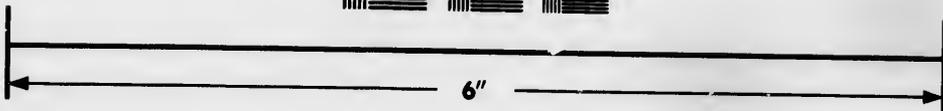
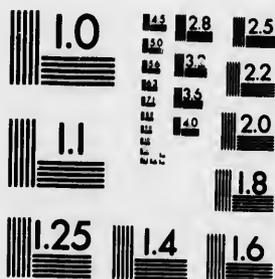


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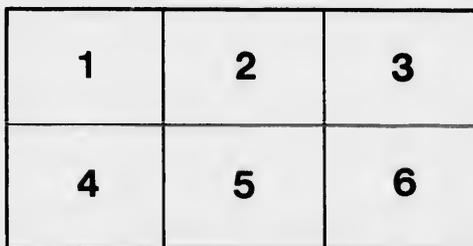
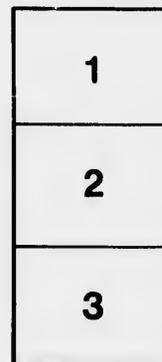
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# R E M A R K S

ON

## LOWER CANADA SURVEYS,

AND

*Extracts from the Surveyors' Reports.*

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APPENDIX No. 27, TO THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF  
CROWN LANDS, FOR 1861.

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QUEBEC :

PRINTED BY HUNTER, ROSE & LEMIEUX, ST. URSULE STREET.

1862.

**TOWNSHIPS SUB**

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Pontefract.....  
Baskatonge.....  
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Tourelle.....  
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Rolette and Pa  
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DESCRIPTION  
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**The Townships Surveyed in Lower Canada,**  
IN 1861,  
WITH EXTRACTS FROM THE SURVEYORS' REPORTS.

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TOWNSHIP OF ABERFORD.

This township is situated on the north bank of the Ottawa River, in the county of Pontiac, and is the westernmost limit of the surveyed townships in Lower Canada.

It is of the dimensions of nine miles perpendicular breadth, on the mean depth of thirteen miles, and is bounded on one side, towards the South-east, by the surveyed township of Aberdeen, and on the other side by the projected township of Killaly.

It is traversed from its south-eastern corner, on the whole depth of the township, by the River Du Moine, a stream of considerable magnitude, which derives its name from the fact of the River being the usual route of the early missionaries to the Grand Lac and Lac des Quinze, forming the principal head waters of the Ottawa River, the sources of which head with those of the Du Moine at a distance of upwards of 200 miles, by the course of the latter from its mouth in the Ottawa, at the western corner of the township of Aberdeen.

Mr. P. L. S. Sinclair laid out and subdivided into farm lots 32,650 acres, chiefly located in the north-west corner of the township, and reports as follows :

“ I have delineated the natural features of the country on the plan herewith, such as mountains, swamps, burnt land and the woods; the best part of the land is situated on the south side of the west branch of the Du Moine, and at the north-west corner of the township, but there is rather better land out of the township around Sucker Lake than there is in it. From Sucker Lake, westward across Bear River, towards the Deux Rivières, there are very nice parcels of hard wood, with what lumbermen would call scattering large white pine.

“ A few settlers would find the lots which I have just surveyed there very convenient of access, and when there, very profitable to raise hay and oats for the lumbermen. Hay will command \$30.00 a ton, and seventy-five or eighty cents a bushel for oats, which would be an excellent speculation for young men to engage in. There is plenty of land that will not cost more than twelve dollars per acre to clear. Men engaged in the lumber trade have now commenced operations on an extensive scale, that must be continued for

## DESCRIPTION OF TOWNSHIPS SURVEYED IN LOWER CANADA.

many years, not only in the immediate neighborhood of this township, but also a considerable distance up the river.

"This Country, up to the Grand Chute, is very well opened up with roads, the principal one of which was made by Mr. William Moffatt, of Pembroke, leading from the mouth of the Du Moine up the west side of the river. It is a wagon or cart road for seven miles, and an excellent winter road to the Grand Chute, where Mr. Moffatt made a farm, the only one at present occupied in the township, *i. e.* having a settler on it. Mr. Ryan has a shanty farm in the township, on which he raises hay, but has no one residing on it. This road made by Mr. Moffatt, if made by the Government, would have cost nearly one hundred pounds per mile; besides this main road there are others leading westward, beyond the township, one leads off from the mouth of the Fils du Grand, or west branch. This, I consider, will become some day at an early period in the history of that country, the site of a village. There are excellent water privileges not far from this spot on both the main River and its West branch.

"There is some valuable white pine in this township. I have no doubt the largest timber of the Upper Ottawa will come from this place this year, which is being made for the trustees of the estate of the late Mr. Egan."

### TOWNSHIP OF PONTEFRACT.

The township of Pontefract lies in rear of the township of Mansfield, in the county of Pontiac, adjoining on the east the surveyed township of Huddersfield, and of the dimensions of nine miles in breadth, by the mean depth of fourteen miles. It is traversed in its whole extent by the River Coulonge and its tributary, the main stream discharging into the Ottawa River at Fort Coulonge, in the township of Mansfield.

The land in this township is much broken by hills and mountains, and is intersected by several large lakes, in the westerly part thereof especially. Hardwood seems to be the prevailing feature of the country surveyed up the Coulonge. The soil is generally a rich loam, but most frequently stony.

### TOWNSHIP OF BASKATONGE.

This township, on the Gatineau River, of the dimensions of 13½ miles in its deepest part, by 9 miles in breadth, is the northernmost surveyed township in the county of Ottawa. It is of irregular figure, and is bounded on the west and north-west by the Gatineau River, which here, although at a distance of 100 miles as the crow flies due north from its mouth, is a broad stream, averaging some 10 chains wide, more or less rapid, but generally navigable for canoes. The River Baskatonge, whose waters irrigate the lauds of this township, and discharge into the Gatineau about two-and-a-half miles above the River Jean de Terre, is the outlet of the lake of that name, presenting a fine sheet of water of a quadrilateral figure, averaging eleven-and-a-half miles long by two-and-a-half broad.

A description of the land around which, and of the arable portion surveyed in the township of Baskatonge, is contained in Mr. P. L. S. Bouchette's report, as follows:—

"In reference to the general geographical features of this section of the country, they are good; the soil is composed of alluvial deposits, which cover a considerable extent of the township, from the fact of the Gatineau River, in high water, backing up into the Baskatonge Lake, and in its course flooding the flat countries very considerably. The land in many places is high and timbered with hardwood. There is very little white or

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red pine in this section of the Gatineau; but above and below the boundaries of Baskatonge, large quantities of saw-logs are yearly manufactured by the Messrs. Gilmours and Hamiltons. There is also a good winter road through the centre of the township, constructed by the above firms, which, with very little expense, could be made a practicable means of communication during the summer. This of itself would be an inducement for settlers to locate themselves along this road, and also along the borders of the Baskatonge Lake, where there is a fine tract of hardwood land.

"There is a peculiarity in this township—from the banks of the Gatineau River through to the Baskatonge Lake, the land is rolling, the elevations are gradual, with few exceptions. The south-east and east sides of the lake aforesaid, are very mountainous and rugged, with deep ravines, making it totally unfit for cultivation. These ranges of mountains are those which divide the waters of the Rivers du Lievre and Gatineau, and if the Indians' report be true, the waters of the Baskatonge Lake flow either way. This I would readily believe, from the fact of the Gatineau waters backing into the Lake, thereby proving its position to be lower; there is no doubt the land about a great number of lakes in the township would otherwise be fit for cultivation. There are also a number of swamps, but they might be converted into meadow land by proper drainage; however, I think that the lakes would be rather a benefit to settlers than otherwise, for they abound with very fine fish from five to twenty-five pounds in weight. The west side of the Gatineau, beginning at the rear post of the township of Egan, extending several miles above Gilmours' farm, (which is an island in the Gatineau River of considerable extent, containing several hundred acres of beautiful land,) and thence west, fourteen or fifteen miles back, is fit for settlement, being of a level surface; the soil is of a gravelly nature in some places, in others clay and yellow loam, making the whole desirable for colonization."

#### TOWNSHIPS OF POLETTE AND TURCOTTE.

These contiguous townships are situate on the northerly side of the River St. Maurice. The township of Polette lying partly in the county of Champlain and partly in the county of Portneuf, adjoins on the South-west the Seignior of Batiscan, and presents on the St. Maurice a frontage of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  miles, laid out into 62 farm lots, several of which are already occupied and improved, connectively with the extensive lumbering business carried on upon that river and its tributaries.

The River Wisseneau or Wosseueau, which discharges into the St. Maurice about half a mile below the mouth of Rat River, in the township of Turcotte, traverses this township from north-east to south-west—its north branch entering the township from the north-west—and is, together with its tributaries, reported as offering some fine tracts of land for settlement.

The township of Turcotte, situate in the County of Portneuf, adjoins on the south west the township of Polette, and presents along its front on the Saint Maurice 60 farm lots now available for settlement. A range of farm lots on both sides of Rat River, from the rear of the first range to the north-west outline of the township, has been surveyed, which, together with the surveyed ranges back from the St. Maurice, will lay open to settlement many fine tracts of land eligible for cultivation, dispersed over 41,042 acres subdivided into ranges and lots, as returned into the department by Mr. P. L. S. Wallace:

"The front of the township of Polette presents some very fine tracts of land. That part adjoining the St. Maurice consists of alluvial deposits of different ages, arranged in successive steps varying in height from a few feet to about one hundred feet; the higher or older plateau, in all cases showing the better soil. Seven of those steps or ancient banks of the St. Maurice can be distinctly traced in several places. The soil on these places is

sandy, the upper containing more vegetable matter than the lower. The timber is fir, spruce pine, aspen, white, yellow and black birches, cedar, ash, and in some places basswood. Above the hill or bank proper of the river, which in some places is precipitous and rocky, the soil is generally a good brown loam, growing black and yellow birches, maple, firs, cedars, ash, beech, pine, tamarack, &c., &c. The country is generally rolling and not so hilly as the township of Turcotte. There are two farms on the front of this township shewn on the plan—one belonging to the estate of Mr. Hall and the other to Mr. Baptiste.

"The front of the township of Turcotte, the 1st and parts of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th ranges, also present some fine tracts of land, marked by the same successive plateaux as Polette, and growing the same timber. The hill or bank proper here, especially in the 4th range, is higher than in Polette, in some places precipitous and rocky, and rising seven or eight hundred feet; the direction of the valleys, however, being nearly north and south, there is every facility for getting on to the higher lands, a number of good main lumber roads being already made.

"There is a large farm at the mouth of the Rat River, on the 1st range, belonging to Mr. Baptiste, on which he raises large quantities of hay, oats potatoes, &c. The times of sowing and reaping are the same as in the vicinity of Three Rivers, while the soil is more productive.

"The remainder of ranges 1, 2, 3 and 4 is generally hilly or mountainous, in some places broken and rocky, but presents many fine valleys and valuable tracts of land. The soil is generally a rich brown loam or black mould, growing large birches, maple, pine, fir, spruce, aspen, cedar, beech, tamarack, and in some spots red oak and ironwood. Numerous lumber roads intersect this tract, some of them requiring little or no labor to fit them for waggon roads, and all passing through the best valleys, so that, although these ranges are more broken than the land on the west side of Rat River, settlers will have little difficulty in making roads.

"Range A, which is laid off into lots on Rat River, as far as the 24th lot, presents, to this point, the same soil and character as the former ranges, though not so broken. Above this, as far as the fork of Cigouneque or Grande Fourche, the front of this range is bounded by precipitous rocky hills, which rise in some places upwards of eight hundred feet, leaving in some cases level tracts at their bases, along Rat River. The remainder of the lots were laid out along the rear line of this range, or centre line, which will be the best locality for a road to the interior of the township as far as lot 52. From lots 24 to 56 this range presents a good deal of hilly and rocky country, although at least one half is fit for cultivation, the soil and timber being the same as in the former ranges; even the more hilly parts growing very large hardwood and mixed timber, always available for woodlands. There are also some fine level tracts growing timber of the largest size. From lots 56 to the rear of the township, this range, with the exception of the precipitous rocky front on Rat River, presents very good lands, growing fine timber and having large level or rolling tracts.

"Ranges B and C generally present very fine tracts of land, except in some places near Rat River, where rocky and stony ranges occur. The soil is here also a rich brown loam or black mould, growing birches, maples, beech, firs, aspen, ash, cedar, red oak, &c., &c. There are several clearings along Rat River, some belonging to Mr. Baptiste and others which were abandoned by lumbermen after they ceased making pine timber in the vicinity.

"The unsurveyed part of this township was explored in several places, and presents good tracts of land throughout, not so hilly as that near the St. Maurice or Rat River, having the same or deeper soil, growing larger timber, and shewing extensive tracts of nearly level or rolling land; the tamarack and black birch especially being of a very large size and superior quality.

"All the mountain ranges in these two townships, and generally throughout the St. Maurice territory, run nearly north and south, presenting valleys of erosion caused by the great northern drift of the glacial period, lying in the same direction. On this account, I would respectfully suggest to your department that future townships in this territory, should be laid out with their side lines running east and west, that the range lines, and, consequently the range roads, might lie north and south for the convenience of settlers; as

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all the inhabitants of a range have, or should have, constant intercourse with each other.— It would also be advisable to adopt this course in subdividing the unsurveyed part of the township of Turcotte, whenever that may become necessary.

“The resources of the St. Maurice Territory are great. At present, the only source of revenue is pine timber, and the quantity made would be very much increased, had the lumberers greater facilities for carrying on their always profitable trade.

“The best method of developing the resources of the territory, is to build a good waggon road from the settlement in rear of Three Rivers to Rat River; this road there to branch off to the River Vermillion, to the north-west, along the valley of Rat River, or its immediate vicinity; and to the vicinity of La Tuque, to the north. This should be a colonization road similar to those by which your department has opened up several other parts of the country, and especially in Upper Canada. This road would be the means of settling the country on both sides of the St. Maurice, as ferries could be established anywhere below, and at many places above La Tuque. The settlers, besides being in themselves of known value to the country and its revenue, would be of great service to the lumberers in providing them with fodder for their cattle, which they now have to transport from Three Rivers, and in root crops, such as potatoes, &c. The road would also be of immense value to the lumbering interest, as the lumberers could use it at all seasons of the year, whereas now they have but the St. Maurice, a summer and winter road alone—a summer road for canoes and scows, and a winter road for teams. In the fall, before the ice becomes strong enough to bear teams, and in spring, when it is too porous and dangerous to do so, the lumberers for several weeks have no means of transporting supplies to their fields of operation. The value of this road will be appreciated when it is remembered that lumbering operations begin in the fall, about September or October, and that the timber gets to the Quebec market in June, July or August only of the following year. Many lumberers cannot send their supplies up the river till navigation is impeded by floating ice, and have to send up their ‘drivers’ on the ice in spring, weeks before they are wanted or can do anything for their high wages. Some lumberers on the St. Maurice now send up their supplies on the river road in winter for the next winter’s operations; thus not only running the risk of the provisions deteriorating by being kept all summer, but paying a years interest on the large outlay required to furnish a lumber camp in rations and fodder. A road would remedy this state of things, and be beneficial to the lumberman, the settler, and the country at large, as it would increase the revenue in a much greater ratio than the outlay required to make it.

“If the St. Maurice country were settled, its resources would be—not only pine timber—but tamarack and black birch, of which there are large quantities of a superior quality,—would be made by the settlers; and when the Piles Railway is built, this timber as well as cedar and spruce, and even firewood will find its way to Three Rivers and Quebec.

“Having, according to instructions, made a few general remarks on the physical geography of the country, its resources and the best mode of developing them, I have only to add that the colonization road I have mentioned could be made without any difficulty, as the country is very favorable for roads running north, the valleys, as before mentioned lying in that direction.

“The road could also be made at a comparatively small cost, as there are only three rivers of any size to bridge, namely, the Matawin, the Bêtepuante and Rat River.

“The branch road to the Vermillion could be of great use to the lumberers on that wooded river, as it would enable them to send their supplies direct from Rat River in summer, instead of using a great bend of the St. Maurice through the worst and most dangerous rapids of that river above La Tuque. It would also pass through a country well fitted for settlement, and which would probably be the first part of the Upper St. Maurice, turned into the permanent homes of civilized men.”

## TOWNSHIP OF SPAULDING.

This township lies on the easterly bank of the river Chaudière, at its outlet from lake Megantic, extending in depth, towards the east, to the Province line, and bounded on one side, towards the north, by the townships of Marlow and Risborough, and on the other side, towards the south, by the township of Ditchfield. The first six ranges of Spaulding which were laid out into farm lots, present with the surveyed six ranges in Ditchfield, about 70,000 acres of highly favorable lands for actual settlement,—the much larger proportion of which is composed of land well adapted for cultivation,—the soil being in general a rich loam and the surface moderately undulating, hardwood timbered lands.

The colonization of this township and of the adjoining townships will be materially assisted by the Government road, recommended by Mr. Duchesnay, is now in progress of being opened from its junction with the Lambton Road, through the townships of Aylmer and Gayhurst, intersecting the Chaudière at this township; but this desirable object would be considerably promoted were a good road opened on the right bank of the River Chaudière, from the township of Jersey, in front of the Townships of Marlow, Risborough, Spaulding and Ditchfield, to meet the colonization road projected from the interior in Lingwick to the Arnold River, in the township of Woburn, recently traced and marked under instructions from this office, and where it would meet the proposed line of road traced from the Province line, at the terminus of a road proposed to be opened by the American authorities, in the State of New Hampshire, to connect with the Portland and St. Lawrence line of railway, towards the south, with Quebec by the Megantic Government Road,—and with Sherbrooke and Montreal by the western and eastern township roads.

Mr. P.L.S. Duchesnay, who surveyed the township of Spaulding, reports as follows:—

“The land throughout the township of Spaulding is for the most part of good quality of loam, though rather stony in places, yet on the whole, very well adapted to agricultural purposes, and may be classed as first-rate farming land. The timber is also of superior quality and of average growth, generally mixed,—the principal kinds being birch, maple, spruce, cedar, balsam and some pine.

“The whole township is well watered, many of the streams being of considerable size, and affording excellent mill sites and water privileges, amongst which I may mention the Nebnellis and Kokomleis, (names given by Indians). The river Chaudière itself is a very rapid stream, at low water being not more than two feet in depth, and of an average width of about two chains, although at spring floods it rises to considerable size.

“The banks are in many places rather uneven, while in others good flats of arable land extend to the water's edge.

“I would take the opportunity here of remarking with regard to the settlement of this land, that the construction of a road from Aylmer, through Gayhurst, to the River Chaudière, in the vicinity of the discharge of Lake Drolet, would be of material service, and is asked for by the settlers in that neighborhood, who are even now in the act of petitioning for the road.

“There is at present a rough timber road following the course of the river Chaudière, which crosses from Gayhurst into Spaulding about lot 27, and thence continues along the river course as far as lake Megantic.”

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## TOWNSHIP OF TOURELLE.

This township, situate in the county of Gaspé, adjoins on the south-west at the St. Lawrence, the Seigniori of Ste. Anne des Monts, and back of this seigniori, the township of Cap Chatte, to its depth, and on the north-east by the waste and unsurveyed public lands—excepting, however, the front range recently laid out into farm lots, on the St. Lawrence, and along the line of road traced from Ste. Anne des Monts, eastward, through the projected townships of Christie and Duchesnay, to Fox River, by Mr. P. L. S. Baillargé, under the instructions from the Department of Public Works, and of this Department.

The four first ranges of the township of Tourelle were laid out into farm lots; the greater proportion of the first range thereof being already settled and occupied, partly by squatters, and partly by persons representing the owners of adjudicated claims under the Gaspé Relief Act, (59 Geo. 3); whilst the remaining surveyed ranges, although occasionally of a mountainous and broken surface throughout, contain some very favorable lands for settlement, which will be rapidly taken up, so soon as the half line of road shall have been constructed, as the ample report of Mr. P. L. S. Roy renders manifest:—

“All the land in the first range of the seigniori of St. Anne, and in blocks A. and B. are under cultivation to the mean depth of about sixty chains. In addition to the great river St. Anne, there are two important water powers in this tract, the little river St. Anne, and the ‘Patate’ stream. On the little river St. Anne, about 10 chains from the St. Lawrence, are two splendid mills, the property of T. B. Sasseville; one a flour, the other a saw mill. The saw, particularly, is of superior construction.

“The little river St. Anne was used, for a long period for lumbering purposes, a considerable quantity of deals having been made on its banks; but for the last four or five years very little wood has been made up in this locality, and this branch of industry has been nearly quite abandoned. On the river Patate are still seen the remains of an old saw mill, and a flour. These establishments, the property of Jean Leboutillier, Esq., are now all in ruins.”

Mr. Roy, in speaking of the township of Tourelle, says:—

“The name of this township, which is also that of the locality before a survey was made, is, owing to the existence of two rocks, situate on the shore at a distance of about three miles from one another: the first of these rocks, which is also the largest, is shewn on the plan of the township as point la Tourelle; it is of quadrangular form with a base of about twenty feet diameter and rising to a height of forty or fifty feet; this rock is perfectly isolated on a rough beach, and sometimes at very high tides the water passes several feet beyond it.

“The other of these blocks called the little Tourelle, lies to the north east of the first, is of triangular shape, narrowing at a height of thirty feet and forms part of the cliff on the borders of the river, having the appearance of a chimney standing alone after the destruction of a building by fire.

“The shore opposite the township of Tourelle is generally rocky; here and there small sandy bays are found which afford a safe harbour for barges at high tide. In the course of last summer several of these bays were occupied by fishermen from St. Anne and Cap Chat, who established themselves there for the purpose of fishing for mackerel, which these shores are celebrated for.

“In the eastern part of the township is the little river Castor, with a good water power; it reaches the St. Lawrence by a fall of about 20 feet; the banks of this stream are very high and difficult of access on the first four ranges of the township, but beyond this they gradually disappear.

“The land in the south west part of this township, from the central line to the north east line of the township Cap Chat, are well adapted for colonization. The soil is a yellow mould very favorable to cultivation.

"There are but few of these rivers whose formation offers any obstacle to communication or to cultivation; moreover there is at present a road along the river St. Anne, which extends three or four leagues into the country, but it is unavailable in winter, though a very little outlay would make it passable in summer. A similar road runs along the River Patate, but does not go more than four miles back, about half of it is however passable at all seasons. I would here draw the particular attention of cultivators to the few lots that are still vacant along the River Patate, and also in that part of the township from that stream to the central line of the township. Several lots in the 2nd and 3rd ranges are in course of being cultivated for the goodness of the soil, the facility of communication and the proximity of the village of St. Anne, having all the advantages of a church, post-office, registry office, &c., &c., are such solid advantages and so rarely met with in a new township that a passing notice of them will be sufficient to show all their importance.

"The north-east part of the township, extending from the centre line to the easterly lateral line, presents to the eye a different aspect; if we consider the height of the cliffs and judging of the interior by the difficulties encountered near the sea coast, we must be led to suppose that this locality is destined to remain long in a state of nature. It is true that on the lots of the first range, to the depth of 20 or 30 chains, the land could only be made available for persons who intend to devote themselves exclusively to fishing, but when this distance is passed, the country changes its appearance and all obstacles disappear. Here and there, it is true, inequalities of the surface, caused by the course of streams, and high cliffs are met with, but no cliffs or hills such as are seen in the first range. I must, however, make an exception as regards the hollow formed by the Castor stream; which at the St. Lawrence as well as in the interior, to about the middle of the 5th range, presents obstacles which, in my opinion, would not be surmounted without great difficulty. Colonization would progress but slowly if the people were left to their own resources, but the road which the government is about constructing from St. Anne to Fox River, will not fail to prove so encouraging that before long we shall see there as in many other places along the coast of Gaspé, an uninterrupted succession of good settlements.

"I did not find in the interior of the township of Tourelle a continuance of level land, such as exists in the interior of the townships of Cherbourg and Dalibaire which I traversed in 1859: but this land, though not so easy of access nor so capable of cultivation, does not appear to me to be less valuable towards the middle of the township. At a distance of about 7 miles from the St. Lawrence, there is a lake, which I have judged to be about fifty acres in superficies. These data are only approximate, as I saw the lake only at a distance of six miles. I was then measuring the depth of the side line. In the middle of the lake there is a small island. A hunter whom I have met since, tells me that this lake is called the Island Lake, and that he had caught a great deal of trout there. In tracing the back outline of the township, I noted besides several streams, the intersection of two rivers; the smallest of these which is in the middle of the third mile, measures 85 links in breadth, and runs through level land from north to south, measuring one chain and five links in breadth; the other river is found at the beginning of the seventh mile, and is said to be a branch of the great river St. Anne; its course is from west to east, and makes its way through the Chickchack mountains. At about a mile to the north of the rear line, this river appears to run through level land, after which the hills through which it runs rise successively in an easterly direction; at the point of its intersection with the rear line they attain a height of 1500 feet.

"The predominant kinds of timber are the pine, white birch, birch, spruce and cedar; there is only a small quantity of maple. The only maple wood worth mentioning, is in the neighborhood of the base line on the north-east side of the little Patate. We there found three or four huts for sugar making in the spring. The cedar bushes are not numerous, but the cedars are of good size and of superior quality. The most extensive of these cedar woods follow the course of the river St. Anne and the stream Patate. We found a great quantity of pine stumps in this part of the township extending from the Patate to the river St. Anne, but I cannot recollect having seen one of these trees standing.

"The soil is mostly yellow loam and sandy mould; along the course of the little River St. Anne clayey land is found, as well as yellow loam, but not to any extent; wherever

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since the soil is met with, in other parts of the township, it is of so small an extent as not to be worth mentioning.

"In continuation, I may add that of all the townships destined for colonization, few are more worthy of attention than the township of Tourelle. This township has certainly the disadvantage of being difficult to cultivate, owing to the steepness of the cliffs and the depth of the water courses, but generally the soil will be found fertile.

"In addition to this, the colonists will find great resources in an inexhaustible supply of fish of all kinds, with easy communications for the conveyance and exchange of their produce. St. Anne, in the first place, owing to the excellent establishment kept up there by Jean Le Boutillier, Esq., affords a good market; again, the basin of the great river St. Anne, which is a safe port, is frequented during the whole season, by schooners plying between Quebec and Gaspé. It may be useful to add that the township of Tourelle forms part of the free port of Gaspé, and with the township Cap-Chat, forms its south-western limit."

### TOWNSHIP OF DAAQUAM.

This township is situated in the valley of the upper St. John's river, in the county of Bellechasse, and is bounded on the south-east by that river, where it forms part of the southern limits of the Province under the Ashburton treaty, and on the north-west by the river Daaquam, or Mettawaquam, on one side, on the north-east, by the township of Panet, and on the other, on the north west by the recently surveyed township of Langevin. It is the southernmost of the townships traversed by the projected line of road diverging at right angles from the Taché Road, in the township of Mailloux, which, when carried out as originally contemplated, will serve to open up a vast field for colonization. Mr. P. L. S. Casgrain gives a favorable report of the soil and timber of this section of country in his report of survey of the arable part of the township:—

"Before terminating my report, I must affirm that putting together all my observations of the soil and variety of land in the course of my exploration of the township of Daaquam, I found the lands in this township favorable for cultivation and offering to the colonist, who is prepared to clear them, a sure guarantee of success.

"I am the more confirmed in this opinion by the rare and remarkable fact that this locality is everywhere extremely level and devoid of rocks, which gives the cultivators great facilities for opening roads of communication. The only difficulties to be encountered in this township arise from the existence of some marshes here and there but these are trifling compared with those arising from the inequalities of the surface, and I have the hope that at no very distant day a brilliant destiny awaits the valley situated between the river Daaquam and the River St. John.

### TOWNSHIPS OF ROLETTE AND PANET.

These townships, situated in the county of Montmagny, are conterminous, respectively, along their south-east and north-west limits, and occupy the table land at the head waters of the north-west branch of the River St. John, and those of the River du Sud. The first named township is bounded by the township of Montminy, which is traversed by the Taché Road; while the latter township extends south-easterly to the boundary of the Province, the south-western outlines of both townships constituting part of the county line between the counties of Montmagny and Bellechasse, and their north-east outline, the south-west limit of the township of Talon.

A passable road intersects these townships, called "le Chemin des Anglais," which was opened by the British and American surveying parties engaged on the survey of the boundary line, under the treaty of Washington, for the express purpose of transporting by it the provisions purchased in the old parishes on the St. Lawrence, and has been used since for lumbering purposes, and might, with certain improvements, be made available for the use of the first settlers of these townships, until this section of the country becomes more developed through settlement.

The report of Mr. P. L. S. Tétu conveys a favorable idea of the general fitness of the land for cultivation:—

"What first strikes the observer in these townships is the good quality of the land, which is everywhere so prevalent; vast plains extend beyond the limits of sight, interrupted only by rocks here and there, serving as a relief to their immense extent.

"The River Daaquam, which traverses the township Panet through its whole breadth, waters the two most fertile of its ranges. On approaching the frontier, the land becomes of middling quality, owing to the presence of swamps, which, though of no great extent, are pretty numerous; still, when colonization shall have reached this far in the county, means will easily be found to drain them, and make them as productive as the best parts of the township; for as the sub-soil of these swamps is composed of clay, covered with a thick coating of vegetable matter, it will not fail to become extremely fertile as soon as the work of cropping has begun. The labour will be very much facilitated by the streams which flow in all directions and empty themselves some into the river Daaquam, others to the south of the frontier line.

"In general, the soil of these two townships is mixed with sand and gravel, though much clayey land is to be found, and fit for cultivation. Yellow mould also exists, also grey and black loam, but in smaller quantities, although of good quality, and all well adapted for cultivation.

"The timber is generally as fine as may be expected to be found on land of such fertility, and which requires but a little labor to make it cultivable, for the timber is in general rather scarce. The prevailing kinds are maple, balsam, pine, cedar, and birch, all of excellent quality.

"I am firmly convinced that as soon as the sub-division of this township is terminated, settlers will be found to go into it in great numbers. There is already a good shanty road leading to it: it is commonly known by the name of the Englishmen's Road; it is quite good enough for the cartage of provisions during the summer. It traverses a part of Rolette and cuts the province line a little to the east of the north east line of the township of Panet. They made use of it during the time that the shanty season lasted; but since the lumber business ceased in these parts, the road has been but little travelled, and latterly has been altogether disused. A very small outlay would put it in good condition. It would only require to raise the trees which have fallen upon it, and to straighten it a little, though, in general it is straight enough. Very little money would make it one of the finest colonization roads, and one of the most travelled. This part of the county is much like the land of the townships on the west and east, and at least as good.

#### TOWNSHIPS OF GARNEAU, CASGRAIN AND LAFONTAINE.

The two former townships are situated on the south-west and the latter on the north east side of the Elgin Road range, in the county of L'Islet.

The residues of unsurveyed lands in the above named townships were laid out into farm lots for the purpose of extending the field of settlement, in consequence of the rapid disposal of the lands laid out along both sides of the Elgin Road, taken chiefly by the hardy yeomanry from the old settled parishes in the seigniories bordering on the St. Lawrence;

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whilst the opening of the Taché Road, which traverses the townships of Garneau and Lafontaine, and intersects the Elgin Road, will aid materially in developing the settlement of this section of the public lands.

Description of the lands surveyed into farm lots in the township of Garneau :

"The five last ranges of the township of Garneau, now surveyed, give a superficies of twenty-two thousand acres of land, in part well adapted for colonization, offering a surface generally level and covered for the most part with mixed hardwood: it is more rocky than the township of Casgrain."

Description of the lands surveyed in the Township of Casgrain :

"The five last ranges of the Township of Casgrain, which form a superficies of 20,226 acres, are in general less stony than those of the township Garneau; they are partly covered with maple, presenting a soil generally sandy and of good quality. This township is traversed in every direction by important and numerous rivers, on which mills of every kind might easily be constructed.

Description of the lands surveyed in the township of Lafontaine :

"There are found, in different parts of this tract, meadows made by beavers many years ago, which will be of great advantage to the settlers, from the facility the latter will have of procuring hay, which although of a rather inferior quality, will be not less useful in helping them to winter their cattle, during the first years of their occupancy, and until they can mow better hay from their own lots. There are also on some lots maple groves, many of which are already occupied by persons who have made sugar there for the last two or three years; these maple groves will also be of advantage to those holding these lots by enabling them to gain some money by preparing them for market, at a season when it would be impossible for them to do anything in advancing their farm work."

"On looking at these fine lands, which are, so to speak, at the door of our farmers settled in the parishes along the river St. Lawrence, one is surprised that they have not been already for many years settled, while the vigorous youth of our country parts have been leaving from day to day to live among strangers. One of the principal reasons, and one which has certainly delayed their settlement, has been the unfavorable reports made by hunters, for some reason or other, of these lands, saying that they were nothing but barren swamps and rocks, wholly unfit for settlement; reports which were apparently confirmed by a strip of land, a mile or a mile and a-half in width, in rear of the seignories which is precisely such as the hunters have represented the remainder to be; add to this the absence of any road to get to these lands, and, in the last place, the uncertainty of not knowing where the line of separation between this province and the United States would pass, the latter pretending, before it was drawn, that all the lands watered by the streams discharging into the River St. John belonged to them, thus taking away all the township of Dionne, and more than half that of Lafontaine, which are about the finest parts of the tracts in question."

"But now that there is an auspicious beginning of settlement on these lands, we must hope that they will be promptly opened, by enabling an industrious population to secure an honest independence, as well as by eventually preventing our young people from going elsewhere to meet only fraud and deception."

#### TOWNSHIP OF ARMAND.

This township is situate in the county of Temiscouata, and comprises in its frontage all that part of the new line of the Temiscouata Road, constructed under the superintendence of the Department of Public Works, from the rear limit of the township of Whitworth, to the rear boundary of the seignory of Lake Temiscouata and Madawaska.

The line of the Taché Road, as now traced, traverses, diagonally, the western quarter

of this township to its junction with the Temiscouata Road, at the forks of the St. Francis; but a more central, as well as a more favorable line through this township into the township of Demers, and thence north-eastwardly, intersecting that well known tract of country watered by the River Rimouski, called the "Fonds D'Ornes," to its junction with the Kempt road, now being explored by J. B. Lepage, Esq., would open for colonization a much larger field at the head waters of the rivers Ristigouche and St. John. This tract is an extensive table land, occupying a region bounded on the north by the Metis and Rimouski rivers, and is composed chiefly of hardwood ridges.

The present line of the Taohé Road would remain still available for the settlement of the arable lands along it, with the advantage of proximity to the St. Lawrence.

Description of the above mentioned lands by Mr. P. L. S. Doucet :—

"The lands along this road are generally good, though rocky in places, but there are places where there are hardly any rocks. There are very few lands taken here, but from the river of the Little Fork they are almost all taken; these are also of much better quality."

#### TOWNSHIP OF MANN.

The land surveyed into farm lots in this township, in the county of Bonaventure, as returned in the annual statement for the year 1861, lies back of Oak-Point-Range and the adjudicated lands situate on the River du Loup, and east of the tract reserved for the Micmac Indians of Ristigouche. It is bounded towards the east by the Seigniory of Shoolbred and the township of Nouvelle, and on the north by the residue of the township.

The excellent quality of the soil in this township, its fine timber, and the favorable character of the land, cannot fail to induce emigrants, especially the Acadians from Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and conduce to the rapid settlement of this township.

The report of Mr. E. H. Legendre conveys a satisfactory description of the country surveyed, as follows :—

"All the land which I have met in prolonging this line, is so good and so fit for cultivation that it was taken up by degrees while I was surveying it. I was accompanied by a large number of active young men who did not content themselves merely with marking their lots, but who actually cut down the trees and cleared the land while I was working on the line.

"This land is perfectly level and covered with very large birch and maple. It extends I know not how far eastward, for the Little River, at a distance of from 14 to 15 chains to the east of my line, comes from the north, and it is on the east side that this level and good land appeared to me then to extend.

"Having since prolonged the rear line of the east range from River du Loup to the seventh range, I was enabled to ascertain that the land already mentioned extended towards the east. I fell in with it on the north part of the fifth mile and on sixth, beyond which, if I may judge from appearances, I believe it terminates only at the valley formed by the River Escuminac.

"All the land which lies between the Busted Creek and rear line of the range east of the River du Loup is of the best quality, and although it is very elevated, it is nevertheless level and of easy access. Great part of the timber is birch, of an enormous size, and sound in quality.

"The great valley of Busted Creek is wooded with pines which appeared to me for the most part sound. This creek only extends, from what I am informed, to the fourth range, where it takes its rise.

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"I proceeded to the post, between the fourth and fifth ranges, on the range east of River du Loup, and prolonged this line to its junction with the west line of the township of Nouvelle. The soil which I met with along this line is still finer than that of the ranges already passed over, and to give an idea of it, I will say that it may be compared to that of Matapedia.

"The prevailing timber is the same as that lower down, that is to say, birch and maple; and, with the exception of the hill at the point of departure, the land, as far as Harrison Creek, is level. This hill is the last in this range. The east branch of the River du Loup and Busted Creek take their rise in the middle of the fourth range, in a grove of balsams, and beyond this the mountains disappear.

"Access to any of the ranges of these townships is made easier by the shanty roads along the different streams, which extend as far as the River Escuminac, and in one instance, to the head of the above named creeks; nor is there any difference in the roads, the land being the same everywhere.

"The valley of Harrison Creek in this range is wider and more shallow than in the ranges already gone through, and the land in this valley is exceedingly good. The timber is of enormous size; ash trees, for example, are met with as large as pines: the prevailing kinds are elm, ash, and birch. This valley appears to me to become larger towards the interior, and I do not doubt that in the adjacent ranges, it will appear still finer in character not as respects the quality of the soil, for it is impossible to find better, but from its greater extent of level ground. This creek supplies a considerable volume of water, and mills might be put in operation throughout its length.

"The further I advance into the interior the better I find the soil, and I am informed by credible parties, that there is equally good land as far as the River Escuminac in the interior; I judge so not only from the appearance of that which I found between the 6th and 7th ranges when I prolonged the rear line of River du Loup range east, but also from the opportunity which I had of seeing, from the summit of the mountain between the 5th and 4th ranges, into the interior of the township. From this point I remarked that a range of mountains extended from the south-east towards the north-west, at many miles distance, and that the ground sloped gradually from these mountains to the place of observation. From this I am led to believe that these mountains separate the river Escuminac on the north, and leave a very large extent of ground fit for immediate settlement on this side, towards the south-west."

Mr. P. L. S. Duval's Report on the Anse à Gilles Road Survey:

"As to the quality of the land, from the 5th mile to the 9th, along this road, it is but indifferent. As to the upper part, that is to say, that which is prolonged up to the Taché Road, it is well adapted for cultivation; the soil is not stony, and appears to be everywhere very rich. On the rear lines of the 5th and 6th ranges, which I have drawn, is a large and fine maple grove, on which have been established several sugaries. The soil in these two concessions is very rich, without rocks or stones; so that everything is in favor of the settlers. I do not hesitate to say, that it is the finest and largest tract of land which I have as yet passed through. It is in every respect well adapted for settlement.

"I have no doubt that if these lands were once known, they would not fail to be appreciated by a crowd of settlers, who would set about clearing them with zeal and ardor, and would derive from them considerable profit. As soon as the road shall have been opened for a sufficient distance, it is certain that colonization will advance in the township of Paton.

"Means of communication in this territory will be easy of attainment, for there is no considerable hill or inequality. There are, however, some gentle acclivities, which are by no means unpleasant. From the summit of these slight eminences, the eye contemplates with pleasure the vast extent of country which lies around, and which fills us with sentiments of admiration for the Author of so many wonders. The timber, in general, is tall and heavy. There are some cedar groves interspersed with balsams of large size."

Report of Mr. Surveyor Francis Tetu, on the survey of the lands on the Arago Road :

"In those parts of the townships of Lessard and Beaubien, which I have surveyed, there are many tracks of stony soil to be met with, but this will not be an obstacle to the settlement of nearly the whole of these lots, the soil of which is, in general, well adapted for colonization. The prevailing kinds of timber in these two townships are cedar, fir, white birch, alder and balsam : there is little pine of large size in the immediate neighborhood of the road line, but a proof of the existence of timber for building purposes in the township of Lessard is, that in the month of November last a shanty road was established for the cutting of saw-logs which are transported to the Bras d'Apic. All the Arago tract is fit for cultivation ; the kinds of timber found there are balsam, white birch, black birch, and, in still greater quantities, maple. In effect, in the last named township alone the number of sugaries worked during the last winter was more than sixty.

"The Arago road-line is already of great utility as a snow-shoe road for those who are making sugar in these townships."

Report on the exploratory survey for a line of road from Gaspé Basin to Port Daniel, in the district of Gaspé, by Mr. P. L. S. Blaiklock ;

"Although my explanations have failed to attain the object contemplated in my instructions, namely to open up the country for settlement in rear of the surveyed lands in this part of the country, yet a good line for a road could be traced which, passing through the back ranges of the townships of York, Douglas, Mal Bay and Percé, would reach the seaboard near the seigniory of Grand River and would open up an extensive and valuable track of unoccupied Crown land for settlement. This route would shorten the distance to the Bay des Chaleurs by about thirteen miles, and would be from thirty-two to thirty-three miles in length ; it would at the same time avoid the danger and frequent delays caused by crossing the Barachois of Malbay and Douglstown, where, after a heavy storm the sea breaks with great violence over the bars of the mouths of these rivers, and the ice running in the spring causes frequent delays in the transit of the mails and passengers.

"Besides this line, many other shorter branch roads could be opened with advantage, and would greatly facilitate the settlement in this part of the country. For instance a road opened up the River St. John to connect with the village of Douglstown, would open two ranges nearly all across the township of York, of excellent land for settlement, also by continuing the road up the Barachois of Mal Bay and thence along the river, would greatly facilitate the settlement of the fine rich track of land bordering this stream. The York and Dartmouth rivers could likewise be opened up in like manner, in the valleys of both of which rivers considerable tracts of valuable land, well adapted to agriculture, exist. In fact if ever the interior lands are settled, it will be by the progressive settlements of these streams.

"In closing this report I cannot but remark the rapid improvement that has taken place in the agricultural pursuits in this country within the few years I have been observant of it, as well in the increasing quantities both of cereals as well as root crops that are now raised, as also in the improved system of cultivation

"The granting of patents and opening of the Crown Lands for sale, has likewise given an increased impetus to agriculture, inasmuch as the occupants have already, or are about to obtain titles for the property they occupy, and be secured in their possessions, which, for years heretofore they have not been. It will also enable persons wishing to invest capital in landed property in the country to do so with far greater security than heretofore."

Exploratory surveys for a road from La Tuque, on the St. Maurice to Lake St. John, Saguenay, by Mr. P. L. S. Blaiklock :—

"The country lying between the River St. Maurice and the Lake St. John is an elevated, broken and rocky trough, in which numerous of their tributaries take their rise ; the surface is broken up into wave-like mountains, not generally of high elevation, but precipitous, without connection or regularity. There are few regular ranges of hills or extensive vallies, and the whole is clothed with a dense but stunted growth of mixed timber, consisting, chiefly of black and gray spruce, fir and white birch, together with a very few

scattered birch, poplar, tamarack and maple. The soil of this vast region is mostly sand, approaching, in some instances, to a light loam, but of such a stony and rocky character as to afford but slight hopes of its ever being brought under cultivation.

"The country is well watered by small tributary streams, and innumerable small and large lakes, but their vallies are narrow and limited in extent. The fixed rock is all of a granitic formation, and in no instance did I observe any appearance of minerals or stratification.

"There are no extensive groves of pine in this country, but considerable quantities scattered over the hills, bordering the rivers and lakes chiefly upon the waters of the Bostonais and Croche; much of this timber is sound and good, but, as a general rule, they were faulty, from wind shakes and *spunk knots*, and more suitable for saw logs than squared timber. If the information I received can be relied upon, the great pine bearing country of the St. Maurice lies to the west of that river.

"The idea that there existed a large and extensive valley connecting the St. Maurice with Lake St. John was quite a mistaken one; the fact is, it is an elevated water shed with ranges of hills dividing the several streams. These hills, which have a considerable elevation near the main streams, gradually diminish towards the height of land, the country rising gently to the dividing ridge and descending in a similar manner on the opposite side.

"From the foregoing description of the country lying between the River St. Maurice and the settlements of the Upper Saguenay, it cannot but be observed that from the broken and mountainous character of the land, and the arid nature of the soil, but slender hopes can be entertained of its ever being made available for purposes of colonization;—many spots of comparatively good land were met with in my exploration, but so limited in extent and isolated in position, that they could not be made available for settlement. The only prospect for any connected or continuous settlement would be, in my opinion, by the valley of the River Croche, where the alluvial along the banks of that stream offer the only advantage for such a purpose.

"Information has no doubt been furnished to the department upon this subject, by Mr. Arcand, P. L. S., whose special duty it was to explore and report upon this river.

"By an inspection of the accompanying plan, it will be seen that my exploring line followed nearly along the dividing ridge, between the waters of the Croche and the Bastonais, and consequently passed over the most elevated ground in the range; it would therefore offer considerable difficulty to the construction of a road, from the broken nature of the ground in the vicinity; but I should think, by following up the valley of the Croche to near the height of lands, and thence either to descend the valley of the Oûitachouanish, which was explored by Mr. Arcand, but whether reported upon favorably or otherwise I do not know, not having seen his report upon this section of the survey.

"Of the latter route I cannot speak with any degree of accuracy, not having explored that section lying between the head waters of the Croche and the great Oûitachouan lake; but I have every reason to believe it would be found similar in character to that traversed by the line surveyed.

"In reviewing the object of the present exploration, namely, the opening of a road between the settlements on the St. Maurice and those of the Upper Saguenay, I am of opinion that for at least some years to come, it will not be made available."

JOSEPH BOUCHETTE,  
Dep. Sur. Gen.

DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS,  
Quebec, 31st December, 1861.

