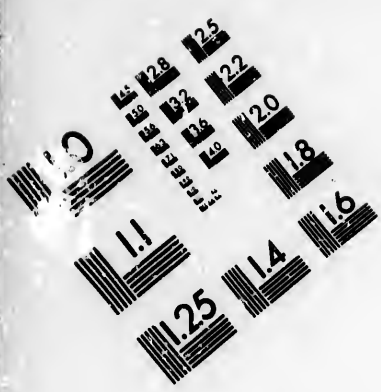

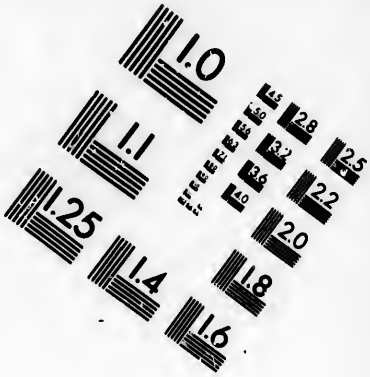

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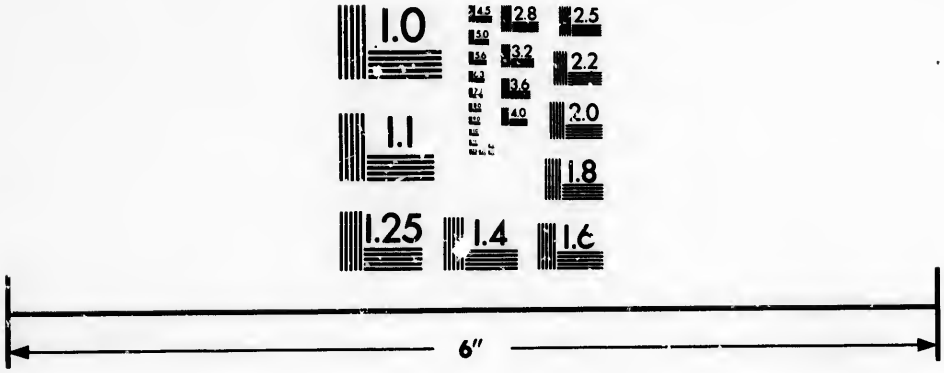

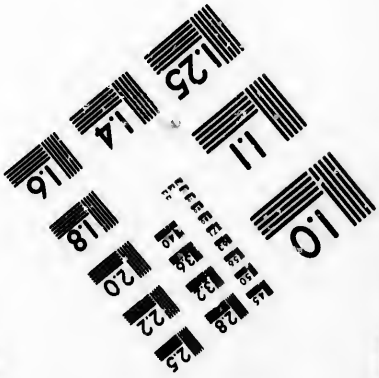

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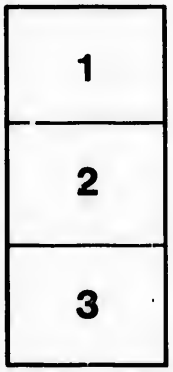

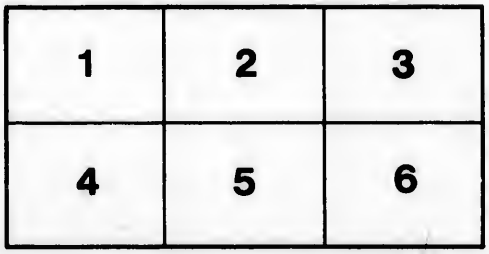

OUTLINE

OF A

PLAN OF EMIGRATION,

TO

UPPER CANADA.

PLAN.

Supposing it were deemed expedient for Government to advance money to parishes, upon the security of the Poor Rates, for the express and sole purpose of facilitating emigration, the Government undertaking all the details of the experiment; the money to be lent at 4 per cent., and to be repaid by annual instalments, or, in other words, by a terminable annuity, calculated at 4 per cent.

Would it be worth while for the parishes to accept such a proposition, supposing that a sufficient period were allowed for the repayment of such terminable annuity?

For example.—A parish is desirous of sending off one hundred labourers; those labourers finding no adequate employment, are anxious to emigrate, feeling that their present existence is a burthen to the parish, and a discomfort to themselves:—the Government agrees to convey them to Upper Canada* for 3,500*l.*, being

* It will at once be perceived, that this system of emigration may be equally applied to any other Colony. Upper Canada has been selected, as being the one, in the opinion of the proposer of this measure, by far the most eligible, whether with reference to the economy of the public expence, or to the probable advantage to the Emigrant, and, consequently, that Colony in which the experiment may be the most advantageously tried.

at the rate of 35*l.* per man, undertaking the whole arrangement, provided that the Parish Rates be charged with an annuity of 225*l.* per annum, for twenty-five years; such annuity for such a period being equivalent to the re-payment, by instalments, of the capital so advanced, with annual interest upon the same, at 4 per cent. As the presumed present cost of maintenance of these hundred labourers by the parish, is calculated at 1000*l.* per annum, or 10*l.* per man, it will at once be perceived, that the measure proposed will lead to *an immediate annual saving* of 775*l.* per annum, or of very nearly four-fifths of the present expense. The same principle is applicable to women, and children at a diminished rate of annuity, it being estimated, that while the charges which must be incurred on account of each man cannot be safely stated at less than 35*l.*, the cost of the removal and maintenance of each woman will amount to about 25*l.*, and of each child under fourteen years of age, to 14*l.*—(*Vide Appendix A.*)

The details of the expense of removing the families of paupers from an English port to the place of location or settlement in Upper Canada, and of keeping them until they shall be in a condition completely to provide for themselves, will be found in Appendix A.

The expense of removing them from the parish to the port, must, of necessity, be without the range of an estimate.

This plan must be accompanied by an Act of Parliament, which should enact, that all persons taking advantage of this facility of emigration. should give up, for themselves and children, present and future, *all* claims upon parochial support.

The success of these proposed Settlers in Upper Canada can be warranted upon grounds of perfect certainty ; as the Tract (*vide Appendix B.)* which was laid before the Agricultural Committee of 1822, will satisfactorily demonstrate to any person who will peruse it with attention. That Tract was drawn up by Colonel Talbot, who has himself resided in the Province of Upper Canada, from its original settlement under the auspices of Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe, with very little interruption, to the present day, and whose authority cannot be questioned, he having been intrusted by the British Government with the settlement of that populous and highly improving extent of territory along the Banks of Lake Erie, now called the " Talbot Settlement," and the concluding paragraph of the Tract subjoined in Appendix B., will shew the extent and character of the success which has attended that experiment.

That a corresponding degree of success will attend the present one, if an opportunity be afforded for it, there can be no reasonable doubts entertained. It will only require judicious measures on the part of the Government, for the general arrangement of the transfer and location of the emigrants; and as far as the principle of estimate can be applied to any public undertaking of this nature, a reference to Appendix A. will demonstrate, that the expense of the necessary measures will be covered by the money proposed to be advanced, and with every consideration for the comfort and interests of the emigrant, which is fairly compatible with his situation as a pauper in his own country, and which country, by the terms of the proposition, he himself must be desirous of leaving. *

The financial part of this proposed measure is of the most simple nature; the issuing of terminable annuities, to be purchased at the market price, according to their respective periods, and the rate per cent.

The Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt may be authorised, for example, (if no more eligible mode can be suggested

* It is not considered necessary to incumber the present statement with remarks upon the means of supplying any deficiency, or the manner of disposing of any surplus of the money calculated to accomplish the object.

similar in effect but more advantageous in principle), under an Act of Parliament, to be passed for this specific measure, to purchase these annuities from the parishes. The parishes, therefore, in theory, at least, may be considered as receiving the money so advanced to them for an annuity, and then paying it over to Government, in consideration of the removal of the paupers on the terms, and subject to the qualifications proposed.—Thus, for example: the parish of A. agrees to pay an annuity of 2*l.* 5*s.* for twenty-five years, in consideration of receiving the sum of 35*l.*, which sum the parish immediately pays into the hands of the Government, who undertake to remove B., a pauper, in the manner proposed.

It is proposed, for the simplification of this measure, that the annuity for which each parish is responsible, should be made payable to the County Treasurer, and recoverable in the same manner as the county rate, consequently the annuity due from all the parishes in each county, would be paid in one collective sum by the County Treasurer into the Exchequer. This plan, of course, would not be in any degree compulsory: the arrangement must be made between the parochial authorities and the paupers, before the parish could be in a situation to avail itself of this assistance. That im-

pediment once removed, nothing would oppose its immediate execution. The removal of the paupers to the port appointed for embarkation would necessarily be, as already observed, without the range of an estimate, and must be governed by local circumstances, occasioning a small addition to the expense. There would be this advantage in the measure, (if the doctrine of those be right, of which there can be no doubt, who contend that the administration of relief to the able-bodied poor was never contemplated by the statute of Elizabeth,) that it would be a justification of those who direct the application of the Parochial Rates, for withholding from individuals rejecting this boon, all assistance that is *not absolutely necessary for preserving their existence.* It has long been universally admitted that this presumed claim of the able-bodied pauper upon parish relief, has been, and is the principal obstacle to the restoration of the Poor Laws to their original standard, inasmuch as the granting such relief has been the greatest aberration from their true character and spirit.

It will at once be evident, that the machinery of this proposed measure would be equally applicable to Ireland and Scotland, provided that *any local funds could be satisfactorily pledged to Government for the payment of the*

proposed annuity. And if it should be considered desirable with reference to the application of this measure to Ireland and Scotland, that the annuity shall be of *longer duration, thereby* diminishing its *annual amount,* such alteration could at once be effected.—Thus for example: if a district should wish to export one hundred labourers, the cost being 3500*l.* if the duration of the annuity be extended for forty-two years, the annuity which that district would be called upon to pay would be 173*l.* 8*s.* On this calculation for the different countries, each man, would be permanently provided for by an annuity of 2*l.* 5*s.* per annum for the term of twenty-five years in England, and 1*l.* 14*s.* 8½*d.* for the term of forty-two years in Ireland and Scotland;—each woman, for 1*l.* 12*s.* in England, and 1*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* in Ireland and Scotland;—each child under fourteen years of age, for 17*s.* 11*d.* in England, and 13*s.* 10½*d.* per annum in Ireland and Scotland; the two latter being governed by the same relative proportions.*

It is not deemed necessary, on this occasion, to enlarge upon the permanent as well as present advantages which would be afforded to the agricultural interests, by the adoption of this

* These fractional divisions might for convenience be reduced to even money.

measure, which cannot be characterized as a temporary expedient, framed upon imperfect data, and at variance with the soundest principles of political economy; neither is it deemed necessary to consider it as a measure of colonial policy, deserving of adoption without reference to the peculiar difficulties which it is intended to alleviate. Such speculations are among the most serious that can occupy the attention, and are not capable of being introduced with advantage into such "a sketch" as is now submitted for consideration.

Appendix A.

	£.	s.	d.
Total expense from an English Port to Quebec - - - - - - -	7	0	0
Total ditto from Quebec to his location	6	15	0
Flour for twelve months, at 1½ lbs. per day	4	0	0
Barrel of pork - - - - - -	2	14	0
Utensils, &c. - - - - - -	3	0	0
A cow - - - - - - -	4	10	0
	27	19	0
Extra expenses - - - - - -	2	1	0
	£30	0	0

The above estimate was laid before the Agricultural Committee in 1822. Other calculations have been made by persons well informed on the subject, which agree very nearly in the result.

In one of these the expense is stated thus :—

A ship of 300 tons will carry 200 grown persons, and water casks and water included, the charge, per head, will be about - - - - - - -	3	0	0
Contracts can be made to supply a sufficiency of provisions of all kinds, necessary for the voyage, at 1s. per day,—reckoning the voyage at 60 days -	3	0	0
The Government would be required to fit up the births, which would cost, for each person - - - - - -	2	0	0
To cover all extra expenses attending the voyage to Quebec - - -	2	0	0
On arrival at Quebec, landing baggage, one day's provision, and embarking in the steam boat for Montreal - -	0	7	6

Passage to Montreal, including provisions	0	12	6
Expenses from Montreal to Lachine -	0	5	0
Passage in boats from Lachine to Kingston, provisions included *(proportionably less to any intermediate place)* -	2	0	0
For each person for one year 1½ barrels of flour - - - - - - -	2	0	0
One barrel of pork - - - - -	2	10	0
Other necessaries - - - - -	2	0	0
A cow - - - - - - -	3	10	0
Farming utensils, &c. - - - - -	5	0	0
	£28	5	0

In this calculation, the quantity of flour allowed is much smaller than in the preceding, in which 1½ lbs. per day is considered to be not more than enough for a male adult, and no allowance is made for the expense of removing the individual from Kingston to the place of settlement; which, with respect to those new townships around Lake Ontario, may be stated at 1*l.* 10s.; and with respect to those back from the shores of Lake Erie, at 3*l.*

The following statement as to the expenses of the voyage, is made by a person of much experience in the Quebec trade :—" The average charge for the con-" veyance of one person from London to Quebec, " including victualling for the voyage, at the usual " allowance for troops, is about 5*l.* per head. The " rate for passage *only*, has varied from 1*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* " for each person; the ships being fitted at the " Government expense, and the passengers victualled " at an extra charge of 1*s.* per day. By the act of " Parliament of 57 Geo. 3. chap. 10. the owners of " ships are required to lay in provisions and water " for twelve weeks passage. The cost of the casks is " very considerable; they are of no value at Quebec, " and cannot be brought home without great expense, " so that they are almost an entire loss. If the voy-" age be short, the surplus provisions sell for barely " their first cost, and there is great loss by waste.— " Upon the average, however, of these calculations, " the expense of victualling is about 3*l.* per head,

"and the passage about 3*l.* per head also; though "probably, at the most favourable season of the "year, taking, in each ship, the number allowed by "Act of Parliament (two adults for three tons, and "three children under fourteen years of age to an "adult) they might be conveyed, and victualled at "5*l.* each, including all expenses whatsoever."

From these various data, it may be safely concluded, that the charges specified in the first estimate for transporting the settler and his family from the port in England, to his lands in Upper Canada, for the purchase of a cow, farming utensils, and provisions for a year would be covered by an advance of 30*l.* for each man, 25*l.* for each woman, and 14*l.* for each child. But besides these enumerated charges, there are other inevitable expenses,—taking it for granted, that the persons to be removed, will be literally *paupers*, having *no* means of their own, and that the emigration is to proceed on a very large scale. In the first place, they ought to have some thing beyond their ordinary clothing to meet the first winter,—this they could not procure for themselves; but it could be purchased in this country for a very small sum. Then they must have some bedding, of however coarse a kind, for their voyage. There must be an agent to receive them at Quebec, supply them with provisions, and make arrangements for their immediate transport up the country; another must be resident at Lachine, near Montreal; another at Kingston; and another must be at hand, to receive them at their place of settlement, to shew them their lands, and to supply them with provisions and utensils. Temporary buildings must also be erected in central situations in the new settlements for the reception of the emigrants on their arrival, and to shelter their families and their baggage until they have erected habitations on their respective lots. The superintendence of these arrangements might, perhaps, be conveniently intrusted to the Commissaries already stationed at the several military posts in both Provinces, who might form depots of provisions for the settlers in the same manner as for the troops

under their charge, and hire waggons and boats for conveying them, by which means a saving would be made of the pay of Superintendants, except at the new settlements where no Commissaries are stationed. If it is thought that this duty could not properly be thrown upon the Commissariat Department, Superintendants must be appointed, whose pay certainly could not be less than ten shillings sterling per day.

It must also be considered that it would not be safe, and certainly not humane, to send a ship full of emigrants upon an Atlantic voyage without any medical attendant. Accidents would happen, and sickness might very probably occur among so many women and children; and in the absence of proper assistance, many cases of great hardship might arise. To provide a surgeon, or physician for each ship would cost about fifty or sixty pounds. After the arrival of these poor people in Upper Canada, about two thousand of them will be settled together in each new township, without any means, for the first year, to pay for such medical assistance as they might require. Accidents frequently occur among the emigrants in felling timber, from their inexperience; and their houses being at first mere temporary sheds, they are exposed to the risque of contracting diseases from the change of climate, during the first season, while they can offer no inducement to any medical man to take up his residence among them. It seems therefore to be almost necessary to provide a physician to each township, (which is a tract of ten miles square) for *one* year at least; perhaps for two. It must also be taken into consideration, that detentions will frequently occur. The father or mother of a family may be taken ill at Quebec, or elsewhere, on their journey, and the whole family may be delayed some days, perhaps weeks, in their progress, during which time they must be fed at the public expense, and this will be in addition to the charge in the estimate, as the intention is to give them provisions for a year *after they are actually located in their lands*, which will indeed be necessary. It is believed, that, with strict economy in the management, these additional

expenses would be covered in a manner that would insure the comfort of the settler, *by an addition of five pounds* to the sum to be advanced for each man, leaving the charge for women and children as before —the estimate would then stand thus:

For every man - - -	£35
Every woman - - -	25
Every child, under fourteen years of age	14

The apparent disproportion between the charge for a man, and those for women and children, arises from the necessity of placing to the account of the former, as the head of the family, all expenses for the family collectively, such as superintendance, medical assistance, purchase of provisions, a cow, farming utensils, &c.

With respect to children, it is necessary to be considered, that those above fourteen are reckoned as adults in the act of parliament, 57 Geo. III. ch. 10, which regulates the number of passengers, in proportion to a ship's tonnage. The expense, therefore, of transporting such children to Quebec, and the subsequent charge for conveying them to their lands, and feeding them, will probably be nothing less than for adults; and, to prevent a deficiency of funds, children of both sexes, above fourteen, and under eighteen years of age, must be estimated for at twenty-five pounds, that being the charge for women, which includes nothing but the supposed expense of transport and provisions for the individual; and boys above eighteen, as they may be considered as men, with respect to the articles to be furnished for them, must be charged as male adults.

Appendix B.

REMARKS

ON THE

PROVINCE OF UPPER CANADA,

By the Founder of the "Talbot Settlement."

Position and Extent of Upper Canada.

The Province of Upper Canada commences at between 73 and 74 degrees of west longitude; its western extremity being at about 84°. Its southern boundary extends from $45^d\ 20^m$ to $41^d\ 40^m$ of north latitude. To the north, it may be said to advance as far as the pole. That portion of its territory, which is now in course of settlement, is computed to be not less than seven hundred miles in length, from east to west, having a mean breadth of one hundred and fifty miles, or thereabouts.

The whole of this extensive tract of land possesses peculiar advantages, in point of situation; the river of St. Lawrence, and lakes Ontario, Erie, and St. Clair, furnishing a continued and easy water communication along its entire southern line. There are several other navigable lakes and rivers, which intersect it in a northern direction, all of which are connected with the St. Lawrence.

Climate, Soil, and Productions.

Climate:—The climate of Upper Canada is considerably milder than that of the lower province, and the winters shorter in the same proportion. In both these respects it improves as you proceed to the westward; so much so, that although the frost generally sets in in November, at the Point au Bodet, on lake St. Francis, its eastern extremity, and continues in that neighbourhood till the middle of April, it rarely

commences on the shores of lake Erie before Christmas, when it usually disappears between the 25th of March and 1st of April. The greatest depth of snow around lake St. Francis is about three feet; which gradually diminishes to 18 inches on the borders of lake Erie. From York, on lake Ontario upwards, neither *black* cattle nor sheep require housing during the winter, and the new settler, with the addition of a small quantity of straw, can keep his stock on the tender branches of the trees, felled by him in clearing his land, until the return of spring. On a comparison with the climate of Great Britain, the heat in the summer months is somewhat greater, but never oppressive, as it is always accompanied by light breezes. There is less rain than in England; but it falls at more regular periods; generally in the spring and autumn. The winter cold, though it exceeds that of the British isles, is the less sensibly felt in consequence of its dryness, and seldom continues intense for more than three days together, owing to the regular fluctuation of the wind between the north-west and south-west points. It may be observed, that the winter season is the most favourable to land carriage, as the roads then admit of sledging in all directions, which is a very expeditious mode of conveyance, and attended with but little draft; so that one horse or ox can in this manner easily draw double what he can upon wheels. It is hardly necessary to state, that, in a country so overspread with timber, there can never be a deficiency of fuel. As the forests disappear the climate improves.

Soil:—Upper Canada is blessed with as productive a soil as any in the world: and it is easily brought into cultivation, as will appear, when the agricultural system there pursued is noticed. The nature of the soil may be invariably discovered by the description of timber it bears. Thus, on what is called hard-timbered land, where the maple, beech, black birch, ash, cherry, lime, elm, oak, black walnut, butter-nut, hickory, plane, and tulip-tree, &c. are found, the soil consists of a deep black loam. Where the fir and hemlock pine are intermixed in any considerable pro-

portion with other trees, clay predominates; but where they grow alone, which is generally on elevated situations, sand prevails. This also happens where the oak and chesnut are the only trees. These sandy soils, though naturally unfavourable to meadow and pasture, are found to produce the brightest and heaviest wheats, and can with the assistance of gypsum, which abounds in many parts of the province, be made to bear the finest possible crops of clover and Indian corn. In moist seasons, the clays furnish the greatest burthen of grass. Perhaps, there does not exist in any quarter of the globe a country, of the extent of Upper Canada, containing so small a quantity of waste land, either of marsh or mountain; yet there is not any deficiency of water; for independently of the numerous rivers and streams, which flow through the country on every side, good springs are universally found, either on the surface or by digging for them.

Natural Productions:—The forests abound in excellent timber, adapted to all uses, and furnish a considerable supply both to the West Indian and British markets. That which is chiefly exported, consists of the oak and fir. The timber most esteemed in Upper Canada for building and farming purposes, is the white oak (very similar to the English) the yellow pine, a sort of deal which cuts up into excellent boards, as does also the tulip-tree, which there grows to an immense size. This latter timber is by many considered the best for weather-boarding, from its superior facility in taking paint; and, being of the poplar tribe, it is less liable than most other woods to accidents from fire, as it never blazes. The oak and hickory are principally used for ploughs, cartwheels, &c.

The black walnut, cherry, and curled maple, work up into durable and beautiful furniture of all sorts. From the maple, the settlers, by a very simple and easy process of tapping, obtain in a few days a sufficient quantity of sugar to supply their families for a year; many indeed manufacture a considerable surplus for sale.

The bark of the oak, hemlock and black birch, is

employed in tanning; but that of the first is preferred for this purpose. Butter-nut bark affords a durable brown dye for woollen, cotton and linen yarn. Soap may be made, in any quantities, from the wood-ashes, with the addition of a certain proportion of tallow, or grease of any kind. Plumbs, cherries, crab apple, (which latter yield an excellent preserve) gooseberries, currants, strawberries, raspberries, grapes, cranberries, walnuts, chesnuts and filberts, grow wild in the woods; where game is sufficiently abundant, consisting of red deer, hares, pheasants, woodcocks, snipes and quails, with many other birds good for the table; in which enumeration should not be omitted the wild pigeon, which at certain periods of the year migrate from the westward in flocks of such magnitude, as surpasses all description, and are excellent eating.

In the Talbot settlement, wild turkeys are met with in great numbers, often from fifty to one hundred in a troop. The borders of the lakes and rivers also contribute their quota of the feathered race; such as swans, geese of different kinds, together with the many varieties of duck, teal and widgeon, most of which have a delicious flavour. The waters themselves swarm with excellent fish of various sorts, many of which are unknown in Europe. In proportion as the country is explored, salt springs are discovered, which when properly worked, it is expected will yield an adequate supply of salt to the province. There are also mineral springs, some of which have great efficacy in removing rheumatic and scorbutic disorders. Of limestone and clay for making bricks, there is no want. Iron works are likewise established in several situations, and from the quantity of ore found, they promise to be exceedingly productive.

Grain, &c.

The grain grown in Upper Canada, consists of spring and winter wheat, oats, barley, rye, buck wheat, and Indian corn; the last of which is a most important article of consumption. Peas are the only field pulse cultivated there, the summer heats being considered too great for beans. Of green crops there are

potatoes, turnips, pumpkins, clover, (red and white, and timothy grass. Both flax and hemp succeed re) markably well; and the latter will probably, at no very distant day, become an object of the greatest importance, both to the colony and the mother country. Even at present, a very considerable saving to government might be obtained in encouraging the growth of this article in Upper Canada, where it could be manufactured into cables and cordage for the naval establishments on the lakes, at half the expense it now costs, owing to the distance of transport.

Fruit and Vegetables.

All the fruit and herbs common to the English kitchen garden, thrive well in this province; and several of the former which cannot in all seasons be had in perfection without forcing, in England, succeed there in the open air; such as peaches, nectarines, apricots, grapes and melons; all of which are excellent in their kinds. There is also a great variety of apples, pears, plumbs and cherries, of the finest quality, which are unknown to European orchards. The stone fruit is all raised on standards.

Agriculture:—Course of crops. The soil being of such a nature, as not to need manure, the same attention is not there paid to the regular succession of crops, as in Great Britain. After wheat, which is generally harvested in the month of July and beginning of August, rye can be sown on the same ground in the autumn to advantage. The rye crop is frequently laid down with clover or grass seed, which, unless the farmer is pressed for ground, will continus to furnish good meadow and pasture for four or five years; otherwise it is ploughed up before winter, and in the spring, put into pease, spring wheat, Indian corn, barley, oats, or buck wheat; all of which answer very well, the two first rather benefitting than impoverishing the land. The leaves and tops of the Indian corn likewise afford excellent winter food for cattle, particularly milch cows; after any of these latter crops, wheat may be sown again. Potatoes and turnips succeed well upon newly-cleared land, as a first crop; potatoes

being put into the ground with a hand hoe, from the beginning of May till the middle of June. Turnips are sown about the first week in August, after the greatest heat has subsided, and at which time the fly has disappeared, simply requiring the harrow. It is to be understood, that the new land is never ploughed for the first and second crops. Timothy is the grass most cultivated, as it affords a large burthen of the best hay, besides good after-grass; however, it is best mixed with clover, to which it serves as a support and prevents matting.

Duties of a New Settler.—On application made to the superintendant of the land-granting department of the district in which he proposes to settle, he will obtain a ticket of location, for a certain quantity of land. Furnished with this, his first care ought to be, to select a proper situation for his house. This should be placed as near as may be to the public road on which his lot abuts, and contiguous, if possible, to a spring or run of water. Having chosen his spot, he then sets about clearing a sufficient space to erect his house on, taking care to cut down all the large trees within the distance of at least one hundred feet. The dimensions of the house are generally 20 feet by 18; and the timber used in constructing the walls, consisting of the rough stems of trees cut into those lengths, is not to exceed two feet in diameter. The height of the roof is commonly about 13 feet, which affords a ground room, and one over head. The house is roofed in with shingles, (a sort of wooden tiles) split out of the oak, chesnut, or pine timber. A door, windows, and an aperture for the chimney at one end, are next cut out of the walls, the spaces between the logs being filled up with split wood, and afterwards plastered, both inside and out, with clay or mortar, which renders it perfectly warm. When once the necessary space for the house is cleared, and the logs for the walls collected on the spot, the expense and labour of the settler in erecting his habitation, is a mere trifle, it being an established custom, among the neighbouring settlers, to give their assistance in the raising of it; and the whole is performed in a few hours.

The settler, having now a house over his head, commences the clearing of a sufficient quantity of land, to raise the annual supply of provisions required for his family.

The following is the method in which land is cleared:—The brushwood is first cut down close to the ground, and piled in heaps, as it is cut; next come the saplins, or young trees, to the size of six inches in diameter; these are cut into short lengths, and laid on the brushwood. Such timber as may have fallen, by age or accident, on the space to be cleared, is then sought out; the stems of which are chopped into lengths of 11 feet, and the lops and tops piled with the brushwood, &c. These operations performed, he may set about cutting down the large trees. They are chopped at about two feet and a half from the root; and the stem of each tree is cut up into lengths of eleven feet The limbs and tops are cut into short lengths, and packed on the brushwood heaps. When the whole of the large trees, on the ground to be cleared, are disposed of in the manner just described, the brushwood heaps, as soon as sufficiently dry for the purpose of burning (which, in the summer months, is the case in a fortnight,) are set fire to During the process of burning, the heaps must be attended to, and the ends occasionally pushed in, in order that the whole may be consumed. After this has taken place, the ground is ready for what is called *Logging*. This is performed by a yoke of oxen, with chains to fasten round the ends of the stems, (reserving such as will split into rails), which are drawn together, and piled up in different heaps. Three or four men are generally required to attend this work. These last heaps may be immediately set fire to, if the weather be dry, and likewise require to be watched by a man, who is to push in the logs, as the centre becomes hollow. After all is consumed, excepting the lengths intended for rails, the ashes are either spread out on the land, or collected for the makers of potash, who give about four-pence per bushel for them. If the cleared ground is sufficiently near to a potash work for transport, the price given for them there, nearly cover the expense

of clearing. The land is now prepared for fencing and sowing. For the latter object, the ground is merely gone over in cross directions, with a triangular harrow This form is adopted, that it may pass through the stumps which still remain in the ground. potatoes and Indian corn are put in with a hand hoe; amongst the latter, pumpkin seed may be sown, without injury to the corn. The properest season for sowing wheat, is generally from the end of August to the middle of September; but on these newly cleared lands, that do not require ploughing, it can be sown at any time before the frost sets in, although it cannot reasonably be expected that late sown wheat should produce so abundant a crop, as that which is put into the ground early. The quantity of seed used is one bushel only per acre, and the usual return is from 25 to 40 bushels; whereas, in England, the farmer sows three bushels to the acre, and the yield does not exceed 30 bushels. The other grains are sown in the following proportions: A peck of Indian corn will plant one acre, yielding from 40 to 100 bushels; pease require 2½ bushels to the acre; oats two bushels, barley three, rye one, and buck-wheat half a bushel. A settler arriving in June, if industrious, can, with ease prepare five acres for wheat, to be sown the same autumn; after which he may employ himself in clearing fresh ground for his spring crops; and at the end of the first 14 months, he will find himself amply supplied with bread and vegetables. These, with the addition of a cow and a pig or two, will be all that is necessary for his sustenance. His cow and hogs will find their living in the woods during the greatest part of the year, and only need a trifling support in winter. There are distilleries generally established throughout the country, where the settler can obtain spirits in exchange for his grain, on very moderate terms. Brewing also might be carried on, at little or no expense, as the soil and climate produce hops of the best quality. Grist and saw mills are also sufficiently numerous in all parts of the province. Whenever the settler can afford to lay down in grass, a sufficient quantity of land for the keep of

a few sheep, he can from the wool, with the aid of a small patch of flax, manufacture whatever clothing his family may want. It may be as well to remark in this place, that the use of the axe generally appears at first somewhat awkward to the emigrant from Europe, but practice will soon reconcile him to it. Such persons, however, as prefer hiring American choppers, and possess the means of so doing, can easily find contractors for the work. The usual charge for chopping, burning, fencing and bringing the land into a proper state to receive the seed, is at the rate of about £4. 10*s*. per acre, the workmen finding their own provisions. An expert chopper will clear, ready for burning, an acre of heavy timbered land, in eight or ten days.

From the foregoing short observations, a tolerable idea may be formed of the advantages to be derived by a poor family emigrating to Upper Canada, the very first year assuring its members abundant means of living well, and each succeeding one enlarging its scale of comforts. The settler, in the first place, obtains from the Crown a grant, in perpetuity, of from fifty to acres, according to the size of his family, and his means of improvement. His labour, therefore, is wholly expended upon his own property.

A large family of children, instead of proving a burthen upon him, contribute greatly to his assistance, as useful employment is constantly to be found, even for small children, in a new settlement. Public schools are universally established throughout the province, upon a liberal foundation.

To afford some idea of the rapidity with which a new settlement will advance, under proper management, it is only necessary to state, that the writer of this Tract, having been entrusted by His Majesty's government with the location and general superintendance of those extensive districts, on the shores of lake Erie, which at present bear the name of *The Talbot Settlement*, has, by his exertions, in opening roads at convenient distances, aided by the peculiar advantages to the soil and climate, collected around him a population

of twelve thousand souls at the least, in the short space of ten years. The generality of these settlers, on their arrival in the province, were persons of the very poorest description; whereas they may be now said to form as independent, as contented, and as happy a body of yeomanry, as any in the world.

This, too, has been accomplished in a situation, which little more than ten years ago, appeared an impenetrable wilderness, and was above one hundred miles removed from all human intercourse.

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OBSERVATIONS

UPON THE

OUTLINE OF A PLAN OF EMIGRATION

TO

UPPER CANADA.

1822

OBSERVATIONS.

THESE Observations are only intended for those persons who have read "The Outline of a Plan of Emigration to Upper Canada," together with the Appendix, marked A. and B. where the most minute circumstances are detailed, in which the Agricultural Emigrant will find himself placed upon his arrival, and the natural facilities, or rather securities, are fully explained, which Upper Canada offers for the perfect success of the experiment.

It is considered as unquestionable, *although this measure is not in the slightest degree compulsory*, that the poor man who offers his strength and energy as a labourer, but who finding no demand, or at least no adequate demand for his services, is compelled to receive "Parish Relief" for the preservation of his own existence and of that of his family, will accept this opportunity of bettering his condition, by laying the foundation for future independence, with eagerness and gratitude, when sufficient time has elapsed, and proper pains been taken to make him understand the true nature and

character of the change that is proposed for him.

It is equally considered as certain, that Parishes will anxiously accept this facility (as far as their own concurrence is required), of relieving themselves at a very slight annual expense, of any present, and pressing redundancy of population, and also of securing for the future, the effectual prevention supplied by this measure, for any accumulation of labourers whose services they may be incapable of remunerating.

It is at once evident, that this system of emigration could be made immediately applicable to Ireland and Scotland, provided that money was raised there, for the purpose, by local assessment, or that a specific tax was pledged for money lent for that purpose by the Government.

Although the periods of twenty-five and forty-two years, have been taken for the duration of the annuities in England and Scotland respectively, of course, the only effect of curtailing the period, will be to increase the quantum of the annuity, but as the object was to relieve present distress, it was considered that the longer periods would be the most desirable.

It has not been considered necessary in the "Outline," to enter into many details, which, however, have been duly considered, and are all prepared for exposition. It is proposed that one hundred acres should be allotted to each father of a family, and perhaps smaller proportions to single men—that certain restrictions should be imposed with respect both to cultivation and alienation; that after the termination of a definitive period, perhaps five years, the proprietor should pay a certain annual Quit-Rent, of very small amount, out of which should, in the first instance, be defrayed the expense of the patent, which would not exceed £2. upon a grant of one hundred acres; the remaining Quit-Rent might be appropriated to the purpose of local improvements, such as roads, &c. and a provision be added, for an optional redemption of the Quit-Rent on the payment of a moderate sum.

Although the agricultural population will be more immediately benefited by this measure, yet in the case of a redundancy of manufacturing population, it will be found perfectly applicable; for it must be remembered, that the casual emigration to Upper Canada, which as far as it has gone, has succeeded so well, has been principally supplied by the manufacturing

population, which class, upon general reasoning, must be deemed the least suited for the experiment.

Although it may be argued that there can be no *actual* redundancy of population as long as the waste lands in the mother country remain uncultivated, yet no person conversant with such subjects, can contend that such redundancy does not now, virtually at least, exist—in other words, that there are not many strong labouring men for whose services there is no adequate demand, and who cannot be employed upon any productive labour that will pay the expenses of production; and as in all civilized countries population must be dependent upon property, it is absurd to theorize upon erroneous "data," which do not admit that unquestionable proposition. And if any persons should feel alarm, that under the operation of such a measure, too great a proportion of the agricultural population might be abstracted, they may be assured that at this moment, many economical processes in husbandry which would save human labour, and much agricultural machinery which is kept in abeyance, would be immediately applied to the manifest improvement of the condition of the agriculturist and of the wealth of the country; provided that a

danger no longer existed, *which now exists* with full preventive force, viz. that of throwing out of employ a still greater number of the agricultural population.

It is scarcely necessary to observe, that this measure can be suspended or limited at any time, but in point of fact, it has that suspensive power within itself, for whenever there should exist at home an adequate demand for the services of able-bodied men out of employ, whether from the increase of *productive* industry, or from the demands of war, or from any other cause, there would be no longer a temptation to emigrate.

It is also to be observed, that with such a system in regular and effective operation, no inconvenience could ever again result to this country from a temporary stimulus being given at any time to the population, which could not permanently be sustained. To use the metaphor so commonly employed, it would be a safety-valve, by which the inconvenient excess of population could always be carried off imperceptibly; and it must not be forgotten in a comprehensive view of such a system, that the pauper, for whose labour no remuneration can be afforded at home, will be transmuted by

this process into an independent proprietor, and at no distant period will become a consumer of the manufactured articles of his native country. Nor on the other hand, can any calculable period be assigned for the termination of such a system, until all the colonies of the British Empire are saturated, and *hundreds of millions* added to those who speak the English language, and carry with them the liberty and the laws, and the sympathies of their native country.

For example, it is calculated that three hundred thousand heads of families, which averaging three to each family, might be estimated at nine hundred thousand individuals, could be absorbed by *Upper Canada alone*—to this must be added, Lower Canada, who, from her local position, will naturally intercept and share this stream of emigration with her sister province: also the Cape, Ceylon, and the unexplored and and inappreciable extent of land in New South Wales; and such considerations will justify the position already advanced, that no calculable period can be assigned to the experiment.

Such a system, would direct the tide of emigration towards parts of the British Empire, which must be considered as integral, though

separated by geographical position. The defence of these colonial possessions would be more easily supplied within themselves, and their increasing prosperity would not only relieve the mother country from pecuniary demands that are now indispensable, but that prosperity, in its re-action, would augment the wealth and the resources of the mother country itself.

These observations are, therefore, respectfully pressed upon the attention of those who have the means to give effect to this measure, which *is not one of compulsion* in any part of its arrangement; but which is considered to be founded upon sound and incontrovertible principles, and to combine the advantages of some alleviation of present evils with the permanent benefit of the Empire at large.

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