SEVENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTORS

OF THE

ELGIN ASSOCIATION.

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, HELD ON THE THIRD DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1856.

TORONTO:
PRINTED AT THE GLOBE BOOK AND JOB OFFICE.

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OFFICERS

ELECTED FOR THE YEAR COMMENCING 3rd SEPT., 1855.

PRESIDENT.

JOHN FISHER, ESQ.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

REV. MICHAEL WILLIS, D. D.
" ROBERT BURNS, D.D.

TREASURER.

JAMES SCOTT HOWARD, ESQ.

SECRETARY.

NATHAN GATCHELL, ESQ.

DIRECTORS

REV. WILLIAM KING.
" WILLIAM REID.
" WILLIAM ORMISTON.
MESSRS. CHARLES BERCZY.
" PETER BROWN.
" A. T. McCORD.
" PETER FREELAND.
" JOHN LAIDLAW.
" JAMES SHAW.
" THOMAS HENNING.
" JOHN THOM.
" P. L. BOX.

MESSRS. R. H. BRETT.
" WM. R. ABBOTT.
" JAMES OSBORNE.
" WILLIAM MILLER.
" CHARLES ALLEN.
" JOHN BIRRELL.
" A. D. FERRIER.
" ALEX. KNAPP.
" ARCH. McKELLAR.
" E. C. CAMPBELL.
" J. B. OSBORNE.
" A. B. JONES.

H. BRETT.
I. R. ABBOTT.
MES OSBORNE.
LLIAM MILLER.
ARLES ALLEN.
HN BIRRELL.
D. FERRIER.
EX. KNAPP.
CH. McKELLAR.
C. CAMPBELL.
B. OSBORNE.
B. JONES.

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

THE Directors of the Elgin Association, in presenting the Seventh Annual Report to the Stockholders, would return thanks to God for the measure of success which has attended their efforts. The object for which the Association was organized, namely, the social and moral improvement of the colored people in Canada, has, as far as they have availed themselves of the privilege of settling on the Company's lands at Buxton, been fully realized. It is now a little more than six years since the land was secured from Government, and the settlement formed. During that time they have met with many disappointments, such as bad roads, bad crops, and pecuniary embarrasments—for they had no means but what they could raise from their own farms. But the statistical part of the report will show that there has been a gradual and gratifying progress, in clearing, building, and cropping.

The quatnity of land cleared and under fence, is 1025 acres, besides apout 200 acres chopped down, and ready for burning, which they expect to have cleared and put in crop next spring.

Of the land cleared and under fence, 354 acres were planted with corn; 200, sown with wheat; 70, with oats; 80, with potatoes; and 220, with other crops, such as beans,

peas, turnips and grass. Samples of these have been sent to the annual meeting for the inspection of the Stockholders. The wheat is good, and the corn, if safely harvested, will be more than an average crop. There has been in all these crops, when compared with last year, a gradual increase.

The quantity of stock is about the same as last year. It has been found not very profitable to raise much until they have more land opened. There are in the settlement 200 cows, and 80 oxen, 300 hogs and 52 horses. The sheep have been found not profitable to keep on new land, and they have not increased any since last year. The number of model houses has increased, and several have been put up above the model. Now that the saw mill supplies settlers with plenty of lumber, a few of them are preparing to build frame houses.

The Local Committee, from whose report these statistics were collected, state that on examining the whole settlement in the month of August last, the best improvements were on the ninth concession. Some of the gardens were tastefully laid out, and were filled with vegetables, fruit, and flowers—the houses clean and whitewashed—and many of them had trained the vine and honeysuckle on the rustic pillars that supported the piazza in front. The tenth and eleventh concessions were the next in point of improvement; and the thirteenth concession was the worst improved in the settlement. This concession was considered lower and wetter than any of the rest. It was the last settled, and of course, the settlers had less time to make improvements. On taking the levels last year, for the purpose of opening the centre road through the 19th and 14th concessions, they were found to be twenty feet higher than the eighth. The land gradually slopes from the shores of Lake Erie to those of Lake St. Clair, at

about one inch to the chain. Along Lake Erie the bank is from 70 to 100 feet high; composed of gravel and sand, from this a number of springs flow into the Lake, and from that ridge north a number of winter streams flow into Lake St. Clair. These streams head in the 14th and 15th concession; and, till late in spring, the land on the concessions is wet, so that when much rain falls, the crops cannot be planted in proper season. To remedy this a single ditch cut about eight feet wide and three deep from the 13th concession to the middle, made along the east side of the centre road, would render the land in those concessions dry, besides forming an excellent road for the settlers to go out to the middle street. Indeed it has become necessary from the amount of travel on the centre road, to have it ditched the whole way, that the settlers might get out and in to their farms at all seasons. The soil is soft and porous, inclining to clay; so that when rain falls in abundance, without any proper channel to carry it off, the road is almost impassable.

The plan recommended by the Local Committee, two years ago, to get a plank road through the settlement, might perhaps now be accomplished on more favourable terms. They offered to the Great Western Railroad Company a certain quantity of cordwood, at a price sufficiently low to justify them in making a good road through the settlement to haul it out. The Directors of the Great Western Company received the proposition favourably; but did not wish at that time to advance the sum necessary to construct the road, especially as they had several large contracts for wood, that would supply them for several years. The same proposition might be obtained from the Great Southern Railway, which is supposed to run very near if not through Buxton. There are upwards of 100,000 cords of excellent wood, that could be delivered by the settlers on the

centre road, at a price that would justify the company to make a good road to haul it to the depot. Such a contract would enable the settlers to remain at home, and pay them for clearing their own lands besides furnishing them with an excellent road at all seasons of the year.

During the past year a number of the settlers have not paid up their annual instalments; still there is good reason to believe that they will meet all their liabilities in proper time. Two causes can be assigned for this; one is, that recent settlers were under the necessity of using all they could make to support their families, and a number who have been on the lands for several years are endeavouring to make preparations to take out their deeds, before the time given by the Association expires; hence a number have taken out their deeds already, although they have still five years of unexpired time. During the last year, although the number who paid annual instalments was less, the number who applied for deeds was greater than on any former year.

In our last report we mentioned that at the village of Buxton a good steam saw and grist mill had been erected for the benefit of the settlement, a two-story brick hotel a store, a brick yard, and a pearl ash factory, besides these several private dwellings have been erected by families who have come in to get the benefit of the schools; a two-story frame building has been put up this year for a female boarding house; a carpenter and joiners shop and a boot and shoe store. There are two schools—a male and female—the female school was established last year for the purpose of teaching the girls plain sewing, and those who might wish it, the higher branches of a female education. The number enrolled in both schools during the past year has been 130, and the average attendance, 58. Besides the day school there is a good Sabbath school

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attendance, 58.
Sabbath school

kept up during the whole year—the number on the roll is 112; and the average attendance, 52. The Sabbath, through the whole settlement, is observed as a day of rest, most of the settlers attend some place of worship. Drunkeness is unknown—nothing that intoxicates is made or sold in the settlement.

The following is the financial statement of the affairs of the Association :—

The present liabilities of the Association amount to £3033, 3s. 11d.; that is, to Government for land and interest. £2266, 7s. Stockholders for instalments paid and interest, £766, 16s. 11d. The Assets amount to £3665, 1s. 4d; that is, for land sold and interest thereon; £3629, 0s. 5d. Cash in Treasurers hands, £45, 0s. 11d. Leaving a balance of Assets, to meet the current or ordinary expenses of the Association, of £631, 17s. 5d.

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ELGIN ASSOCIATION.

ABSTRACT OF TREASURER'S ACCOUNT,

From Commencement to 31st July, 1856.

RECEIPTS.

Stockholders—Instalments on Shares,	£ 539	16	0
Purchasers of Land in Payment,	1333	13	0
Interest on do.	92	10	9
Transfer Fees,	3	3	9
	£1969	3	6

PAYMENTS.

Crown Land Department for Land and Interest,	£1524	14	8
Contingent Expenses, viz—Printing, Advertising, Stationery, Blank Deeds, Premiums to Settlers, &c.,	213	7	11
Survey and Division of Land	13	10	0
Secretary's Salary,	172	10	0
Balance in Treasurer's hands	45	011	
	£1969	3	6

N. GATCHELL, Sec., E. A.

Correct.

JOHN L. EBBELS,
SAMUEL SPREULL, } Auditors.

Toronto, 28th August, 1856.

ABSTRACT STATEMENT

OF THE

Affairs of the Elgin Association,

From the Commencement to the 31st July, 1856.

DR.

To Cash in Treasurer's hands,.....						£45	0	11
TO SUNDRY PURCHASES OF LAND.								
For Amounts purchased to 1854.....				£3968	15	0		
" " in 1856,.....				218	15	0		
				4187	10	0		
Less Amounts received to 1855,..	£1217	5	2					
" " in 1856,.....	129	2	1					
				1346	7	3		
							2841	2	9
To Profit and Loss, Expenses, to 31st July 1855,..				£405	18	7		
" " " " 1856,..				54	0	0		
" " Balance Interest, " 1856,..				0	7	2		
							460	5	9
							£3346	9	5

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By Stockholders for amount of Instalments paid, as per Schedule A, to 1854, ...							£551	0	0
By Crown Land Department for Cost of Land purchased,.....				£2946	0	0		
Less Amounts paid, as per Vouchers, to the 31st July, 1855,.....	£1293	10	7					
" " " 1856,.....	30	0	0					
				1323	10	7		
							1622	9	5
By Real Estate Account per Contra,.....				£4187	10	0		
Less Cost of Land as above,.....	£2946	0	0					
" " Survey,.....	68	10	0					
				3014	10	0		
							1173	0	0
							£3346	9	5

N. GATCHELL, SEC'Y. E. A.

Correct.

JOHN L. EBBELS, } AUDITORS.
SAMUEL SPREULL }

TORONTO, 31st August 1856.

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1856.

....		£45 0 11
15 0		
15 0		
0 0		
7 3		
	2841 2 9	
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	460 5 9	
	£3346 9 5	
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0 0		
0 7		
	1622 9 5	
0 0		
0 0		
	1173 0 0	
	£3346 9 5	

L, Sec'y. E. A.

CASH ACCOUNT.

1856.	Dr.			
July 31.—To Balance in Treasurer's hands last year,		0	6	0
" Ins alments on Land, received this year,		129	2	1
" Interest received this year,		11	15	3
		£141	3	4

1856.	Cr.			
July 31.—By paid on Account of Lands purchased from Government,		£30	0	0
By " Interest to do.		12	2	5
" Expense Account this year,		24	0	0
" Secretary's Salary,		30	0	0
" Balance in Treasurer's hands,		45	0	11
		£141	3	4

Correct. J. S. HOWARD, Treasurer, E. A.

JOHN L. EBBELS, } Auditors.
SAMUEL SPRUELL, }

Toronto, 28th August, 1856.

STATEMENT

OF

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

OF THE

ELGIN ASSOCIATION,

July, 1856.

Amount of Balances due by Purchasers of Land to date,.....				£3620 0 5
Amount due on first purchase of Land to the Government,.....		£803 9 5		
7 years and 9 months Interest on the same,.....		337 12 4		
		1177 1 9		
Amount due on 2nd purchase of Land to the Government,.....	£819 0 0			
5 years and 6 months Interest on the same,.....	270 5 3			
		2265 7 0		
Amount due Stockholders,.....	£551 0 0			
Interest on same to date,.....	215 16 11			
		717 16 11		
				3033 3 11
				£586 16 6
Cash in Treasurer's hands this date,.....				45 0 11
				£631 17 5
Amount paid Commissioner of Crown Lands the last year, including interest, was.....				42 2 5

N. GATCHELL, Sec'y E. A.

ITIES

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e,.....	£3620 0 5	
3 9 5		
7 12 4		
7 1 9		
5 7 0		
7 16 11		
	3033 3 11	
	£586 16 6	
.....	45 0 11	
	£631 17 5	
year, in-		
.....	42 2 5	

ELL, Sec'y E. A.