

“ Richard Coughtrie, yeoman of Valcartier, in the seigniorship of St. Gabriel, appeared before the Committee\* :—

“ Q. When was the settlement of Valcartier commenced ?

“ A. In the month of August, 1816.

“ Q. What distance were the first clearings of Valcartier from the last Canadian settlement ?

“ A. Six miles.

“ Q. What was the state of the roads previous to the commencement of that settlement, between the last Canadian settlements and this new establishment ?

“ A. There was no road passable for a cart, or even for a single horse, these six miles, during the summer season, by reason of the morasses and small streams which intersected this road ; these being frozen in the winter, the Canadian settlers were enabled to go a distance of a league and a half this road, which they did for the purpose of getting wood.

“ Q. What extent of road was made by the grantees of this tract ?

“ A. Two-thirds of a league.

“ Q. Did you at any time, and when, make a statistical table of this settlement ?

“ A. Yes, I assisted in the making out one in the autumn of 1820, and at the request of the grantees I made out another in the month of January, 1821, both of which I have in my possession.

“ Mr. Coughtrie then produced to the Committee the said statistical statements, which are as followeth :—

A Political and Historical Account of Lower Canada: With Remarks on the ...  
By Pierre de Sales La Terrière

\* See First Report of the Committee of the House of Assembly, page 31.

**STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE SETTLEMENT OF  
VALCARTIER.**

Names of Householders.	Houses.	Children.	Male.	Female.	Servants.	Males.	Females.	Horses.	Oxen.	Cows.	Hogs.	Lands cleared and clearing.
<b>1st CONCESSION.</b>												
Richard Newman,												6
Wm. O'Hara,												6
Barnard O'Hara,												6
Patrick O'Hara,												4
Wm. M'Quillan,												8
John Carney,												7
Lieutenant Harvey,												16
James Carle,												6
— Goff,	2	5	3	2							1	6
— Watt,	2	7	2	5	1	1						10
	4	12	5	7	1	1					1	75
<b>2nd CONCESSION.</b>												
James Ireland,	2	3	1	2				1		1	2	12
— Ord,	1											4
David Johnson,	1											4
James Johnson,	1											3
	5	3	1	2				1		1	2	23
<b>3rd CONCESSION.</b>												
Francis Barnard,	2											1
— Clement,	2											1
Edward Hunt,	2											1
John Johnson,	1											1
Pierre Renaud,	2	4	2	2							1	1
W. & B. O'Hara,	5	3	1	2	2	1	1	2	4	8	6	80
Wm. Brown,	1	7	3	4				1	4	3	2	62
M. Campbell,	2	4	3	1	2	2		2	1	3	5	50
J. O'Hara, } Occupied by 4 Emigrant Families.	7	4		4								40
A. Buchanan,												10
Henry Patten,	3	3	2	1	2	2		1		4	3	30
John Mather,	2	3		3						2	1	20
Andrew Kerr,	2	2		2								1
Robert Goodfellow,	3											1
Mr. Neilson, River side,	1							1	2	7	2	35
Wm. White,	2				2	2		1	2	4	5	20
Wm. White,												4
Joseph Pierce,												4
John O'Hara,												4
Peter Dawsey,												4
	37	30	11	19	8	7	1	8	13	31	26	370

Names of Householders.	Houses.	Children.	Male.	Female.	Servants.	Males.	Females.	Horses.	Oxen.	Cows.	Hogs.	Lands cleared and clearing.
<b>4th CONCESSION.</b>												
Paschal Mercier,	2	2	1	1						1	1	5
Mr. Pozer's Man,	2	6	4	2				2	2	1	6	50
— Heney,	2	5	2	3	1	1		1	4	3	4	36
Wm. Corrigan,	1											9
John O'Neil,	2	3	1	2	3	3		1	4	6	4	30
Wm. Brown,												24
Richard Ward,	2	3	1	2	1	1		1		2	4	14
John Mather,												20
John Imrie,	2	2		2	5	5		1	3	9	6	40
Richard Coughtrie,	1							2			2	12
Edward Sweeney,	2	7	4	3	1	1			2	4		20
James Sweeney,	2	2	1	1	2	2				2		9
	18	30	14	16	13	13		8	15	28	27	260

<b>5th CONCESSION.</b>												
Serjeant Major Wolff,					3	3						50
Captain Barrington,					1	1						6
John Lavery,												4
Richard Coughtrie,												5
John Sinclair,	4	2	1	1	1	1		1		1	2	25
John Imrie,												20
John M'Cartney,	2	4	1	3				1		3		8
J. B. Noreau,	2	2	1	1						1		6
James Sweeney,												4
Edward Sweeney,												6
Richard Ward,												4
John O'Neil,												20
Several Gentlemen, names unknown,												40
	8	8	3	5	5	5		2		5	2	198
<b>6th CONCESSION,</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40

CONCESSIONS.	House keepers.	Children.	Male.	Female.	Servants.	Males.	Females.	Horses.	Oxen.	Cows.	Hogs.	Lands cleared and clearing.
1st CONCESSION,	4	12	5	7	1	1					1	75
2nd Ditto,	5	3	1	2				1		1	2	23
3rd Ditto,	37	30	11	19	8	7	1	8	13	31	26	370
4th Ditto,	18	30	14	16	13	13		8	15	28	27	260
5th Ditto,	8	8	3	5	5	5		2		5	2	190
6th Ditto,												40
	72	83	34	49	27	26	1	19	28	65	58	958

Lands cleared in the 5th Concession, adjoining 6th Concession, 20

Total Number of Souls, 182.

Arpents, 978

“ Q. Has there been any, and what increase, within the period alluded to ?

“ A. There has been an increase of sixty souls ; there are twenty houses and upwards. The increase of stock is not very considerable. There has been four hundred acres of land cleared and clearing.

“ Q. Did you act as agent for any individuals who contracted for the clearing of land there with emigrants ?

“ A. Yes ; I did.

“ Q. What is the number of emigrants, and the number of their families ; and when did they arrive, and from what country came they ?

“ A. Four men, three women, and four children of the age of seven years ; they arrived in the month of November, from Ireland ; they were three Protestants, and one Catholic. The gentleman who employed me had, as I understood from him, been requested by the Emigrant Society of Quebec to give each of these four heads of families a job of ten acres, upon four several lots, to clear and fence, for four gentlemen in Quebec, who had undertaken to employ these individuals for this purpose, in consideration of the Committee of the Emigrant Society obtaining from the Commissioners of the Jesuits' estates a grant of these lots. My duty was, to see that these individuals worked faithfully, and to take care that they should be as little in advance as possible ; to communicate from time to time with the principal respecting their wants ; obtain supplies from time to time from Quebec or within the settlement, distribute them amongst them, and keep just and true account.

“ Q. How were the purchases made ?

“ A. The pork, which is the most expensive article, was purchased by the barrel at the wholesale price ; the flour was bought in the market ; and the fish from the wholesale dealers. The pork cost 3*d.* per pound ; fish, 14*s.* a quintal ; flour, 10*s.* 6*d.* a quintal ; pease, 4*s.* 6*d.* per bushel. The costs constituted the whole amount of the advances, except bedding and blankets, which were also purchased at the lowest prices.

“ Q. What was the amount to be paid to these emigrants, upon the fulfilment of each of their jobs ?

“ A. Thirty pounds, of which one half could be earned during the winter season.

“ Q. Does this afford a fair prospect of maintaining them by their labour ?

“ A. Yes ; and upon an average they receive about seven pounds in advance up to this season.

“ Q. Do you think that an honest and industrious emigrant, obtaining a job of this nature, and a lease upon share of the land cleared by him for a term of three years or more, would have a fair prospect of supporting his family, and becoming himself ultimately a landholder ?

“ A. Yes.

“ Q. I believe you are yourself an emigrant ; and what country ?

“ A. Yes ; I am from Scotland.

“ Q. How long have you been in this country ; and how long have you been employed since your arrival here ?

“ A. I have been three years in this country in May last. I came out as a hired farm servant to John Neilson, Esq. of this city, and resided with him in that capacity from the time of my arrival to the month of September, 1819. Mr. Neilson, to oblige me, had previously sold to me, at a moderate rate, a farm at Valcartier (upon which there was no clearing), of three arpents in front, upon thirty in depth, where I now reside. I subsequently obtained from the Commissioners of the Jesuits' estates, in the month of November, 1819, in common with nine others, a lot of ground of three acres in front, by somewhat more than thirty acres in depth, in the fifth concession.

“ Q. Is this the same fifth concession which is mentioned in the statistical table which you laid before this Committee ?

“ A. Yes ; and all the settlers, except one Canadian, are emigrants from Scotland and Ireland ; five of them are Irishmen, four of them Scotchmen : they arrived here chiefly in the year 1818, and they have a fair prospect, by industry

and honesty, to become landholders, and to support their families with the produce of their farms\*.

“ Q. In what length of time does an able-bodied emigrant usually learn to chop wood and clear land, and build log houses and barns ?

“ A. In about three months.”

Ferdinand Murphy was also examined by the Committee, and said, “ that he belonged to the south of Ireland, and came to Canada in the year 1821. He arrived in Quebec with his sister, and had only twenty-one shillings in money. He went to Valcartier, and chopped and cleared five acres of land, at the rate of three pounds per acre ; he had received an advance of provisions, clothes, and other necessaries, amounting to about half the fifteen pounds he was to receive on having completed the job. In the spring he received the balance. Afterwards he took a farm of ninety acres on the Jesuits’ estates, cleared fifty-six acres, and in 1827 his crop was 946 bushels of potatoes, the produce of forty-seven bushels planted, 100 bushels of oats, 700 bundles† of hay, &c. &c. He now has the means of buying cattle, and living comfortably,” &c. &c.

This evidence will, I hope, suffice to convince my readers that an industrious emigrant, without any other assistance than his own activity, is able to settle upon a seigneurie ; and in which, possessing a lot of land of about two acres in breadth and forty or fifty in depth, and for which he pays an exceedingly small rent, say twelve or fifteen shillings, he can provide abundantly for his family at the end of three or four years. On the contrary, to obtain the same quantity of land in the townships, he must of necessity have a large sum of ready money, which, unfortunately, in the greater number of cases, is impossible. Two other objects, of the greatest importance in a new settlement, are also attained in a seigneurie,

\* The new settlements on Lake Beauport, in Stoneham, St. Patrick, and Port Neuf, are all in a flourishing state, and come in support of the statement made by Coughtrie.

† A bundle weighs eighteen pounds.