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[No. 248.]

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

April 16th, 1842.

WHEREAS this House, having had under consideration the Report of the evidence of the Honorable Samuel Cunard before a Committee of the House of Commons, and considering the same to be at least very incorrect on many important points, think it necessary that the same should be published, in order that the people of the Colony may see the extent of the mis-statements on the subject: *Therefore, Resolved*, That the said Evidence be now published in each of the Newspapers.

By order of the House,

WILLIAM CULLEN, Clerk.

Extract from the Second Report from the Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the condition of the Islands and Highlands of Scotland, and into the practicability of affording the people relief by means of Emigration—24th May, 1841.

Samuel Cunard, Esq. called in and examined.

3027. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you have a large estate in Prince Edward Island?—I have some property there.

3028. Can you inform the Committee whether Prince Edward Island affords great advantages to emigrants?—I think it does; very great.

3029. Have there been many emigrants from Scotland of late to Prince Edward Island?—Last year there were a great many.

3030. The previous year?—A few; but last year a great many.

3031. Can you tell what number?—No, I cannot; they found almost immediate employment; they were absorbed without any delay whatever.

3032. Were those emigrants without capital?—Most all of them.

3033. In what way did they find employment, in agricultural labour or as fishermen?—They found employment chiefly in agricultural labour, which I think is by far the best plan to adopt.

3034. They were employed as labourers chiefly?—Yes; some of them got on to farms, those who had a little money.

3035. Do you think that Prince Edward Island could afford to take yearly a considerable number of emigrants from this country?—Yes, a great many; it has much greater facilities than any other province I know of; much greater than Canada; very superior in every point of view.

3036. *Mr. C. Bruce.*] State in what particulars?—In the first place the distance is about half. Admitting you could get to Quebec as soon as you could to Prince Edward Island, when you get to Prince Edward Island you are at once on your ground; but when you get to Quebec, you have to get to Montreal, and thence to the upper country.

3037. Can you state the difference of expense to an emigrant that would exist between his being landed on Prince Edward Island, or his going on to Montreal?—No, I could not exactly; you can form some idea from frequent transits and moving of luggage, &c.

3038. *Chairman.*] The expense of going to Prince Edward Island would be about the same as to Quebec?—Yes, perhaps you might estimate it very nearly the same. These poor men chiefly find their own provisions; you get to Prince Edward Island in three weeks; you are a month or six weeks going to Quebec.

3039. *Mr. C. Bruce.*] Go on and state the other advantages?—The soil is very good and easily worked; the whole shore abounds with fish, so that the labourer raising potatoes and getting plenty of fish, is at once independent. Now in Upper Canada that is not the case; you are away from the sea altogether.

3040. Would he have any facilities with regard to fishing, as to nets and boats?—They would have to furnish those themselves. The American fishermen resort to the coast: I have known 70 take shelter in one harbour.

3041. *Mr. W. S. O'Brien.*] What number of emigrants might be received at Prince Edward Island in one year?—Not more than 5,000 in one year; they would not be seen. They want a little money; you should hardly send a destitute man, but give him a very small sum to keep him from destitution for a few days.

3042. *Mr. C. Bruce.*] Would you name any sum which would be sufficient?—Give him a few pounds, he need not be idle a day; there is no part of Prince Edward Island that you could put him on 10 miles from the sea.

3043. *Lord Teignmouth.*] How does he get lodged on his arrival?—Many of these would go as farm servants into farm-houses. Then, if the man has a little money, he goes on to a place; he puts up a log house in two days; materials being on the spot, the wood is there; those who have land to spare, generally have it laid out in lots. The emigrant when he comes in says, "I want to get a lot of land from you." "There it is. It is generally of good quality everywhere." The man uses his own hands, and gets his neighbours around him to assist him.

3044. Do the emigrants show a disposition to purchase land themselves when they make money?—Yes.

3045. What facilities have they for procuring land?—I will tell you my plan: I had the land surveyed out, for as many as I should find customers, into lots of 50 or 100 acres; 100 acres is quite as much as they ought to have; there is a great desire to get a large freehold. I gave it to them for 999 years, for one shilling an acre, though I do not generally charge them for the first two or three years, with the privilege of purchasing it whenever they like.

3046. For what price?—Twenty shillings an acre; so that the man cannot grumble who gets land on those terms.

3047. Do you suppose emigrants who come on lands are ready and able to cultivate them in a proper manner?—Yes, very soon; in a short time.

3048. Do they continue on the lands, or are they disposed to leave them?—They are never disposed to move; it is their freehold. I have one property on which I have 400 tenants, from which I have a rental of 1,600*l.*; those people are all well off.

3049. Do you never find them fail?—They are all

well off. They have had difficulties, as in this country, when you have a bad year, but the country is capable of producing wheat and grain of every kind in great abundance. I sent three cargoes of wheat to London myself one year.

3050. Have you found the emigrants soon get over the difficulties arising from accidental and temporary circumstances?—Yes, they all get well off. I speak of men of industrious habits.

3051. Do you find the general body of emigrants who are so located are industrious?—Yes, you do occasionally find persons who are not, but I think generally they are.

3052. Do you think their industry ever slackens with success?—If their industry slackens they are not successful; but they are always successful if they are industrious. I know of no want of success where there has been constant industry.

3053. You have never found, as it has been said in Canada, that when the pressure of necessity has ceased, that the emigrants are occasionally apt to slacken in their efforts?—The property is their own; they have every incentive to industry, because they have the privilege of obtaining the freehold at any time.

3054. Has the experience you have had been confirmed by the experience of other proprietors?—I fancy so. It is the poor man's country; a man cannot go there and become rich suddenly: his riches must proceed progressively.

3055. *Mr. C. Bruce.*] What is the extent of the surface of the land improved already in Prince Edward Island?—I should suppose about a fourth of the whole.

3056. What is the whole?—The whole is about 1,400,000 acres; about a fourth of that has been improved; perhaps it would be more safe to say a fifth.

3057. Something like 300,000 acres?—Yes; but I cannot speak positively.

3058. Then the unimproved part is covered with wood?—Yes, a good deal of wood.

3059. What character of wood?—Beach, and birch, and maple, and pine.

3060. Old wood?—The land is lightly wooded, not of many years' growth; on the main land you see trees of a larger growth, and therefore the land is much more easily cleared.

3061. *Mr. W. S. O'Brien.*] What is the current value of land in fee?—Twenty shillings an acre.

3062. That is the case on other estates as well as yours?—Yes.

3063. Is it usual among proprietors to let the land on lease on the same terms?—Most of them do. Some time ago there was some dissatisfaction, and a representation made to the Colonial office, and I happened to be in England, and laid before Lord Glenelg the terms on which we let our land; I have let many thousands since on those terms.

3064. There was a sort of compact entered into between the proprietors and the Colonial office?—Yes.

3065. To the effect that emigrants going out there should have land on those terms?—Yes.

3066. You spoke of the dissatisfaction that existed among the settlers with respect to the terms for land; will you explain what was the nature and cause of that dissatisfaction?—The House of Assembly applied to Government to get an escheat of the very lands they were occupying as tenants, under the pretext that absent proprietors were retarding the improvement of the Island. The proprietors submitted to Lord Glenelg the terms upon which they were willing to part with their lands to settlers; these terms were considered by his Lordship as very liberal, and no person wanting land could complain with justice.

3067. The island was originally granted, I believe, to 60 proprietors in one day, or a very short time?—Yes, the Government gave it at that time to persons for services.

3068. And for a long time the prosperity of the island was very much retarded by these grants not having been brought under actual cultivation by the possessors, who were absentees in this country?—I do not agree with you there.

3069. State your views in opposition?—In part it is correct, that it was granted in large tracts of 20,000 acres each; I do not know that retarded the cultivation, because those persons took means of getting out a number of settlers, and were at very great expense. Those settlers would never have been there but for those parties. But they did not go on and settle it so fast as they should have done perhaps; but it has been settled much faster and located than the adjoining provinces of New Brunswick or Nova Scotia, therefore the result you state is not the case.

3070. But previous to the arrangement you spoke of being made with the Colonial office, was there not a difficulty of obtaining possession of small lots of land in consequence of those large grants?—Yes there were some of the proprietors who did not give leases.

3071. In point of fact, that mode of colonization by these extensive grants to few individuals, tended to retard the advancement of the island?—I cannot agree to that, because Nova Scotia, the adjoining province, where we get land whenever we ask it, has not increased so much as Prince Edward Island.

3072. *Mr. C. Bruce.*] You consider therefore the interest of the proprietors obtaining grants of land so great to get their land cultivated, that they give greater facilities to the settlement of individuals than the Government reserving lands and granting them in small fees?—In all the other provinces the roads have been made by the public, out of the public revenue. In Prince Edward Island, the House of Assembly has been so powerful at all times that they have passed Acts compelling the proprietors to make roads for them, levying the assessment on lands, which assessment in some cases is for making improvements at the capital; but there is one Act levying an assessment on all your land to make roads through all the island, without reference to the convenience of the proprietors, and if they are unable to pay, their land is sold for that purpose.

3073. *W. S. O'Brien.*] Land is sold every day for that; do you object to a moderate assessment on land

for the purpose of executing public works?—I think it is a hard case, but I agree to it. I think it is a hard case to compel me to make roads where I do not want them. I have to make roads for my own settlers, at my own expense, exclusively of the assessment roads.

3074. *Mr. C. Bruce.*] Do you find under that local Act, compelling assessment for the purpose of making public roads, that a greater number of roads are made than when it was left to the Legislature, such as New Brunswick or Nova Scotia has, to make them?—No; I believe they are necessary roads for the public good.

3075. Are there a greater number of these necessary roads made than in any other province?—No; in the other provinces they make the great public roads; these are the same; but here they are made out of the immediate funds of the proprietor, whereas in Nova Scotia they are made out of the general funds of the province.

3076. Do you think one is not more favourable to the extension of roads than the other?—No.

3077. *Mr. W. S. O'Brien.*] Do you find it frequently happens that a proprietor of a large tract of land is unwilling to co-operate with his neighbouring proprietor in making arrangements for the cultivation and settlement of both estates?—I do not think that is so at present.

3078. Formerly such was the case?—Some of them did not give leases; some would let for only five or ten years; I let for 999 years.

3079. Suppose, for instance, that two proprietors are very anxious that a road should be made through their estates, but an intervening proprietor resists all co-operation in making such road, and that his co-operation is essential to its being made, is not the improvement of that district retarded under those circumstances?—I am not aware of any such circumstance having occurred; it would retard the improvement if it were to occur.

3080. *Mr. C. Bruce.*] You stated, that under a local Act, assessments are levied on proprietors for making public roads; who decides what lines of public roads should be made?—Commissioners are appointed, who are paid for that express purpose; they go through my land without reference to my convenience; I do grumble, but I have to pay for it.

3081. Have they the character in general of conducting the measures in a disinterested spirit, and with a view to the general improvement of the country?—Yes, I should hope so; they are disinterested men generally.

3082. What is your control over them?—None; they are appointed by the Governor; there is an Act of the Legislature for such an appointment, and the appointment emanates immediately from the Governor.

3083. And to the Governor they are responsible?—Yes.

3084. *Lord Teignmouth.*] Do they require that the road should be well executed?—Yes, I think they do their duty in that respect; they are commissioners appointed to lay out the line, and other commissioners appointed to execute the service.

3085. *Chairman.*] With regard to the emigrants who came last year, they were principally from the Isle of Skye?—Yes.

3086. Do you find them a good class of emigrants?—Yes; I would rather have some from other parts of Scotland more immediately agricultural, but they were very good men.

3087. *Mr. C. Bruce.*] Were they fishermen, partly?—Both; the land seems calculated for both fishermen and agriculturists.

3088. What language did they speak?—Gaelic.

3089. Do many of them understand English?—I do not know a great deal about them; I have been very little in the island since they were there.

3090. But the general language of the island is English?—Yes, although I know whole settlements where they cannot speak English among them.

3091. How is the population located; is it a scattered population, or are they settled in villages?—It is a scattered population; but almost in every district there is something like a village.

3092. What is the principal town?—Charlottetown.

3093. What is its population?—I should think about 4,000 or 5,000; the inhabitants of the island altogether are 50,000.

3094. Is the Governor's residence at Charlottetown?—Yes.

3095. *Lord Teignmouth.*] What is the proportion of Protestants to Roman-catholics?—The Protestants are perhaps five-sixths; the other sixth are Roman-catholics.

3096. How are they supplied with religious instruction?—Badly; I wrote a letter the other day, and they very kindly gave three clergymen, and promised more if wanted.

3097. To whom?—The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. I agreed to do certain things; I agreed to build three churches; they gave me 450*l.* towards building the churches, and agreed to appoint three clergymen at 120*l.* a year each, and to give more if required.

3098. *Mr. W. S. O'Brien.*] What contribution did they expect from you?—I agreed to give them 100 acres of land in each township where we built a church; and I also told them I would see the churches built, and give a site for each church also, and a school-house. I wrote to my agent to go round in different districts, where persons were disposed to subscribe for building the churches. I think people should be interested in the church themselves, that every man should give a pound or half a pound. I desired my agent to give 100 acres in each district, and to subscribe 50*l.* more for each church, and then to say to the inhabitants, "You hear Mr. Cunard has done so much; if you think proper to make up the difference you shall have a church; if you do not, we will go to another district."

3099. There are some churches there?—There is one at Charlottetown; one at St. Eleanor's, and one at Georgetown.

3100. Are there any Dissenting places of worship in the island?—A good many of my tenants are Scotch people; I always subscribe to their meeting-houses.

3101. *Chairman.*] Are those churches to be built

Church of England Churches?—Yes, I am of the Church of England myself, and I think it my duty to encourage building the churches of that denomination.

3102. *Mr. C. Bruce.*] Is the principal part of the population of the Church of England denomination?—Yes, Church of England and Presbyterians.

3103. There are some Roman-catholics?—Yes.

3104. Irish?—Both Scotch and Irish.

3105. What quantities of land do they hold?—I have a rent-roll of 400 people, which would show you how the lands are given out to them; none above 100 acres, many 50 or 70.

3106. From that rent-roll, to which you refer, might one judge fairly of the average state of the Island?—Yes; mine is as low as any.

3107. *Chairman.*] With regard to the character of the people?—Yes; because it goes over 10 or 12 different lots in different parts of the island; I have got a little pamphlet. It contains a good account of the Island.

3108. *Mr. C. Bruce.*] Be so good as to state to the Committee the climate of the island as compared with Upper or Lower Canada?—I think it is very superior: it is cold, and so is Canada.

3109. Which is the colder?—I do not think there is much difference; it is dry and healthy, and not subject to fevers and ague, being surrounded by the sea. That is one of the great difficulties that emigrants going to Canada have to encounter; it takes them years before they are seasoned to it.

3110. Does the snow lay long?—Yes.

3111. From what period?—It is frequently open until Christmas, and perhaps it is hardly navigable again from Christmas to the middle of April.

3112. The surface of the country can they get at, for the purpose of cultivation, as late as Christmas?—Some seasons they shut up sooner.

3113. With regard to getting at the land for the purpose of cultivation, can they get at it in frost and snow as late as the beginning of December?—Sometimes.

3114. But on the average?—Perhaps they do up to the middle of November, or the first of December.

3115. How soon in spring again?—From the middle of April to the first of May.

3116. *Lord Teignmouth.*] Are there high lands in Prince Edward Island?—Not what you can call high lands in regard to Scotland, but the land is very undulating.

3117. But such lands as are necessarily confined to pasture?—There are none; it is all arable in all large tracts of land; there are some swamps or things of that kind, but there is none such as I see in Scotland; your heath land, for instance.

3118. *Mr. W. S. O'Brien.*] Is the climate suited to the cultivation of wheat?—Yes.

3119. What is the staple export?—Wheat, barley, a large quantity of oats, and potatoes.

3120. Where does that grain find its market?—It is surrounded with markets; timber-shipping places in the summer season, as Miramichi, Bathurst, Pictou, and other places.

3121. *Chairman.*] Does Miramichi also afford facilities to emigrants?—Yes; it is a noble river.

3122. *Mr. W. S. O'Brien.*] Do you find a duty of 5s. on colonial wheat in the British market, when the price is under 67s., any impediment to the commerce in grain between Prince Edward Island and this country?—It is certainly an impediment; where we get so much emigration, we consume most of what we raise in the Island and the markets adjacent.

3123. *Chairman.*] There is a steam-boat to Miramichi from Prince Edward Island?—Yes, there is; but I do not know whether I shall continue it.

3124. *Mr. C. Bruce.*] What is the distance between Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia?—The narrowest distance is about nine miles.

3125. *Chairman.*] There has been a number of emigrants to Cape Breton from Scotland?—Yes, a great party left Scotland for the two places together; the ship called at Cape Breton, landed a party, and then went on to Prince Edward Island.

3126. Is Cape Breton an advantageous place for them to emigrate to?—Not very; the mines are extensive; I have employed capital in them.

3127. What mines?—Coal mines; they are under my management; they are not very productive.

3128. Have you coal in Prince Edward Island?—No mineral of any kind; there is no stone in the Island; it is all otered soil.

3129. *Lord Teignmouth.*] They have no difficulty in finding fuel?—No.

3130. *Chairman.*] Still the emigrants that have gone to Cape Breton have done tolerably well?—Yes.

3131. *Mr. C. Bruce.*] Is it wooded in the same way?—Yes.

3132. The same character of wood as in Prince Edward Island?—Yes, in Prince Edward Island, when the wood becomes cleared away, which it will on clearing the land, there is plenty of coal to be had from Nova Scotia.

3133. Is that coal worked?—Yes; we work both mines, Pictou, and Cape Breton.

3134. *Lord Teignmouth.*] I suppose coal at present is consumed by the better classes in Prince Edward Island?—Only at Charlottetown.

3135. *Mr. S. O'Brien.*] I believe you are interested in the steam navigation to Halifax?—Yes.

3136. Do you use any of these coals?—Yes.

3137. At what rate do you have the coals?—At the mines, about 10s. a ton on board ship.

3138. How much is it at Halifax?—About 17s. 6d. sterling a ton.

3139. To what circumstance do you attribute its not being a successful mine; is it a poor mine?—No, immensely rich; it is the want of demand.

3140. *Mr. C. Bruce.*] How is it worked; is it level free?—We are 500 feet deep in both mines, and have the expense of machinery; then we have a long winter, during which we cannot ship; that is the great obstacle. We have to send out our men from England, and sometimes they leave us and go to the States.

3141. *Mr. W. S. O'Brien.*] What becomes of your