

No statistics of immigration having been published since the issue of our last *Year Book*, we refer to that for statements which shew that the number arriving in the Dominion to settle does not average more than 15,000 to 20,000 souls a year—a relatively insignificant accession to our population.

A great deal has been written as to the necessity for the government establishing more agencies in Europe. But not all the government agencies could compete with the hundreds of influences which the Americans have skillfully known how to employ. There are in the United States dozens of railroad corporations, each of them as active in selling lands as the government agents, each of them with agents in England, Germany, Norway, &c., canvassing intending emigrants and plying them with pamphlets respecting lands on the Illinois Central, lands on the Union Pacific Railway &c., &c., &c. With a stupidity which seems marvellous, Canada has hitherto neglected—nay more—positively discountenanced this most powerful aid of Associations which could organize independent Emigration Bureaux in Europe to keep the government offices. Absurd cries have been raised at election times against any company of men who designed to purchase and colonize a few hundred thousand acres as speculators and monopolists. It is now imperative that the powerful assistance of organizations of this kind be no longer discouraged. And to show what the only three land companies have done which we have hitherto had among us, we present the following facts:—

The companies are these: The Canada Company, the British America Land Company, and the Canadian Land and Emigration Company. We will refer to their operations in this order:

1. *The Canada Company.*—This Company originally acquired from the Government, about the year 1828, about 2,000,000 acres—one million being “en bloc,” and forming what was known as the Huron Tract; the other, called “Crown Reserves,” in scattered lots and blocks in various parts of the Province of Upper Canada (Ontario), extending from the Ottawa to the St. Clair.

The Company had the great support which £289,737 sterling (\$1,410,000) of paid-up capital gives.

As soon as it was formed, the Company began to disseminate, in England, all kinds of information in reference to Canada as a home for emigrants. Thousands of maps, pamphlets, &c., were circulated in Britain; and in 1832 a plan was organized, which was continued for several years, for paying the passage money of all such emigrants as might become purchasers of the Company's lands. At that time, too, the Company undertook to remit money, not only from their own settlers, but from any parties residing in the Province, who were desirous of sending funds to Britain to enable friends or relatives to emigrate to Canada—a function far more necessary and useful then than it would be now, when money orders on England can be so readily had at almost every post office.

Settlement first began, rapidly, in the township of Blanchard,* the greater part of which was settled within two years. In other places it progressed more slowly. The Company did not lay out tier after tier of farms, but allowed settlers to purchase where they chose. The greater portion of the sales varied from \$1.25 to \$2.25 per acre.

They also originally laid out the towns of Goderich, Guelph, and Stratford, and the village of Mitchell.†

Goderich.....	717	\$795,589	Stratford.....	874	\$694,180
Guelph.....	1,046	1,216,752	Mitchell.....	238	260,542

The records of the Company do not distinguish between the purchasers who are emigrant settlers and those who were previously residents in the country. They do show that many of the early settlers were men who came out from Europe, without any capital, who had, however, paid for their lands in full, and acquired a considerable amount of property in farm stock, as long since as twenty five years ago. Whether emigrants or not, some 25,000 families have been actually settled on the Company's lands.

The last annual dividend was £1 10s. stg. per share—the share being £6 13s. 8d. The average rate of dividend cannot well be ascertained in this country. The capital stock is now reduced by re-payment of capital to shareholders to £274,136 stg.

Only about 400,000 acres remain in the Company's hands—principally inferior lands, and in scattered locations. For purposes of colonization, the Company's transactions may be considered at an end. But the record is not one of which the Company has any reason to be ashamed, nor should it cause the country any regret.

2. *The British America Land Company.*—The British America Land Company, formed in 1834, owned at one time 767,000 acres of land in the Eastern Townships of Lower Canada (Quebec). It was partly surveyed, and partly not surveyed. The latter portion and some of the former was in several blocks, the rest in scattered lots. The capital of the Company is £264,000 stg. (\$1,284,000.)

This Company also has been active in disseminating in Europe information respecting Canada. Special emigration agents have been employed to travel and lecture in England, Scotland and Ireland, and R. W. Heneker, Esq., of Sherbrooke, the present Commissioner for the Company, has himself visited Sweden and Norway, and appointed agents at Gothenberg and Christiania. At one time the Company, in its desire to promote settlement, provided a large number of settlers with food, for a whole year, but the experiment was not found satisfactory. To facilitate the opening up of the country, the Company expended large sums in public works, and lost \$80,000 of an investment in the

* Now one of the richest townships in the county of Perth, with 3,774 people, according to the last census, with 45,793 acres assessed, 644 ratepayers, \$735,750 of real estate assessed, clear of debts, and spending two thousand dollars a year on its roads and bridges. (*Returns of 1867.*)

† Ratepayers and value of real estate assessed—Returns of 1867.