

are first prepared. It is also certain that a large number of laborers would be attracted from abroad by the hope of finding abundance of work, and of these laborers, many would settle down in the country either as farmers or manufacturers. The entire cost of constructing the canals and other works necessary to make this route navigable to vessels, says of 1,000 tons, was estimated by Mr. W. Shanly at £5,000,000 sterling, a large sum no doubt, when we take into account our present debt, and the additional amount we are about to borrow for the construction of the Intercolonial Railway. But the great question after all for us to consider, is whether the investment of that sum would pay, whether the direct returns in the shape of tolls, and the indirect advantages of increased settlement of the country and greater ability to raise revenue, would counterbalance the increased burden of public debt. We do not hesitate to say that if the Imperial Government, by giving its guarantee, would enable Canada to raise a loan of £5,000,000, at 4 per cent., or a cost of about \$1,000,000 per annum, the investment would be a remunerative speculation, and would not increase the burden of taxation at all beyond the means of the country, which have increased in the past, and are still increasing at a rate that will soon enable us to pay off every dollar of public debt. We must not, however, be afraid to develop our great natural resources. Money wisely spent will return to us fourfold, and every railway built through productive territory, even if at first unprofitable, and every canal constructed to secure free internal communication will amply repay us for all the expenditure.

We might in this connection make a few remarks on the rival project of the Huron and Ontario Canal. Mr. Caprell its indefatigable and eloquent promoter, has, it is stated, secured the co-operation of a sufficient number of capitalists in England and the United States to raise the necessary funds, \$40,000,000, provided only a grant of 10,000,000 of acres of unsettled land be made by the Government of Ontario. It appears to us that the grant of this land, at present unsettled and unproductive, would be a very small bonus to be given to secure the construction of the nature of the proposed ship canal from Lake Huron to Lake Ontario, and the association having to look for immediate return to their investment from these wild lands, would proceed at once to make them productive by inviting settlement, and developing their mineral and lumbering resources. Again the spending in Ontario of so large a sum as \$40,000,000, or the greater portion of it, would make money abundant and create a great and immediate increase of general prosperity. This, of course, would be most felt along the line or in the vicinity of the canal but its influence would also be felt throughout the Province. All classes would reap some of the benefit. The farmers in increased demand for the means of subsistence for the larger body of laborers who would be employed; the retail and the wholesale merchant, rapid sales of their goods. In fact the expenditure of \$40,000,000 of foreign capital would be attended with results in every way satisfactory, and we trust the Ontario Legislature will, in her wisdom, see fit to secure these results, when the price asked for them is simply the grant of lands, from which there is no hope that the Provincial Exchequer could ever receive any important addition to its revenue.

EMIGRATION TO CANADA.

(From the London Standard.)

A FEW weeks ago we drew attention to the difficulties thrown in the way of the East London Emigration movement by the conduct of the authorities in Canada. The difficulties so created we attributed to a sudden and remarkable change in the policy of the Canadian Government on the subject of emigration. In reply to this statement, Mr. Dixon, the emigration agent of the Canadian Government in this country, published a letter complaining that our remarks were "likely to cause respect to mislead the public," "doing as follows:—The attitude of the Canadian authorities on the question of emigration had not changed they are as anxious as they ever were that respectable thrifty persons should settle in the Dominion, and the prospects for such are undeniably good." What may be intended as the term "respectable thrifty persons" is not exactly clear. Our own remarks were distinct enough. We stated that the Canadian Government had suddenly, and without adequate notice, withdrawn that amount of co-operation which they had hitherto awarded to the emigrants sent out by the East London emigration committee—a committee most respectably organized and carefully conducted. Considerable inconvenience had resulted from this change in the conduct of the Canadian authorities, and the emigrants had been exposed to hardships and dis-

vantages which they would not have had to endure had the East London committee been apprised that the usual assistance would be withdrawn.

A striking exemplification of our remarks has just transpired. The Ottawa bureau, under date of June 10th, has issued an order in council prohibiting the landing of poor emigrants. Last year the Canadian Government paid the travelling expenses of the emigrants going inland. This year they suddenly cut off that assistance, and now another step is taken, which changes the negative opposition into positive antagonism. A ship exploring the port of Quebec with a freight of poor emigrants is likely to be ordered off like the convict ship sent to our colonies some years ago when the letters were determined to receive no more such consignments. This is not a mere shutting of the door against the "pauper" emigrant. The East London committee sent out no persons who are in the receipt of parish relief. They make a careful selection, and Mr. Dixon himself has borne testimony to the excellent appearance presented by these parties as they go on board in the morning. The effect of this order in council has been singularly embarrassing. Within the last two or three weeks the East London committee have been making a selection of rather more than 50 persons, who were to have been sent out in one of the vessels belonging to the British and Colonial Steamship Company. It is by the vessels of this company that the East London committee have hitherto sent out the parties whom they enable to emigrate. In this instance the vessel was to sail on Thursday last; but in the interval Messrs. Temperley, the agents for the steamship company, received a letter from Mr. Dixon, drawing their attention to the Canadian order in council, and warning them that if they took emigrants from East London they might have to bring them back again. In consequence of this notice Messrs. Temperley informed the East London committee that they would not take the emigrants on board, unless the committee would undertake to bear the expense of bringing the party back again in the event of the emigrants being refused a landing. The idea of giving a party of London working people, including women and children, a trip to Canada and back at the expense of a philanthropic fund, was not exactly what the committee intended. Accordingly the vessel sailed without the emigrants, and the latter remain where they were, the victims of a very serious disappointment. The committee have been at all the trouble of selecting these people, together with the expense of providing them with a proper outfit, redeeming articles from pawn, &c. In selecting this little company, the committee have simply done as much as their funds enabled them to do. Were they to send all who are willing and anxious to go, they might charter a fleet of ships. The disappointment to the people is most distressing, and the news that Canada is closed against East London will send sorrow and dismay into the midst of many families.

A further question suggests itself, and it is this—whether the committee need allow themselves to be daunted by the opposition of the Canadian Government? Perhaps in this as in the former instance, it is not so much the change itself as the suddenness of the blow that makes the effect so severe. Had the committee known their position sooner they might have accepted the responsibility and overcome the difficulty. The Canadian Government require that emigrants coming to their shores should bring with them a sufficient sum to pay for their inland passage, and to keep them for a short time while they are looking for work. If this is all, the committee in London are able to face the demand, and we would suggest that they should do so. If the British and Colonial Steamship Company are afraid to enter Quebec with emigrants thus provided, other means of transit should be sought. Possibly, however, arrangements could be made which would satisfy the company and the agents, so that the people might go by the accustomed route. But the tale is not yet told. In our former reference to this subject we abstained from alluding to certain facts which may as well be mentioned now that matters have gone so far. There is reason to believe that peculiar influences are at work at the present time in Canada. The East London emigrants are not the only parties received with disfavour on reaching the Canadian shores. The representatives of the Prussian Government are remonstrating on the manner in which the Canadian authorities treat the German emigrants; and the indignation expressed in this quarter is by no means measured in its tone. The cause of all this seems to be extremely remarkable in its character. We are given to understand—and the statement is based on very good authority—that in Lower Canada the French, especially the priests, are openly hostile to any accession to the British population, and to any introduction of the Protestant element. An emigrant who is at once an Englishman and a Protestant is looked upon by these parties almost as a natural enemy; and the use of the English language is systematically discouraged, in order that the new comers may find it the more difficult to settle in the country. Of late this Gallic and priestly influence has been making itself more extensively felt, and hence the change which has undoubtedly come over the spirit of the emigration department. The fact may be denied, but these statements are confirmed in a manner which makes them very difficult of disbelieve.

Such being the state of affairs in the Dominion, the East London committee will probably only get over one difficulty in order to be met with another. Still it is well to go on until the way is altogether blocked up, and it seems hard, indeed, that those fifty people who have been tantalized with the prospect of being sent out should be doomed to face the misery and degradation of another winter in Poplar. Next Christmas will probably find every one of these people applicants for parish relief, unless, in the meantime, they have the opportunity of earning their bread where labor is to be desired. In reference to Canada, it should be observed that there is a real demand for labour among the inland towns. There is a much better feeling towards emigrants in Upper than in Lower Canada.

As an index to the existing state of things we may quote a letter written from Toronto on the 1st of the present month by an emigrant from East London. This man who had been in Toronto five weeks says:—"I had only been here four hours before I got a job at five shillings per day. I thought that pretty good for a start. Now I get six shillings per day. There is plenty of work for carpenters—those that were used to work at the bench. They cannot get enough of them. But it is no place for showtricks, any trade but them. Bricklayers are getting ten shillings per day; stone-masons, blacksmiths, and all are wanted. The greatest demand is for farm labourers; but any one can get work, and I have not seen a beggar since I have been here."

A political importance attaches to this question of Canadian emigration. While an influence unfavourable to British emigration is thus gaining strength in Lower Canada, the United States are sending forth a population which may be said to invade British America in the far West. These settlers pay no respect to any frontier line, and British interests are thus placed in peril. Commercially there is almost the most serious reason why we should try to comfort the struggling families of East London into flourishing settlers in our own colonies, who would remember us in their prosperity by purchasing our manufactures, which they will consume to a far greater extent under such circumstances that it is possible for them to do now. If a sufficiently extensive movement were to be organized whole townships might be settled in Upper Canada. We may add that the day is by no means gone by for the small capitalist. Land can be obtained on exceedingly easy terms, and those who like such a venture have every prospect of doing well. Canadian emigration is a subject not to be lost sight of, and every effort for its accomplishment ought to be encouraged by those who desire the extension of British interests across the seas, coupled with the relief of our own overstocked labour-market at home.

EXPLANATION AND RE-STATEMENT—A LETTER FROM THE HON. JOHN ROSE.

(From a latter date of the same paper.)

On Saturday last we put before the public an account of the circumstance under which the committee of the East London Emigration Fund suddenly found themselves unable to carry out their arrangements for sending a party of fifty or sixty selected emigrants to Canada. These people were to have been sent out in the steamship *Thames*, belonging to the British and Colonial Steamship Company, leaving the port of London on Thursday last. Every preparation had been made, and various expenses were incurred, when Messrs. Temperley, the agents for the ship, received a communication from Mr. Dixon, the Canadian Government emigration agent, of such a nature that they refused to take the emigrants on board unless the committee would guarantee to bring the people back in the event of the Canadian authorities refusing to grant them permission to land. The committee, as might be supposed, did not feel themselves warranted in entering into so extraordinary an agreement. They offered to provide funds sufficient not only to pay for the inland passage of the emigrants, but also to provide for their subsistence during the limited period in which they might be seeking for work. Messrs. Temperley were so influenced by the communication from Mr. Dixon, drawing their attention to a recent order in council of the Ottawa bureau, that they declined any arrangement which did not recognize the probability of the emigrants being necessarily brought back again.

This virtual closing of Canada against the poorer class emigrants, has happily been brought before the notice of the Hon. Mr. Rose, Finance Minister of Canada, who, having just completed the negotiations for an important loan in this country, is on the point of returning to the Dominion. We may briefly state yesterday (Monday) morning Mr. Rose was waited upon by Mr. Kingscole, and the Rev. J. F. Kitto, two active members of the East London Emigration Committee, when the subject was discussed, and Mr. Rose kindly undertook, upon his own responsibility, to write such a letter to Messrs. Temperley as should remove all obstacles in reference to the present party of emigrants. Mr. Rose, it is understood, leaves for Quebec to-day or to-morrow, and on arriving at that port will at once communicate with Mr. Stafford, the acting chief agent in the emigration department. The East London emigrants, in consequence of this change in the state of affairs, will leave London on August 6th, in the steamship *St. Lawrence*. The Finance Minister will thus have the start of the party by several days and there will be abundance of time for the necessary arrangements. It is, nevertheless, a fact that the expenses of the local emigration committee are considerably increased compared with the scale of last year, and the cost of sending out this present detachment will more than exhaust the funds which have been raised for the purpose. The committee commenced its operations little more than a year ago, yet it has sent out 800 emigrants, besides assisting 1,000 persons to migrate to other parts of the kingdom. The committee has its offices at No. 15 Cockspur Street, and is so constituted as to afford the highest guarantee of its soundness and usefulness. On its list are several of the leading men of the city, from whose pockets have come a very considerable portion of the money which has been expended. It is to be hoped that the general public will henceforth render a larger amount of support to so desirable an undertaking.

In regard to the future, there is every reason to anticipate that Mr. Rose will induce the Canadian Government to give the subject of emigration that further consideration which it obviously requires. Various reasons may be given for the checks which the Canadian authorities have themselves imposed on emigration during the present year; but the information which we have laid before our readers on the subject has every stamp of authenticity. The fact that can