

Companies over \$100,000 for their inland transport alone, independent of other outlay which they must have incurred for provisions, &c., on their route. Of course it would be desirable, as I mentioned previously, that these poor people should not be sent to the United States by this route under the belief that this Department would assist in forwarding them to their destinations. But as we cannot reach effectually the source of this abuse, we are compelled to deal with it as it exists, and as no positive loss is incurred, but a large indirect benefit secured to the country, prudence would suggest that for the present matters should remain as they are, with the hope that we may shortly be in a position to offer such facilities and inducements as will secure a portion of this valuable immigration to settle in our country.

With regard to any remarks I may have to make upon emigration matters in general; although I need, I hope, scarcely assure you that it will afford me much pleasure to render your Committee every information and assistance in my power; I cannot help thinking that it would prove more satisfactory, and conduce at the same time to elicit information in a more useful and definite shape, if your Committee were to propose a series of questions upon the various topics it might be deemed necessary to consider and discuss.

As, under the altered state of affairs, no change has yet been made or suggested in the working of this Department, and I am still in ignorance of the future policy the Local and Federal Governments intend pursuing in relation to the emigration system. I am scarcely prepared (in my present subordinate capacity) to speak in general terms with any degree of confidence or authority upon a subject involving so many vital interests to the Dominion at large and presenting so extensive and varied a scope for observation.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

L. STAFFORD,

Assistant Agent.

George Jackson, Esq., M.P.,
Chairman of Committee on Immigration, &c., &c.,
House of Commons.

(B.)

TORONTO, 24th April, 1868.

George Jackson, Esq., M.P., &c., &c.

SIR,—In reply to your communication of the 20th instant, I have the honor to state, that I have long been of the opinion that a meeting of the Emigration Agents, during the sitting of Parliament, at least for a few days, during the deliberation of your Committee on questions of Emigration, would be attended with the most beneficial results, not only in rendering the desired information to that Committee but of exchanging views with each other on the various subjects of their office duties. The limits of an ordinary letter will not admit of that exhaustive dealing with the subject as such a meeting would offer. The trifling expense should be no consideration in view of its advantages. The cost of such a meeting, the several agents being privileged, as they are, to travel free on the railroads, would not altogether exceed \$30 or \$40. Having thus stated briefly a view which I long entertained I proceed to the subject and requirements of your letter.

With reference to the grants of land, I have much pleasure in stating that I feel it will be a great boon, not only to the immigrant but also to our farmers' sons, and from the numerous applications I have had, accompanied, though occasionally, with trivial objections to certain restrictions and conditions, I have no doubt they will be soon taken up and settled upon; and, as the Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands stated to me recently, he had already some 300 applicants in one day, and that of a class the most beneficial and useful to a new country; that is, young Canadian farmers serving the immigrant population as guides and instructors in felling and clearing the forest. I shall, therefore, be only too glad to co-operate with the Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands, at all times, in directing parties to those lands, but also with resident Agents on the spot.

With respect to the impression that seems to prevail of some abuse of the grants of Parliament through the free-pass system, I have no hesitation in stating that I am no participator in that impression. I look upon the amount so expended entirely more bene-