

# COLONIZATION REVIEW.

JANUARY.

**CONTENTS.**—Government Emigration office. Circular to the farmers and landed proprietors of Canada. Information at Hoperfield, Opeongo Road, County of Renfrew.

## GOVERNMENT EMIGRATION OFFICE.

Quebec, December, 1862.

Sir,—The accompanying correspondence is submitted for your consideration, and should you take the least interest in the matter of which it treats, I beg of you to give it publicity amongst the agriculturists in your neighbourhood.

I am naturally desirous, before taking any steps to give the subject effect in the United Kingdom, to ascertain what encouragement the farmers and landed proprietors of Canada are prepared to offer in a cause of such vital importance to the country at large.

There is also another question which I should wish to bring under the notice of our farmers. Applications are being constantly made to me by young men of character and intelligence who are desirous of acquiring a practical knowledge of agriculture previous to purchasing a farm on their own account. They are in most instances willing to work for their board, or at mere nominal wages, on being received as one of the family; and some are prepared to pay for the instruction they may receive.

Farmers who are disposed to accept young men on either of these conditions are invited to transmit their proposals to this office.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,  
A. C. BUCHANAN,  
*Chief Agent.*

To the Farmers and Landed Proprietors of Canada.

GENTLEMEN,

Now that the organization of a scheme for a better system of colonization is engrossing the attention of our public men, and a fresh "stimulus" thereby given to the subject of Emigration, I am induced to suggest to you the importance of devising some means to make provision for Emigrant families who arrive in this country without funds; which, while tending to promote the comfort of the poor Emigrant myself, will prove advantageous to your interests, and beneficial, I hope, to the country at large.

The great drawback against which the head of a poor Emigrant family has now to contend is the want of some "Home," or shelter, where he can place his family, while he goes out to work for their support. From the general lack of such accommodation throughout the country, and the consequent difficulty of procuring it, the majority of our farmers give preference to the employment of single men, much to the detriment of a class of labourers who have within them the elements of a steadier success. To remove this objection, I venture to suggest that proprietors of 200 acre lots should set apart one cleared acre adjoining 10 uncleared acres or 'and; that they should build thereon a habitable log cabin, fit for the occupation of an Emigrant family, letting it to them for a term of years: the rent to be made payable in labor or in money, as might be ag-

reed upon; or some such arrangement as the following might be made:—That the Emigrant should rent the lot for ten years, he giving one day's labour in the week, by way of payment, with the proviso that if within five years he clears and puts under crop five acres, no further rent will be required for the rest of the term; but should he fail to do so, then the bargain would be annulled. An arrangement of this sort would have the effect, if widely adopted, of securing immediate provision for the newly-arrived Emigrant, and the Farmer affording this accommodation, would thereby acquire labour without paying money for it; at the same time improve his land, and attach, by kind treatment, to his interests, a family whose services or assistance might, in many instances, become of incalculable value to him.

In giving publicity to this letter I am influenced by a desire to attract the attention of practical men to the exigency I refer to, in the hope that the question may be fairly dealt with; and I earnestly advise all who may feel disposed to act upon my suggestions, to put themselves in communication with this Office, stating what accommodation they are prepared to offer, and such information will be brought before the Emigrant on his arrival here.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,  
A. C. BUCHANAN,

HOPERFIELD, OPEONGO ROAD, COUNTY OF RENFREW.

The following are extracts from letters, addressed to Mr. Buchanan upon this subject.

November, 21st, 1862.

After giving to your suggestions as contained in your late circular a good deal of consideration, I am so fully impressed with the benefit mutually to be derived by its adoption by the emigrant, the farmer and the Government, that I in conjunction with a few others have decided upon giving it a trial on as extended a scale as the means at our command and the field of our operations for the purpose will admit of. A few alterations have been made which it is thought will meet your approval, but in many instances could not be generally adopted, of its success for the following reasons we are so confident that we only look to Government for its co-operation by forwarding the intended settler to this place.

To this end we intend laying off six hundred acres of which we are in possession being 300 acres on either side of the main Road fronting each other and having a frontage of nearly a mile, into sixty lots of 10 acres each: each lot being well watered. On each of those we intend erecting a dwelling 20 x 24 feet and clearing around it one acre to be ready for crop on the opening of spring. The settler on his arrival can at once proceed to put in his crop and turn round and assist his old established neighbours in doing similarly; for which he will re-