

1847

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REPORT

TO THE

CITIZENS OF MONTREAL,

OF THE

Committee appointed at the Public Meeting of the 13th instant, under the Resolutions then adopted, calling for the Establishment of an

IMMIGRANT STATION

Below the City of Montreal.

THE undersigned, appointed a Committee to carry into effect certain resolutions relative to the location of a permanent Immigrant Station below the city of Montreal, which were adopted at a public meeting of the citizens of Montreal, held on Tuesday, the 13th instant, at the Bonsecours Market Hall, conceive it their duty to explain to their fellow citizens the steps which they have adopted in pursuance of the charge imposed on them.

It will be fresh in the memory of every one, that the meeting above referred to was convened by his Worship the Mayor, in order that a decided expression of opinion might be obtained from the citizens of Montreal, as to the expediency of the erection of additional Immigrant Sheds, above the city, in direct opposition to the wishes of the citizens, as expressed at a previous public meeting, held on Saturday, the 10th instant.

At the second public meeting, which was attended by about three thousand persons, including individuals of the highest respectability, of all origins, and of every political opinion—as well as at the former meeting—there was a perfect unanimity of agreement, that the location of the Immigrant Sheds, close to and above the city was fraught with danger to the inhabitants, and that it therefore became necessary, to urge in the strongest manner on the proper authorities, the necessity of permanently establishing an Immigrant Station, at some site below and at a safe distance from the city, where the danger might be effectually guarded against. The grounds on which this conclusion was arrived at, are so fully stated in the resolutions adopted, which have been published in all the newspapers of the city, that it is unnecessary in this document to recapitulate them.

The Committee, on the day following the public meeting, (the 14th instant) solicited and obtained from His Excellency the Governor General, an audience, at which they handed to him a Memorial, founded on the resolutions adopted at the public meeting, which His Excellency graciously promised to take into his serious consideration. His Excellency expressed his deep sympathy with the citizens of Montreal, and his anxious desire to adopt every remedial measure in his power, not only to ward off the danger to which they were subjected, but to allay the apprehensions under which they laboured. He afterwards granted a private audience to some of the members of the Committee, when they were enabled clearly and distinctly to explain their views and those of the citizens of Montreal, on this important subject. His Excellency also promised an early reply to the Memorial.

As great weight was understood to be attached by the Government to the recommendation of the five Medical members of the Joint Immigrant Commission, which had been given in favour of the construction of additional sheds above the city, and to their assurance that there was no ground for the apprehensions of the citizens, the Committee, with a view to ascertain how far these apprehensions were founded in fact, consulted such members of the faculty, not being members of the Joint Emigrant Commission, as it was in their power to see during the short time they were able to devote to this object. The gentlemen so applied to, almost without exception, expressed their entire concurrence of opinion with the Committee; and to the number of nineteen, signed certificates strongly recommending the change prayed for by the Memorial of the citizens.