

without having previously received from the agent a certificate that the provisions of that Act have been complied with.

I would further propose that besides the amount of food specified in the Act, emigrants should be required to bring on board with them clean bedding and sufficient clothes, and that the master of the vessel should be responsible for keeping the decks clean and healthy during the voyage.

But no law will be effectual to protect the emigrants during the voyage, unless some person clothed with sufficient authority to enforce it, be placed by Her Majesty's Government on board the emigrant vessels, or at least on board of those which carry the larger number of emigrants. Once at sea, the emigrants are necessarily in the hands of the captain. Whatever extortion or oppression he may exercise towards them they have no power to resist, and from the difficulty of enforcing the penalties when they arrive at their destination, from the indisposition of the emigrants to be detained to prosecute him, and from their ignorance of their own rights, he may be tolerably confident of escaping with impunity. A government agent on board, who might very properly combine in his person the duties of medical attendant, would prevent these evils, and he might also be charged with the custody of the emigrants' own provisions, so as to prevent the waste which is said now to prevail; and be armed with authority to enforce personal cleanliness among them. I would earnestly request that whatever sum may be granted by Parliament towards emigration, a portion of it may be devoted to this important object.

The next object to which I would propose to devote a portion of any Parliamentary grant, would be to aid the funds of these Provinces in providing relief and medical attendance for those who arrive destitute or in sickness on these shores, and in assisting the able-bodied to proceed to the districts where their services may be available.

I had expected before this time to have informed your Lordship of the exact amount expended in this service during the year 1840, but difficulties have occurred in the settlement of some of the accounts which have made this impossible. I trust, however, that the sum will not much exceed the amount placed by your Lordship at my disposal.

The number who have been assisted to proceed to the Upper Province will appear to your Lordship very large, and no doubt many persons obtained such assistance who were well able to pay for their passage. But in the height of the season, when perhaps several thousand emigrants arrive in the course of a few days, it is impossible for the emigrant agent to ascertain accurately the circumstances of each individual; and it is most important that emigrants

should not be allowed to remain unemployed in the towns. The public works in Montreal once commenced, afforded the means of testing the applications for relief of those who reached this city; and I trust that before next spring some similar works may be in progress in the vicinity of Quebec. Still much expense must be incurred to forward the stream of emigrants to those places where their labour may be most useful and productive, and where they may become permanent settlers. Its amount will probably be much reduced in future years by the competition on the St. Lawrence of the new steamboats, which are now building for the Government and the conveyance of the mails, and by the formation of new forwarding companies on the Ottawa and Rideau. Heretofore the forwarding on those rivers and their canals has been a monopoly, the lock at St. Anne's Rapids being in the hands of a private company—but before the opening of the navigation in the spring, another lock will be completed at the public expense, and the forwarding business will be thus thrown open to public enterprise. The same cause will also, I trust, put an end to the inconvenience and suffering to which the emigrants are now exposed in their passage from Montreal to Bytown and Kingston, and will in so far diminish the causes of sickness among them.

My despatch of the 14th inst., No. 214, and the documents which accompany it, will have fully explained to your Lordship the nature of the arrangements which I propose to make for settling on wild lands, either in connexion with some public works or otherwise, emigrants for whom employment cannot be found. This is another object to which I would propose to apply a portion of any grant from the Imperial Treasury, more especially in localities where, from political reasons, it may be important to encourage settlement, and to which in ordinary circumstances settlers could not resort. In Lower Canada, from the peculiarity of its original settlement, and from its subsequent political history, there are many such localities, exclusive of those great lines of communication between Quebec and the seaboard provinces, and between the St. Lawrence and the townships, in which the expediency of encouraging settlement requires no argument. But this is an object which must be considered as pertaining to Imperial as much as to local interests, and there would be an evident inconvenience in applying to the local legislature for assistance towards it.

Lastly, I would propose to apply such a grant towards the promotion of public works, in which must eventually be found the great means of employing those emigrants who are not absorbed by the existing demand for labour. Some of these works, such, for instance, as the establishment of a communication between Lakes Huron and Ontario, the improvement of the