

same time giving him the option of avoiding this obligation by paying one dollar a head as commutation money ; and practically this payment is always preferred.

The effect, consequently, of this arrangement, is merely to impose an additional Emigrant Tax of a dollar a head, without giving to the Shipowner any motive for preferring passengers likely to be able to maintain themselves by their own labour to those who are not so. It would be advisable, in order to discourage the introduction of helpless paupers into Canada, that the Shipowner should be required to give security only for those of his passengers who might obviously come under this description, but that on the other hand he should only be entitled to avoid this obligation by the payment of ten shillings a head on all such Emigrants. Should it be considered that it would be found practically difficult for the local authorities to determine in what cases to call for this security from the masters of Ships, the object in view might be partially attained by imposing an additional Tax of five shillings upon women and children, and men appearing to be sixty years of age and upwards. I am aware that an indiscriminate increase of the Tax upon women and children would be less directly calculated to attain the end in view than the regulation I have first suggested, and it might not be altogether free from objection ; still I am of opinion, that such an increase of Tax, without at all preventing able bodied Emigrants from carrying with them their wives and children, would tend to discourage the arrival of too large a proportion of the class of Emigrants most likely to become chargeable to the Province. While looking to the purpose to which the money raised by the Tax is applied, it would be only reasonable, that, as being the most likely to become chargeable, such Emigrants should pay more than others.

With a similar object I would suggest that the Tax otherwise payable should further be doubled in respect of all Emigrants who should arrive later in the season than the first of September, and should be trebled on those arriving later than the first of October, in each year.

There is no doubt that the arrival of Emigrants so late in the season greatly increases the probability of their becoming a burthen on the Province during the Winter, and the Tax to which they are liable should be augmented in proportion.

It might also be expedient to add a clause, imposing a penalty upon the Ship, if it should appear that, during the voyage, the passengers had not been supplied with a proper amount of provisions.

You will find it explained in the enclosed Report, that the ration of bread which the Act of Parliament requires to be supplied to Emigrants by the master of the Ship, was not intended to be their only food, but that in the scarcity of last year many of those who embarked for America was induced to trust entirely to the Ship's provisions, which afford, by no means, a sufficient allowance for the maintenance of health. It would, therefore, seem highly expedient, that in any Provincial Act which may be passed, the masters of Emigrant Ships should be required to take care that their passengers should either put on board a stock of provisions for themselves, or that such an addition should be made from the Ship's stores, to the ration of bread now required by Law, as to guard against the consequences of an inadequate allowance of food.

The enactment of such a Law as I have now described would be calculated to relieve the Province, both by diminishing the expenses which would be likely to be thrown upon it, on account of the Emigrants who arrived, and also by increasing the amount of the Tax now levied upon them, and applicable to these expenses.

To such a measure, therefore, not carrying the restrictions to be imposed upon Vessels engaged in this trade further than I have suggested, Her confidential servants would be prepared to advise that Her Majesty should assent ; but I must remind you, that while it is proper, for the reasons I have stated, that some such regulations as I have recommended should be enforced, the true interest of the Province, no less than that of this Country, requires that these regulations should not, by their over severity, throw needless obstructions in the way of an intercourse between the Queen's dominions on this and on the opposite side of the Atlantic, which is of the utmost importance to both. Not only has Emigration been the means of adding largely, in the last twenty years, to the industrious population, and therefore, to the wealth of Canada, but also, it is to be recollected, that the profit derived from the conveyance of Emigrants in the outward voyage, enables the Ships which carry them to bring back the produce of Canada at a much cheaper rate than would otherwise be possible.

With regard, therefore, to any Bill for the Regulation of Emigrant Ships which may be tendered for your acceptance by the other Branches of the Provincial Legislature, it will be your duty carefully to consider