

REPORT OF THE AGENT FOR EMIGRATION.

CANADA.

Report of the Agent
for Emigration.

REPORT of the CHIEF AGENT for EMIGRATION, for the Year 1843; together with
an APPENDIX.

Sir,

Office of Her Majesty's Chief Agent for the Superintendence of
Emigration in Canada, Quebec, 30 December 1843.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Excellency, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, the following Report of the Emigration to this Province during the season of 1843.

In Paper No. 1, of the Appendix, it will be seen that the total number of emigrants recorded at this office during the season is 20,924 steerage, and 803 cabin passengers, which shows a decrease in the aggregate, compared with 1842, of 22,647, equal to 51.03 per cent. This return also presents a tabular view of the weekly arrivals during the season, distinguishing adults, male and female, from children, as also the proportion of those who were ascertained to have received parochial or other assistance, to aid their emigration.

Paper No. 2 of the Appendix, is an abstract of the records of this office, and shows the total number of emigrant vessels arrived, with an average of their passages, the number of steerage passengers embarked, the deaths during the voyage, and in quarantine, and the number landed, distinguishing males and females, adults and children.

Paper No. 3 furnishes a list of the ports in the United Kingdom whence these emigrants sailed, with the particular number from each port and country, during the years 1842 and 1843. The number arrived during the past year was as follows; viz.:

From England	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,499
„ Ireland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,728
„ Scotland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,006
„ New Brunswick, and ports in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	494
TOTAL										21,727

The great decrease will appear in the emigration from Ireland and England, the former being by nearly 62, and the latter by nearly 47 per cent. less than that of the previous season. The number of arrivals from Scotland has been lessened in smaller proportion, the reduction being about 18 per cent.

Paper No. 4 furnishes the usual comparative statement of the immigration into this province during the past 15 years, which has amounted in the aggregate to 387,908 souls.

Paper No. 5 gives a return of the admissions and deaths at the quarantine station, and at the emigrant hospital in this city; from which it appears, that at these two useful establishments, 381 persons, viz. 120 men, 122 women, and 139 children, received medical aid during the past season; out of which number occurred the very small proportion of 26 deaths, viz. five men, nine women, and 12 children.

It is gratifying to perceive the very marked diminution in the mortality among the emigrants of the past season, more particularly during their passage. According to the reports made to this office, the deaths at sea were 61, viz. 18 adults and 43 children; 42 of whom were under seven years of age. The per-centage of deaths during the passage, on the number embarked from the United Kingdom, was 0.29 per cent., or $\frac{1}{4}$ per 100 souls; and in quarantine, it was 0.9 per cent.

This improved state of health among the emigrants of this season I attribute to two causes; firstly, to the less crowded state of the great majority of the vessels: as out of 279 which arrived with passengers, only 16 had their full complement on board; and of the above number, only 132 vessels came under the provisions of the Passenger Act. Of this number, 72 vessels had on board from 30 to 100 passengers; 23 above 100 and under 150; 19 vessels from 150 to 200; eight from 200 to 250; six from 250 to 300; and four above 300 passengers on board; and of the 147 remaining vessels which had under 30 adults on board, 94 had less than 12. The tonnage of the vessels which came within the regulation of the Act was 54,750; they were navigated by 2,213 seamen; and brought out 15,434 full passengers. According to their tonnage, these vessels had accommodations for 30,637 adults. Secondly, to the beneficial restrictions and regulations of the new Passenger Act, which, by enforcing and regulating the issue of provisions, and securing to the poor emigrants an abundant supply of water, has, in my opinion, tended very materially to produce this favourable change; and which will, I trust, prevent a recurrence of those scenes of distress and suffering, to which I have had in my previous reports too frequent occasion to allude.