

the expense of the Government, any body of destitute emigrants I might think would be satisfactorily employed in the Province.

"The whole question is one which requires a good deal of reflection. We must be careful not to legalize any measure which might have a tendency to place obstacles in the way of foreign shipowners, otherwise, we may not only impede emigration *via* the St. Lawrence, but we might occasion its cessation altogether, and drive it entirely to New York.

"Let it be borne in mind that, although we are put to considerable expense with the Norwegians and Germans, and are undoubtedly occasionally subject to imposition, *yet the sum we annually expend on them invariably falls far short of the head-money they pay us*, and we have besides to consider the benefit the country reaps from the large majority of those who pay their own way.

"Again, I am aware that public writers in Norway, in citing the advantages of the Canadian Route to the West, dwell strongly on the fact that our Government affords relief to the indigent poor. Hence one of the chief attractions of the route.

"If the amendment in its present form is carried, *the 32nd clause of the Emigrant Act relating to the application of all moneys levied under it, will either have to be abolished or partially repealed.*

(Signed,)

"A. C. BUCHANAN,  
"Chief Agent."

Fully concurring as I do with these views, there are, besides, I think, other considerations which can be urged, showing the necessity of extreme caution being used in dealing with this matter

The amount annually expended in this kind of assistance appears no doubt large, but it could be very sensibly reduced if there were either public works in course of construction or foreign settlements in the Dominion capable of utilizing and absorbing this redundant labor, for unless we can procure employment for these poor people, immediately upon landing, the expense of food and lodging for an indefinite period would soon exceed the cost of their transport to the West. In the absence of these desiderata, and looking to the fact that any large assemblage of emigrants in the sheds here, in the height of summer, might engender epidemic disease, and that it is therefore desirable to get rid of them with as much celerity as possible. The only decisive way in which I think the evil can be counteracted or averted, would be: either to make the masters of the vessels responsible, or to impose an additional tax of \$1 per head, making the capitation tax \$2, as at New York, which would fall on the shipowners, and render the Emigration Bureau almost self-supporting.

The emigration from foreign ports has latterly exhibited symptoms of rapid increase. Last year the emigration from Germany and Norway numbered 16,420 souls, and this year there is every promise of its being much larger; proof, therefore, is not wanting that the St. Lawrence route is gaining in popularity as a highroad to the West, and it would surely be impolitic, now that the Local Governments are concerting measures to encourage settlement, to administer any sudden check to an emigration, the indigent portion of which, it is to be hoped, they will soon be in a position to render available, as an element of future growth, and which if once turned from its course by hasty legislation we might find, hereafter, some difficulty in regaining.

I cannot resist, at this juncture, quoting an extract from the report of the late Chief Agent of Emigration for 1866, touching upon the point at issue:—

"Any such legislation would, I fear, drive the stream of foreign immigrants from our port to that of the United States, a consummation most devoutly to be wished for on their part, and which would injuriously affect our railway and forwarding interests, as although this large outlay may have been incurred, the Province is, if not directly, at least indirectly benefited.

"The entire expenditure incurred in their direct relief may be stated at \$13,000, but the amount of emigrant tax they have contributed was \$17,996, leaving a surplus of \$5000 for other purposes.

"The foreign immigrants of the past season paid to our Railway and Forwarding