

UPPER CANADA.

Visct. Goderich to
Sir J. Colborne.

These are the different objects to which public assistance given in the colony should be confined, and the above statement is the order in which it should be distributed. It is the more necessary to observe that order, because the fund which you have been authorized to apply to emigration purposes out of the territorial and casual revenue, cannot, for the present at least, exceed 5,000 £.

— No. 5. —

Extract of a DESPATCH from Viscount *Goderich* to Sir *John Colborne*; dated Downing-street, 1 February 1832.

Visct. Goderich to
Sir J. Colborne.

IN my despatch of the 31st October last, I stated to you my fear that the measures which you had adopted for the reception of the emigrants of last year might lead to an expense heavier than the funds would conveniently bear. I am happy to find that this has not been the case, and that by the well-conceived and economically-executed arrangements which you had made, so much should have been effected at a cost comparatively so trifling. The total expense, it appears, has not exceeded 4,800 £., which is less than the sum I had calculated upon as being likely to be required for this service in the last year. I do not clearly understand, from the statements accompanying your despatch, whether the emigrants are only to repay the expense incurred for their provisions, or whether they are also to be charged a price for their land, and for the log-houses in which they have been accommodated.

Upon these points I shall be glad to receive further information; at the same time I must add, that although I have much pleasure in acknowledging the success of your proceedings, which I attribute to the judgment and activity with which they were conducted, I am still of the opinion expressed in my despatch already referred to, that it is unnecessary that the Government should assist emigrants who arrive without resources of their own, otherwise than by enabling them to procure employment, or that it should undertake the task of their location. These persons at home have almost invariably been accustomed to earn their subsistence as labourers; nor is there any reason why, upon arriving in the colony, they should at once be raised to the situation of landholders; it is sufficient advantage to them to have the certainty of finding employment, at wages infinitely higher than they have been accustomed to, and of being able to acquire land at a cheap rate out of the savings of their industry. You have stated that some emigrants had rather engage themselves as labourers till accustomed to the work of the country, than go on their own land. This course, as by far the best they can pursue, they should by all means be encouraged to adopt; and from the demand for labour stated to exist, both by yourself and by the gentlemen to whom you applied for information, I should hope that, with no other assistance than that which may be given to them in reaching the places of their destination, all the emigrants who may arrive in the present year will be put in the way of acquiring, at no distant period, a comfortable independence.

I have already stated to you in what manner I conceive that any temporary excess in the supply of labour may be corrected, and I trust that you will find no difficulty in employing to advantage any number of persons who are likely to be at a loss without such assistance; since I cannot doubt that the increased value of the Crown lands will amply repay the cost of the labour applied to the formation and improvement of roads passing through them; and the mode of disposing of these lands which is now adopted will enable you to realize, in selling them, the additional value they will receive.

If, contrary to all expectation, the natural demand for labour in the province should leave a greater number of persons unemployed than you can find profitable work for on the roads, you may possibly be under the necessity of employing the remainder in clearing and cultivating the land. It would be to be regretted if such a necessity should arise; but even in that case I should not be induced to depart from the general rule which I have laid down, by establishing emigrants as proprietors on land of their own, before they are able to support themselves without assistance. I should, therefore, wish you to employ any emigrants who cannot otherwise be disposed of, in preparing land for occupation, by clearing and cultivating portions of it, and by erecting log-houses. Lots of land in such a state of improvement