

The action of the Ontario Government in this matter has no doubt had its origin in the dissatisfaction created by the presence during the winter in the city of Toronto of a considerable number of families who have subsisted upon charity; it is also to be in some measure attributed to the jealousy with which, at a time when wages are lower than they have been, the operatives of the province view any considerable accession to the wage-earning class. The action of the province has however been entirely independent of that of the Dominion Government.

It was indeed decided as long ago as 1874 at a conference of the representatives of the various Provincial Governments that the control and direction of all matters connected with the promotion of emigration from Great Britain and Europe to Canada should be vested in and exercised by the Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa.

The Provincial Governments have borne the expense of inland transport after the arrival of the emigrants at the various Dominion agencies. In cases where emigrants have been selected at the port of debarkation by agents employed by the several provinces, these have paid the railway transport from that port. Where such selection has not taken place at the port of debarkation, the Dominion Government has forwarded the emigrants to those points where work was most likely to be obtained. All emigrants are considered to be under Dominion care until they have been delivered either at the provincial agency or at the place of their destination.

In the case of the assisted Irish emigrants who came over last year, special arrangements were made and the province of Ontario assumed the responsibility for a certain number specified by it.

It is to these provincial arrangements for the reception and transmission of emigrants that Mr. Spence's letter has reference.

I have now the honour to enclose copy of a Privy Council Order in which the future policy of the Dominion Government in regard to immigrants from Ireland is stated. I would observe that the stipulation that no assisted passages will in future be given to "inmates of workhouses or persons subsisting on workhouse relief" is intended to guard against the importation, net of persons who during a time of temporary difficulty may have been relieved out of the union funds, but of persons habituated to such assistance and having the usual attributes of chronic pauperism. I have assured my Ministers that it has never been the intention of the Irish Government to send such persons to this country; it is however the case that owing to circumstances which I have already described a widespread impression prevails that persons of this class have been designedly sent here. The use of the expression "union emigrants" to distinguish those who have been sent out through the agency of the Poor Law unions from those selected by other agencies, has I think led to an erroneous impression that the whole of the former class are of the pauper type and consequently objectionable.

It would, I think, be very desirable that every opportunity should be taken of reassuring public opinion here upon this point, and that some steps should be taken, such perhaps as those indicated by Mr. Hamilton, in his letter of the 7th of March,* in order to afford evidence of the desire of the Irish Government to meet in the fullest possible manner the requirements of the Dominion in these respects. An arrangement under which an agent of the Canadian Government would personally inspect and if necessary investigate the antecedents of the emigrants before they proceed to Canada would I think be well received. Such an arrangement might, as Mr. Hamilton suggests, be discussed with the High Commissioner on his return to London.

I observe that in the annual report of the Minister of Agriculture for this year it is stated that the charge for inland transportation from Quebec to Manitoba will be reduced from \$30 to \$12.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Derby,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Enclosure in No. 14.

CERTIFIED COPY of a REPORT of a COMMITTEE of the HONOURABLE the PRIVY COUNCIL for CANADA, approved by his EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR GENERAL on the 31st March 1884.

THE Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a Despatch dated 13th March 1884, from the Earl of Derby, covering correspondence on the subject of the settlement in Canada of assisted emigrants from Ireland.