

a hearty welcome. Every information that I have received from the several districts to which they principally proceeded speak loudly in favour of their prosperous condition.

The influx of British Emigrants this year from the United States into Upper Canada has been very considerable; they mostly came by way of New York, and were in general possessed of considerable property. The extent of Emigration to New York this year exceeded that of the preceding by nearly 12,000 persons, the total amounting to nearly 36,000; the greater portion of them were from the United Kingdom, many of whom first landed at Halifax and New Brunswick, and then came on to New York. Many German and Swiss Emigrants have gone to Upper Canada this season, part of whom had been residing in Ohio and Pennsylvania for some years past; they are principally located in the townships of Willmot and Waterloo, west of Lake Ontario.

I hourly expect the honour of a communication from his Excellency Sir John Colborne, with detailed particulars of the extent of settlement in the several districts in Upper Canada, and, should I receive it in time for the Report, I shall have the honour to annex it to the Appendix; if not, I shall, as soon as received, lay it before your Lordship. The settlement of Adelaide, near Lake Huron, began in May last, now numbers near 2,000 souls; those of Oro and Kemperfelt Bay, in the vicinity of Lake Simcoe, are also proceeding with great success and rapidity; and throughout the district of Newcastle, but more particularly in the vicinity of Peterborough, and the Rice Lakes, and in the rear of the thriving village of Coburgh, and Port Hope, the influx of Emigrants, and the great extent of improvements going on is highly cheering; in fact, in every portion of Upper Canada settlement is fast proceeding, and the numerous villages forming, and the great extent of buildings going on in all directions, is a satisfactory testimony of the advantages that colony is beginning to enjoy from the tide of British Emigration now so successfully pouring into it.

A considerable number of Emigrants would find advantageous settlement in the Ottawa, Bathurst and Eastern districts of Upper Canada, and I look forward with confidence in being enabled to direct a portion to these situations next summer, by the route of the Rideau Canal, on which I hope to find several passage-boats plying the ensuing season.

I will here beg to refer your Lordship (pages 14, 15 and 18, in the Appendix) to the several extracts from communications received from the Lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada, and the agents on the route of St. Lawrence, with reference to the difficulties we had to contend with last summer, but which, I am pleased to record, were greatly diminished by the sympathy and prompt exertions of the public in aiding the agents in connexion with this department along the route. With reference to settlement during the past season, in the Lower province many difficulties stand in the way, to prevent it being so extensive as otherwise it might be.

The extraordinary backwardness of the spring, and the continual badness of the roads, rendered almost impassable for strangers to proceed any distance into the Southern districts, added to which, the short supply of provisions was in general felt, but particularly in the townships in the district of Quebec,

The cholera breaking out in the middle of June, just as the roads were becoming fit for transport, formed a new and melancholy obstacle; for the affrighted inhabitants of the country could not be prevailed upon to afford the strange Emigrant any accommodation; consequently, many who were previously disposed to stop in this province, hurried off to Montreal, and from thence to Upper Canada.

Since the month of August, several Emigrant families proceeded, by my directions, to the townships, and to some of the seignories in the vicinity of the St. Lawrence, particularly to St. Giles and Lothbinier, the proprietors of which are well disposed to encourage them. To the Chambly Canal I directed many Emigrants for employment, and a portion no doubt settled in that neighbourhood; and the demand for labourers at the Shute-a-Blindeau and Grenville Canals last season afforded employment to many.

A very considerable number of labourers, servants and mechanics found profitable employment in Quebec and Montreal, and the accumulation of wealth by them in general is a certain proof that their industry has met a fair reward; and I have latterly witnessed a very great disposition among the working Emigrants of last and the preceding seasons to find opportunities to get transmitted their little earnings to the United Kingdom, to aid their friends coming out to join them.

The demand for all classes of working people has never been exceeded in the Canadas, particularly since the abatement of the cholera, and I can assure your Lordship, that during my late tour through the districts and settlements in Upper Canada, I did not meet an industrious Emigrant who could not meet with employment; the number of that class arrived this year is not adequate to supply the demand created by the more wealthy Emigrants. This was particularly felt in the Western and London districts of the Upper province, where the want of labourers was so great that it was found necessary to encourage a number to come over from Ohio and Pennsylvania.

In Quebec, I am sure, your Lordship's own observation has led you to remark, that at no time throughout the year was the slightest inconvenience felt from the increase of numbers, or the accumulation of Emigrant labourers and artificers; but, on the contrary, a very general difficulty was experienced by master tradesmen and contractors in getting hands to carry on their work, at an advanced rate of wages. I will here refer your Lordship to pages 12, 13 and 20, a statement of the rates of wages of this and the last year, paid at the public works and by contractors; from which your Lordship will perceive a material increase in the rate of last year. The progress of several buildings, particularly the Marine Hospital, the new Custom House and St. Patrick's Cathedral, were interrupted by the want of artificers