

Appendix
(W.)

22nd March.

would find himself liable to an indefinite detention of his vessel, at charges which certainly cannot be supposed to be less than from £10 to £12 per day. His outlay having been made, and his agreements with the passengers in force, he could not throw up the business; and it is difficult to say how long, at a remote place, both he and his passengers might have to remain in this dilemma. We mention the passengers, for they would experience the full share of the difficulty. They would see their means wasting away at a distance from the homes they had finally quitted, and the enactment, intended for their benefit, might inflict on them a serious injury. Whilst, therefore, it would in itself be desirable that Surgeons should be carried, yet, unless there is good reason to suppose that they would be procurable in such numbers as to avoid the occurrence of such difficulties as above described, it would hardly seem expedient to enact by law that no ship whatever, with 100 passengers or upwards, should sail for North America.

Such being the question, the following appears to be the substance of the answers received to Lord Grey's inquiries:—

The President of the College of Physicians at Dublin gives his opinion that an adequate number of duly qualified Physicians or Surgeons could not be found at a moderate charge to ship-owners. He adds, in a postscript, that if indeed Government were to create a fixed and permanent service for the purpose, medical men would doubtless offer themselves in sufficient numbers, but that they could not be procured in the ordinary course of commerce.

The President of the College of Physicians at Edinburgh likewise expresses his apprehension that an adequate number of Surgeons could not be obtained in Scotland.

The President of the College of Surgeons in London expresses the opinion of the College that, for the year 1849 (if not for next year) the required number of surgeons for English ports might be found, provided they were to be allowed a free passage back to this country, and were to be secured a sufficient remuneration.

The Society of Apothecaries, whilst stating that they have not sufficient experience, out of England, to offer a decided opinion in respect to the other parts of the United Kingdom, express their conviction that, for vessels sailing from English ports, an adequate number of duly qualified practitioners could be supplied at a moderate cost.

The real question, however, is necessarily whether Surgeons enough could be procured for the whole United Kingdom. If an enactment were made, imposing a charge on ships sailing from England, which would not apply to vessels sailing from Scotland or Ireland, the tendency would obviously be only to drive business away to the more favoured ports; and, in fact, it would obviously be inconsistent with all established principles to make a distinction in shipping regulations between one port of the United Kingdom and another. Considering, therefore, that it is evident, from the letters above reviewed, that after consulting the best authorities, none of them are found prepared to express an anticipation that the requisite number of medical men could be found for the Emigration ships which sail to North America from the United Kingdom, we fear no other conclusion can be arrived at than that this is not an object which can, under present circumstances, be compulsorily provided for by law. We trust, however, that an inducement to do all

that is practicable will be supplied by the measures which Lord Grey has in contemplation, for giving to ship-owners additional motives to take every security in their power for effecting the conveyance of Emigrants in good health.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

T. FREDK. ELLIOT.
FREDERIC ROGERS.

B. HAWES, Esq.,
&c., &c., &c.,
Colonial Department.

(Copy.)

The British Provinces in North America.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
20th November, 1847.

Sir,

Colonial Land
and Emigration
Commissioners
to B. Hawes,
Esq., Novem-
ber, 1847.

In compliance with Earl Grey's directions, we have carefully perused the various communications from Canada and New Brunswick, on the sufferings which have attended the Immigration of this year. We now proceed to furnish the Report required from us upon them; and in so doing, we shall not confine ourselves to proceedings belonging to this Board, but shall equally mention in their place the measures of Government and any facts requiring to be generally known, in order that, as we understand Lord Grey to desire, the whole subject may be brought under review together, in a convenient shape, for the information of the Provincial Legislature, and for consideration in this country.

Representations on the sickness and distress in British America have been received from public bodies, which, even if the gravity of the occasion was not in itself apparent, must have commanded attention from the weight due to their own authority. The Crown has been addressed by both Houses of the Canadian Legislature, as well as by the Corporation of Montreal. In New Brunswick, the Legislature was not sitting during most of the Immigration, but an earnest appeal has been received from the Common Council of St. John, the great port of arrival in that Province. All of these Addresses agree in representing that not only has the recent Immigration introduced disease, which has spread to the resident population, and in various ways swelled the amount of distress, but also that it consisted to a large extent of destitute, vagrant, or helpless classes; and while every disposition is expressed by the authorities to receive their fellow-countrymen hospitably, they insist upon the necessity of devising means to prevent the recurrence of this year's sufferings.

We trust we may be permitted, at the outset, to express the deep concern with which we have read these accounts of the ravages of disease amongst bodies of people about whom our duties had necessarily engaged us in much correspondence, and for whose protection we can truly affirm that, during the trying season which has elapsed, our time and thoughts were constantly occupied in endeavouring to secure a faithful and vigorous exercise of such powers as the law affords. But, instead of dwelling on sentiments of regret, which must be shared by every person of humanity, we shall proceed at once to the practical questions which arise out of the subject.

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