

CANADA.

grounds for apprehending that sickness would prevail to an alarming extent in every vessel with Irish passengers.

Two days after the arrival of these vessels four more came in, viz., the barque "John Francis," ship "Agnes" from Cork, and barques "George" and "Royalist" from Liverpool. These four vessels had lost on the passage, which had been short, 112 of their passengers, and had more than double that number lying ill with fever and dysentery. Having no room in our crowded hospitals to accommodate this number, I resolved at once to convert the sheds used for healthy passengers into hospitals, by which additional accommodation was at once obtained for 600. I reported this arrangement for the approval of his Excellency the Governor-General on the 21st of May, asking at the same time for additional medical aid, and hospital attendants, proportioned to the increase of sick. I reported at the same time that I had taken upon me to employ Dr. Benson, a passenger by the "Wandsworth," as an assistant. On the two days following this arrangement, 200 sick were landed from the "George," "Agnes," "John Francis," and "Royalist," and placed in these sheds. I sent up express to Quebec, and obtained the assistance of Drs. Jacques and M'Grath, and a large supply of bedding, and cooking utensils. These were received the following day, and I forthwith proceeded to land other sick, making up the total number under treatment on shore to 530 on the 23rd of May, being just nine days from the first admission. From this time to the end of the month passenger vessels continued to arrive, each one more or less sickly. As far as possible, the worst of the sick were landed at once, and the others received medicine, &c., on board.

On the 27th I received by steamer a large number of tents and hospital marquees, with an additional supply of hospital bedding. I received at the same time instructions to detain all passengers where fever had prevailed for a period of ten days. With some difficulty the marquees and tents were pitched, as few men could be found to engage in any work which brought them near the hospitals, and the regular hospital attendants were overworked in their attendance on the sick, and in burying the dead.

On the 30th of the month four large hospital marquees were pitched and fitted with 64 beds each, and a large number of bell-tents were also fitted with beds, and that evening 400 more sick were landed, increasing our number to 1200. But there still remained 35 vessels in quarantine, having on board 12,175 souls, and great numbers of these were falling ill and dying daily. It was with much difficulty that people could be found to make coffins, dig graves, and bury the dead, as already observed, all our regular hospital servants were either ill or exhausted by fatigue. Dr. Benson, the gentleman engaged to assist, took fever and died after a short illness. On the 1st of June, I received the aid of two other medical assistants, in addition to Drs. Jaques and M'Grath; and the Superintendent of the Board of Works was employed to erect new hospitals, and to build cook-houses for the passengers' sheds used as temporary hospitals, and now crowded in every part.

On the fourth of this month his Excellency the Governor-General was pleased to appoint a commission of three medical gentlemen to visit, examine, and report upon the means to be adopted to relieve the distress. Upon the report of these gentlemen, orders were sent to permit the healthy passengers of all vessels detained ten days at the station to embark on board steamers sent to convey them direct to Montreal. On the 5th, the passengers from 11 vessels were embarked on board three steamers, and the day following the passengers of seven other vessels were transhipped by two steamers. A few days previous to this a small steamer had been chartered specially by the chief agent to ply daily among the vessels in quarantine, and supply the passengers with fresh provisions and comforts. An additional boat's crew was also employed in visiting vessels in quarantine with a medical man and a supply of medicine.

On the 8th of this month another of the medical gentlemen was attacked with fever, and three days previous the Rev. Mr. Gauvran, the Roman Catholic chaplain, who had been unwearied in his attendance upon the sick and dying, was down with the same disease. On the 10th of June, our number of sick had reached to 1800, who were crowded into every place that could afford shelter, hospitals, sheds, tents, and churches; these last, through the kindness of the Lord Bishop of Montreal, and his Grace the Roman Catholic archbishop, were given up for the use of the sick. In the mean time the greatest exertions were being made to put up new buildings; contracts were entered into by the Board of Works for the erection of two, capable of accommodating 120 sick each. Two others of equal size were building, under the immediate direction of the active superintendent of the Board, and a fifth was contracted for in Quebec by the Chief Agent for Emigrants, to be sent down in frame ready to be put up.

On the 11th of June, the healthy passengers from those vessels where fever had prevailed, where landed at the east end of the island, where tents had been pitched on the cleared land, capable of lodging 3000 to 4000. The most destitute of these were supplied with fresh meat and soft bread, under the controul of the Commissariat Department, an officer from which was stationed permanently on the island, with a sergeant issuer, by and through whom the whole expenditure of the establishment was made.

The police of the station was increased to ten men, and a detachment of troops was stationed on the island to aid in preserving order, and to prevent intercourse between the healthy in the tents and the sick in hospital. A medical assistant resided permanently at the east end, to afford aid to those taken ill, and to pass them over to the hospitals, for which purpose a horse and vehicle was expressly kept to convey them. A deputy agent, from the Emigrant Department, and a clerk resided also at the tents to afford assist-