

10. Persons claiming such an abatement from the price paid for land, will be held responsible for any expense the colonial authorities may be compelled to incur for the maintenance, during the first year after their arrival, of the labourers in respect of whom it has been allowed.

Colonial Office, 1 March 1831.

LOWER CANADA.

Mr. Secretary
Spring Rice to
Lord Aylmer.

UPPER CANADA.

— No. 4. —

Extract of a DESPATCH from Viscount *Goderich* to Sir *J. Colborne*; dated
Downing-street, 31 October 1831.

THERE are two modes by which emigrants may find the means of supporting themselves upon their arrival in Canada, viz. working for wages, or settling themselves at their own expense upon lands, which, if they bring with them adequate means, they may purchase in the same way and upon the same terms as any other person desirous of obtaining them; but it is clear that if by the location of pauper emigrants it is meant that lands should be given to them, and that they should be established and for a time maintained upon those lands out of the public revenue, such a system would be utterly inconsistent with and destructive of the whole plan of disposing of land by public sale. It is equally obvious that such an attempt at the location of pauper-emigrants would involve an expense which could not be met. The only resource, therefore, for emigrants of that description is labour for wages, for which all accounts concur in representing that there is an active and increasing demand, as regards both mechanics and agriculturalists. A large proportion of the emigrants would therefore be, in all probability, speedily absorbed and adequately provided for by the natural effects of that demand, without any direct interference on the part of the Government. But as it is probable that there would always remain a certain proportion of the emigrants who, from a variety of causes, might upon their first arrival find unexpected difficulties in procuring early employment, particularly if affected by sickness; and as all would require advice as to the best mode of seeking and obtaining employment, any funds at the disposal of the Government would be beneficially employed in providing for these contingencies. The first object, therefore, to be provided for out of the public resources is the establishment of the agent for emigrants and of his office, whose business it should be to receive them on their arrival, and to direct them to the places where they could obtain employment; with respect to which it would also be his duty to collect such information as may enable him at once to put them in the way of reaching their destination. The next object to be particularly attended to is the extension of the means of assisting those who may arrive in such a state of health as to preclude them from the ability of speedily providing for themselves. This might be done by a contribution on the part of Government towards any private institution which might be opened for that purpose, or towards the expense of any existing hospital into which they might be received. If no such hospital or institution should exist, the Governor would exercise his own discretion in determining the most easy and economical mode of rendering such assistance as the case might require. Thirdly, if the demand for labour from private individuals should be inadequate to the supply, the Government might be compelled to find work for the surplus supply; and the payment for that labour would constitute an additional item of charge upon the Emigration Fund. It would be necessary, however, in this case, that care should be taken that the work to be done should be either work intended to be done if no such surplus emigration had existed, or work calculated in itself to give facilities to future emigrants, such as the making of roads and bridges, or any object of public utility, calculated by its general advantages indirectly and ultimately to pay the expense incurred. In some cases it might be more convenient to pay the wages in provisions, or possibly in land, rather than in money; but such an item of expense would equally come under this head. Fourthly, if in any case it should be deemed absolutely necessary to give direct assistance to emigrants, it should be confined to the charge of conveyance to the intended scene of either their labour or their settlement.

UPPER CANADA.

Visct. *Goderich* to
Sir *J. Colborne*.