

Enclosure in No. 10.

NEW
BRUNSWICK.

Encl. in No. 10.

To his Excellency Sir Edmund Head, Baronet, Lieutenant-Governor and
Commander-in-Chief of the Province of New Brunswick, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith the annual abstract of immigration to New Brunswick for the year 1853.

1. The whole number of immigrants arrived in the province during the year was 3,762, In 1853 - 3,762
being an increase on the year 1852 of 1,597 souls. „ 1852 - 2,165

2. There has been very little sickness among the emigrants that arrived in this province during the past year. The whole number of deaths on the voyage and in quarantine was less than one-third of one per cent. on the numbers embarked. The deaths were chiefly among infants and adults affected with chronic complaints of long standing.

Increase - 1,597

3. Much has been done the past season to improve the buildings, offices, and accommodations generally at the quarantine station at this port, under the direction of Mr. Thomas M'Avity, the efficient superintendent of Partridge Island. I have often had occasion to mention the kindness and skill of Dr. Harding, the resident physician, and I now have to add that these, combined with his long experience and active habits, and the general improvements at the quarantine station, render it every way efficient, and comfortable for any reasonable number of immigrants that may be landed there.

4. During the past season I have had no occasion to institute proceedings under the "Passengers Act." The new Act, which came into force on the 1st October 1852, has worked well. Where deficiencies in the supply of provisions have occurred either from accident or misapprehension, the deficiency has been made good on my representation. In one case (that of the packet ship Middleton), the passengers, 291 in all, were short of some articles during the latter part of the voyage, owing to sea-damage. The owners requested me to name the amount to be paid to the passengers as compensation, after hearing their statement. I fixed upon a sum which was perfectly satisfactory to all parties, and the owners instantly paid each passenger his amount in my presence.

5. The firmness with which the "Passengers Act" was enforced at this port in former years in every case of wilful violation, has had an excellent effect. In every prosecution which I have instituted since my appointment to office in 1843, a conviction has been obtained, and sometimes very large penalties. In consequence of this and the marked improvements in the late "Passengers Act," prosecutions are now rarely necessary, full compensation being generally obtained by my interference or request.

6. At least three-fourths of the immigrants of the past season have remained in the province. Fully one-half of all that arrived were English and Scotch, chiefly railway and agricultural labourers and their families. The number from Ireland was much smaller than usual. With the exception of those who came to join friends here, many of the Irish immigrants proceeded to the United States, their passages being paid by friends resident there. A few Norwegians landed in June last at Shediac, with the view, it was understood, of obtaining information respecting the Gulf coast of this province, to be communicated to their countrymen in Norway. These, and a very few passengers landed at Miramichi, constitute all the immigration in that part of the province during the past year. At St. Andrew's, 447 passengers were landed during the year, chiefly labourers for the St. Andrew's and Quebec Railway, the rest bound to Canada but driven in there by stress of weather, being too late in the season for Quebec. The latter were forwarded to Montreal, via Portland; and with respect to these, Captain Jones, the assistant emigration officer at St. Andrew's, has made a special report, which is herewith submitted.

7. I have great gratification in being able to report, that the past year has been marked by greater prosperity among all the industrial classes, and in every branch of business, than has ever before been enjoyed since New Brunswick became a colony. The prices of the staple exports of the country, timber and deals, have advanced to rates which are highly remunerative. The number of saw-mills driven either by steam or water power is constantly on the increase. Ship building has also been prosecuted with great activity, and, to an extent heretofore unparalleled. The vessels built are of much larger size than formerly, and, owing to the high character New Brunswick ships have obtained abroad for speed and durability, their price has become greatly enhanced. The harvest of 1853 was good, except a short crop of hay, and some damage to potatoes from the old disease. The actual commencement of railway construction on an extensive scale, has opened up new and profitable sources of employment. Altogether business is in a healthy state, and the province is rapidly advancing in every respect.

8. Besides the immigration from Europe, very considerable numbers of persons have entered the province from the neighbouring colonies of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and from elsewhere, attracted by the demand for labour, and high rates of wages; still the supply of labour has fallen far short of the demand. The farmers have perhaps suffered more than any other class, from an inadequate supply of agricultural labourers and female domestics. In the towns there has also been great scarcity of female servants, and a supply of these is now very much needed. Boys from twelve to eighteen years of age are greatly in demand throughout the province, by tradesmen, farmers, and mechanics