

EMIGRATION.	on the duties of the Government Emigration Agents, in carrying out the Passenger Act, has produced great relief to the department here.
Report.	The Commissioners, from the terms of their last year's Report laid before Parliament, seem to contemplate some amendments to the Act, and will, I have no doubt, render its provisions in every way efficient. The suggestions which my experience would authorize me to offer, are confined to a few heads only. I conceive it worthy of consideration whether all vessels carrying emigrants should not be brought under the operation of clause 6. Under the Act, as at present worded, no vessel having less than 30 adult passengers, is subjected to any of its provisions. It is not to be supposed, that when this number of persons only are received on board a vessel of the usual burthen employed in the Quebec trade, any absolute privation or suffering can be experienced. But instances have come under my view, in which considerable inconvenience and injury has been caused to the passengers from the master of the vessel having neglected to issue a proper supply of water; and from emigrants, under the impression that the regulations for the issue of provisions by the ship, were to be observed in all cases, having omitted to provide a sufficient supply for themselves.
Suggested amendments.	I conceive there should be some standard established in regard to the quality of biscuit to be issued by the ship. My report of 1844 will be found to allude to this subject, as also to the desire expressed by all parties connected with the Irish passenger trade, that the quantity of biscuit should be reduced, and a corresponding increase made in the allowance of oatmeal; 2lbs. of the former, and 5 lbs. of the latter per week, in lieu of the present scale, would be, I conceive, a supply not more expensive to the ship, while it would prove, in most cases, much more available to the passenger.
Quality of provisions.	On the subject of liability for penalties inflicted under the Passenger Act, I have to remark, that while it is the master only who is held subject to the judgment, it is probable that its evasion will frequently occur. The master, and no other, is the guilty party in almost all cases of infringement of the law. But it seems desirable to provide, if possible, a recourse even against the ship, if from death or desertion, the master should avoid the consequences of his neglect or misconduct.
Liability for penalties.	I have this year to report the loss of three emigrant vessels proceeding to this port, fortunately, however, without serious loss of life. The brig "Brilliant," from Cork, with 162 passengers, was wrecked on the coast of Newfoundland on the 12th of May. The passengers, with the exception of two, were saved, and succeeded in reaching St. John's, and were forwarded by the authorities to this port, with the exception of 30, who proceeded to Halifax on their route to the United States. The barque "Hebe," from Liverpool, with 39 passengers, was wrecked on the Manicougan shoals on the 30th August. The passengers were all saved and brought to this port on the 12th September.
Cases of shipwreck.	The barque "James and Mary Sinnott," from Tralee, was lost at sea in the severe gale of the 19th of September. Her passengers, 20 in number, were fortunately taken from the wreck by the ship "Lord Glenelg," and all landed safely at Richabucto, on the 24th October; 11 of them reached this port on the 12th November.
Persons aided to emigrate.	The number of emigrants who have been aided in their removal to this country, by their landlords, or parish authorities during the past season, shows a considerable decrease when compared with that of the year 1845. In paper No. 6 of the Appendix, (page 20.) I have set forth, as nearly as it can be ascertained, the number assisted from these sources. As no official return, or notification, is made from the authorities or parties who assist these people, I am dependant entirely for my information on personal inquiry of the individuals themselves, who very often return unsatisfactory replies. The number from each country was as follows, viz., from England, 245, seventy-nine of whom only appear to have come out under the superintendence of the Poor Law Commissioners, against 804, who were sent out last year. These persons were paid the usual landing money here, viz., 20s. sterling each adult, amounting to the sum of 63 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> sterling. The remaining persons from England, 166, received assistance from their respective parishes to the extent of 104 <i>l.</i>
Number from England.	From Ireland the number assisted was 1013, being nearly equal to those of last year. These people were nearly all assisted by their landlords. Those from the Port of Limerick, 358, sent out by Colonel Wyndham and Mr. Spright, were generally well provided, and one party of 20 families, 51 persons, sent out by the
From Ireland.	