

time available to the community, and affording him the means of advancing his position in society.

The object of the Government in the plan now in operation at the Owen's Sound settlement, being to give such a quantity of land, and no more, as will best carry into effect the objects in view: it would seem that in giving 50 acres, under the restrictions imposed, that plan has been adopted which gives the greatest amount of benefit to the settler at the least expenditure of the public land.

The employment upon the proposed road, in connexion with the free grants, will not only enable the settler to bear up against the hardships and difficulties of his first settlement, but will enable his exertions to be beneficially employed for the improvement of the other lands of the Crown.

Copy of a Despatch from Lord Sydenham to Lord John Russell.

{ GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
{ Montreal, Jan'y. 26, 1841.

MY LORD,

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith, copies of the annual Report of the Agent for Emigrants at Quebec, and of a Report from the agent at Toronto, on the subject of the Emigration to these Provinces during the year 1840. Appended to these reports are communications from the sub-agents, and other documents, containing the most detailed information which it has been possible to collect in regard to the numbers and description of the emigrants, their conduct, the capital which they brought out, and the places in which they have settled.

The general result of these reports I consider as highly satisfactory. The emigration during the past season, as I had anticipated, has greatly exceeded that of the last few years; the emigrants appear to have been universally well conducted, and several of them are possessed of considerable property. The great bulk have settled in these provinces, and there is every reason to expect that they will do well.

I avail myself also of the present opportunity to put your Lordship in possession of the views which I have been led to form upon the question of emigration to these Provinces.

Very erroneous ideas appear to prevail in England on the subject. It seems to be supposed that every individual in the station of a day labourer, who can succeed in reaching the shores of North America, is at once amply provided for, and that every person, who with a few hundred pounds comes out and purchases land, whether they have any previous knowledge of agriculture or not, becomes at once a wealthy farmer.

These extravagant ideas are of course disappointed, and great distress and misery have followed. It appears to me, therefore, of the first importance that all visionary expectations of this nature should be discouraged.

Emigration to America holds out none of these brilliant prospects of rapid affluence; but at the same time it is secure, under proper management, from the risk of equally rapid failure. It is no lottery, with a few exorbitant prizes, and a large majority of blanks, but a secure and certain investment in which a prudent and reasonable man may safely embark. It may be affirmed, without fear of contradiction, that no industrious well behaved man ever failed on this continent to make an easy livelihood by his labour—that no capitalist who, with a fair share of agricultural knowledge, or with a disposition to profit by the experience of others, has chosen to invest his money in the purchase of land, has ever had reason to complain of the insufficiency of his return. Almost any laborer with good conduct and perseverance may in a few years become a land-holder. Almost any farmer possessed of moderate capital may, by the same means, become eventually possessed of valuable landed property, and be enabled to place his family in a state of independence. But these results are not to be snatched as the prize of a fortunate speculation, they are to be attained as the reward of a course of perseverance, industry, and steadiness. This picture may appear to some discouraging, to my mind it is quite the reverse. By showing that every man's fortune is in his own hands, that to good conduct success is certain, and that scarcely any thing is left to chance, it holds out, I think, the strongest inducements to all the better description of emigrants. I have no fear that its general publication will have any other than a good effect.

I shall now proceed to notice the direct means by which emigration should be encouraged, and in doing so I shall take occasion to advert to the reports made to your Lordship by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, of the general tenor of which I have already had the satisfaction of expressing my approval.

In the Reports addressed to your Lordship on the 21st April and 5th August last, the Commissioners enter on the question of granting assistance from the Imperial Treasury towards the passages of emigrants, and in the latter report they throw out considerable doubts as to the expediency of applying in that way any sum that might be granted by Parliament for emigration. In these doubts I more than concur. I have no hesitation in pronouncing such a measure inexpedient. The sum that could be obtained from Parliament must, under any circumstances, be inconsiderable, and adequate, therefore, to the transport of a very few;