

sick about town, that would not go to the hospital. Amongst this class, who were lodged in miserable hovels amongst the poor, most of the deaths occurred.

3d. "The number of deaths at your Agency."

I cannot answer this question accurately, as there were a great many children, and also several adults that died without being reported to me. I know of 61 deaths, and should suppose there were at least 30 more.

4th. "What proportion appeared to be persons of capital, stating whether agriculturalists or mechanics."

The amount of capital stated in answer to Query 2, was possessed by 241 persons, who were all agriculturalists. Some few of them had added to that occupation the trade of corn merchant on a small scale. The mechanics were journeymen, and not possessed of any capital.

5th. "Number of applicants for free passages or charitable assistance."

There have been 2,499 free passages granted from this office, and the number of those who have received assistance in provisions amounts to 2,420 to this day, making together 4,919.

6th. "Complaints from emigrants as to treatment on the route, sufferings from exposure."

Complaints have been very general against the delay upon the Rideau Canal, and Dr. Robinson, the surgeon of the Emigrant Hospital, is of opinion, that much of the sickness of the season is attributable to the exposure and privations of that route. In the month of October some shameful instances of neglect on the part of the forwarders took place, by crowding the emigrants into the barges. The barge Derwent is one remarkable instance, the particulars of which I have forwarded to you, sworn to by the passengers, and there were afterwards some glaring instances of the same kind, and I am afraid that more than one unfortunate emigrant has for ever lost his health by exposure on this route. The crews of the barges are generally French Canadians, and they have no sympathy for the emigrants; but, on the contrary, a rooted dislike to them, and rather rejoice at their sufferings than attempt to alleviate them.

7th. "Number of emigrants settled in your neighbourhood; state the progress they are making in their agricultural or mechanical pursuits."

Including the bay of Quinte and Colborne, in the Newcastle district, to Prescott, in the Johnstown district, 3140 have been sent, most of whom I am informed have remained; a few have purchased land, and others have taken farms in shares. All who have gone into the country, either as settlers or farm-servants, are doing well, and with their families comfortably situated for the winter. About 800 remained as labourers in this town, and upon the Macadamized road, and other public works. The season is now nearly over, and the greater part of them have been discharged: those who have families are no better off than they were at the commencement of the season, nor have they learnt anything to make them more useful as settlers in this country. There was amongst this number about 150 mechanics, principally carpenters and masons, who had had constant employment at good wages.

8th. "Number of destitute emigrants in your vicinity who cannot obtain work; state also the number, if any, receiving assistance from public or private charity."

I think there are about 80 destitute in this vicinity; not so much from want of work as by the death or sickness of the head of the family. The St. George's and St. Patrick's Societies, and the Ladies' Benevolent Society, afford some relief to these people. I do not think they get much from private charity.

9th. "General remarks as to their moral deportment; suggestions as to the removal of any abuses which they may be subject to on the route; and also any improvement in the present mode of conducting the business connected with the Agency."

Their moral conduct has been very good under all the circumstances; they have been, in many instances, grossly deceived by unlicensed tavern-keepers, steamboat runners, intelligence office-keepers, &c. They have never attempted to redress their own wrongs, but have come to this office with their complaint; and when it was not possible to punish the offender, or get them redress, they were not discontented, but appeared perfectly satisfied if their complaint was attended to, and an attempt made to have their rights respected. Drunkenness was of rare occurrence this year, and that circumstance, I am of opinion, may be attributed to the improved appearance and conduct of the emigrant. I have already stated to you in my letter of the 3rd instant that I considered the deception practised on the emigrants by agents and captains of the vessels they take their passage in to this country, in the first place, in giving them erroneous information as to the length of the passage, and afterwards selling them provisions on the voyage at high prices, as well as holding out to them a rate of wages at least double what has been given in this country; and the delay and expense on the Rideau canal, as the two great causes of the emigrant's difficulties. The abuses on the canal might be remedied by entering into a contract with some one of the forwarding companies, binding them, as to time and the number, to be carried by a barge, of the first class. I would also suggest to contract for all the supplies wanted at this Agency; it would, I think, save money to the Government, and time to the agent.

10th. "State the total amount of expenditure at your Agency, including your own salary, free passages, food, &c."

From the present appearances, a greater interest appears to be taken on emigration, than has been for some time; and the societies now forming in every district, I have no doubt will be productive of much good, and will put the different agencies in possession of much correct information, not only as to where labour may be found for emigrants, but where land for sale may be purchased with less trouble and expense than at present. Settlers still continue to arrive from the United States; latterly, a number of slaves have come from Oswego. A few days ago 13 arrived in one steamer. About 50 of these people have arrived during the season.

No. 26.

Lord Sydenham to

Lord John Russell.

26th January, 1841.

Encl. 2, in No. 26.