

“A labouring man may work hard all his life in the United Kingdom, or Ireland, and never will acquire 50 acres of land, while five years of such labour, if he avoids spirituous liquors, will enable a labouring man in Canada, and I presume also in New Brunswick, to acquire 50 acres, if not more, with a dwelling; I speak from actual observation. Labouring with the axe and hoe is so different, I may say so gentlemanly, a description of labour, that our respectable young men do not view it as working with a spade and reaping-hook in Ireland is considered, while in a short time an active young man may obtain 3*l.* per month, steady wages, with board, and be regarded as one of the farmer’s family.”

Extract of Despatch, dated 2d September, 1841, from the Consul at Boston, to the Lieutenant-governor of New Brunswick.

“To your various queries relative to the situation of the Irish Emigrants in this city and neighbourhood, I can state—

“1st. That the numbers are unquestionably in excess of the demand, and that there is by no means sufficient employment for them.

“2nd. The rates of wages for labour are at present fluctuating and depending in a great measure on locality. A dollar a-day has been considered until lately a fair and general price, but there are great numbers of men now here altogether out of employment, and I have good reason to think that the labouring Irish would willingly compound for 50 cents (half a dollar) per day, to be guaranteed constant work.

“3rd. Wages are in all cases, I believe, in this neighbourhood paid in money, and I have known but few instances of complaint for want of punctuality.

“4th. The summer season cannot be considered by any means unhealthy, or ungenial to the emigrants.

“5th. Very few return direct to Europe from this port, and as no vessels are employed in the transport of emigrants from the United Kingdom, direct to Boston, it is only from the province of New Brunswick that they come here in any numbers. Some stragglers arrive from New York, or come down from Canada. Those who leave Massachusetts and the other New England States, after vain attempts to get employment, invariably remove to the West, through New York State. Numbers are now temporarily engaged on the Western Railroad, which has been completed beyond the boundary of the State of Massachusetts, in that direction. I may also mention, that all the other railroads radiating from this city, with the exception of one in the direction of Maine, have been carried beyond the limits of Massachusetts, and the demand for Irish labour is consequently much limited in this quarter.

“The strong prejudice which exists in this part of the Union against the labouring Irish, tends much to make them discontented; could encouragement be held out to them with the certainty of employment in New Brunswick during the whole year, I have no doubt that numbers would be induced to return to that province, or to proceed to Canada on the same terms.”