

## Enclosure in No. 10.

## DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION, ONTARIO.

DEAR SIR,

Toronto, February 13, 1884.

I HAVE the honour to enclose a copy of a letter sent to H. Hodgkin, Esq., in reference to the immigration of pauper immigrants. This is sent to you in order that you may see that the Government of Ontario found it necessary to withdraw any special privileges that may have been granted under an arrangement with you, to immigrants sent out under the auspices of the Imperial Government. Will you, therefore, regard this letter as addressed to yourself, and act according to contents.

I have, &amp;c.

Major Gaskell,  
Local Government Board, Dublin.

(Signed) DAVID SPENCE,  
Secretary.

## IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, ONTARIO.

DEAR SIR,

Toronto, February 13, 1884.

I HAVE the honour, under instructions from the Hon. the Commissioner of Immigration, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th October last, in reference to the prospects of Immigration for the approaching season. It was deemed advisable to wait and see how the immigrants sent out last year under the auspices of the Imperial Government, would fare during the winter, before encouraging more of the same class to follow. So far, their condition is not encouraging, as many of them are now living on charity, and public feeling has been somewhat strongly expressed, in the public press and otherwise, concerning them. This remark really applies to the people sent out by the Unions; but they are so closely associated in the public mind with those sent out by you, that it will be hard to find employment for either class next summer, as the farmers place but little value on their labour, and the people of the cities are afraid of laying the foundations of pauperism. What makes matters worse, a considerable number of families who went to the United States last summer have been sent back to Toronto, and have now to be supported by charity.

The Ontario Government has, therefore, decided that it will no longer be possible to give assistance to any class of workhouse or "union" people either in the way of meals or railway passes. This will apply to the agency at Quebec as well as to all agencies in this Province, nor will this Department assume the responsibility of settling them, or finding employment for them.

Should you send any of that class on your own responsibility, it may be well to appoint an agent here to find work for them, and pay their landing money, &c. Indeed, this would appear to the undersigned to be necessary.

The numbers of union or workhouse people sent out appear to the Commissioner to have considerably exceeded the numbers of that class suggested by Major Gaskell, when here, as likely to be forwarded. They are also inferior, as a class, to those described by him. I do not, in any sense, wish to impute to Major Gaskell a desire to mislead in any way. The difficulties arising in selection are quite understood and appreciated. For these reasons it will not be possible any longer to continue the arrangement made with Major Gaskell in reference to the workhouse or union people who may be forwarded, and therefore, the special privileges which they have been granted under that arrangement must necessarily be withdrawn.

I take the opportunity of stating, for the benefit of your Committee, that while there is ample room in this Province for all able-bodied persons of both sexes who are willing and able to work, yet these two features are essential to the procuring of a livelihood here, namely, ability and willingness to labour. Many persons in the older countries drift into the workhouse from their inability or their unwillingness to earn a livelihood by labour. It is impossible to provide a home here for such people.

I am extremely anxious that you should understand that the foregoing observations are not intended to apply to other than workhouse or union people.

I have, &amp;c.

H. Hodgkin, Esq.,  
12, Hereford Gardens,  
London, W.

(Signed) DAVID SPENCE,  
Secretary.