

Copy of a NOTE received from *Hill Blacklock, Esq. Architect*, to *A. C. Buchanan, Esq.*

Sir,

Quebec, 8 December 1832.

IN reply to your Note, requesting to be informed if there was as good a supply of workmen this season as last, I beg to inform you that most of the master artificers engaged in building in Quebec, complained to me of the difficulty they had of procuring workmen during the last season, and of the high rate of wages demanded; and I know of two public buildings (the Marine Hospital and new Custom-house) which are now not completed from the above causes only.

I am, sir, &c. &c.

(signed) *H. M. Blacklock, Architect.*

EXTRACTS from the WEEKLY REPORT made to the Governor-in-Chief, by the Chief Agent for Emigrants at *Quebec*.

Week ending 12th May 1832.

COMPARING the general character of the Emigrants already arrived with former seasons, I consider the average, in point of apparent respectability, to have increased.

The vessels arrived from Ireland have not their full complement of passengers, and I am sorry to observe that the same irregularity which prevailed last year, with respect to ships' passenger lists, continues to subsist.

Week ending 19th May.

From the badness of the roads in this district, and the general backwardness of the season, it is impossible for Emigrants to proceed inland at present; the majority go to Upper Canada; they are generally possessed of means; the number of necessitous as yet arrived is certainly very few; those sent out by parishes or societies generally receive money here on landing, or get it at Montreal, funds being remitted by the captains or ship agents for that purpose: this system requires an amendment.

Many Pensioners who have arrived I have recommended to Upper Canada.

I have sent Dr. Griffin a number of printed "Advices to Emigrants" for distribution, on board the ships at the quarantine station, and every vessel is visited by the assistant agent or clerk from this Department. I have also left at the Commissariat Office printed instructions for Pensioner Emigrants. A considerable number of labourers and servants have found employment this week in the city and vicinity; also many masons and joiners at the public works, Cape Diamond.

Week ending 26th May.

The Emigrants arrived this week are of a very respectable character, and apparently all in good circumstances; among them many pensioners.

A considerable number of artificers have found employment on the works at Cape Diamond, and many labourers and servants have got engagements in and about this city. To those destined for Upper Canada, who, from their necessities requiring immediate employment, I provided with orders to obtain it at the respective situations in that province. M. Jolie, senior, of Lothbinier, is anxious to encourage settlement on his property; a few Scotch families have gone thither this week. Many casualties, attended with loss of life, have taken place among the Emigrants, through sending them on shore in small boats.

Week ending 2d June.

Nothing very material has occurred this week; the city is nearly clear of Emigrants, and it is satisfactory to record so very little distress among those already arrived. Employment for masons, carpenters, and farming labourers is easily obtained; the rage is all for Upper Canada. Three families from Hampshire are gone to settle on Mr. McNider's land at Metis; and I have advised several respectable families arrived this week to settle at Nicolet and Lothbinier. Next week I shall have all arrangements for Upper Canada finished. Four vessels, with 750 Emigrants, have just arrived, (3 o'clock,) and will appear in next week's Report.

Week ending 9th June.

The majority of Emigrants continues of a class superior to former years; the number dependent on immediate employment comparatively few. The arrangements adopted in several districts in Upper Canada enable me to direct those Emigrants wanting work to situations where they will find it.

I am doing all I can to urge the commuted pensioners to Upper Canada. As soon as the roads are passable into the interior of this province, I may be enabled to forward families to many desirable situations in the vicinity of Craig's Road. Provisions are very scarce in that part, and the population are generally obliged to draw their supplies of flour from Quebec; the unusual backwardness of the season this year will operate much against settlement in Lower Canada. I have availed myself, of the aid of my nephew, Mr. R. S. Buchanan, at Montreal, to act as temporary assistant to this Department in that city. Several fatal cases of cholera morbus this week.

Week ending 16th June.

In consequence of the breaking out of the cholera morbus in this city, the Emigrant population have experienced great inconvenience; I have urged all whom I could into the country.