

EMIGRATION.
Report.

on arrival, but they were proceeding to their friends and countrymen in the townships of Waterloo and Wilmot, who are competent to afford them the most efficient aid in their establishment. This party, with the German emigrants who have arrived by the route of the St. Lawrence, of whom 200 have settled in the same section of the province, will prove a valuable addition to our population. They are generally hardy and industrious, and from their extreme thriftiness, usually make successful settlers. The townships in the Wellington district, established by the Pennsylvanians, of German origin, are amongst the finest and most thriving settlements in the province, and they have served as a nucleus around which a very extensive and now populous district has grown up.

Character of the
Year's Emigration.

The character of the emigration to the province for the year 1846, is very similar to that of the two previous seasons. The proportion which the Irish emigration bears to the whole has considerably increased, and as in former years this class presents, in its appearance at least, the greatest deficiency of means. Mr. Hawke, in his report, which will be seen at Paper No. 10 of the Appendix, writes, "I am not aware that the number of indigent settlers this season has been much greater in proportion than usual, but there certainly was a large number of the Irish emigrants in a state of destitution as to clothes and bedding far exceeding anything I ever before witnessed."

So far as I have been able to judge there have been but few instances of wealthy emigrants from any part of the United Kingdom. A good many persons, both from England and Ireland, have possessed capital, varying from 100*l.* to 500*l.*, sufficient for their advantageous settlement in the country, and a fair proportion of the remainder have been furnished with sufficient to keep them from immediate want. Of the emigrants from Wales, several families possessed funds amounting to from 300*l.* to 400*l.*, and many of the German families from Hamburg also brought out considerable sums of money with them. These parties, however, have all gone to the western states. The great bulk of the Irish and a proportion of the English emigrants of the season have been exceedingly poor, indeed, dependent on immediate employment for their subsistence.

Expenditure.

The expenditure of this department in the direct relief and assistance of destitute immigrants, from the commencement of the season to its close, may be stated at 8542*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* currency, under the following heads, viz:—transport, 7207*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*; provisions, 782*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.*; medical aid, including the salaries of the emigrant physicians at Montreal and Kingston (170*l.*) 551*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*; and contingencies, being the expenses incurred in sending a steamer to the relief of the emigrant ship "Elizabeth and Sarah," before alluded to, 265*l.* The charge for agencies in both provinces, amounts to 1742*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*, which added to the above will make the total disbursements of the year amount to 10,549*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*, currency.

Comparison with
1845.

The gross expenditure of 1845, was 8812*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, being less than that of the present year by 1737*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* On a comparison of the several heads of expenditure for the two years, the only material difference will be found under the head of transport, which on the inland routes shows an increase of 1661*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* The expense for provisions is nearly the same, but there is an increase in the expenditure for medical relief of 123*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*

The total increase in the expenditure is equal to about 20 per cent. over that of last year, and will be in a great measure accounted for by the increase in the emigration, equal to 29 per cent.

Rates of Transport.

The rates of transport on the several inland routes for the emigrants, forwarded by the department during the past season, have been scarcely more favourable than last year. But on some of the routes increased facilities of conveyance have been afforded. The class of vessels employed has been materially improved, and the time required to perform the passage very considerably reduced. This has been more particularly the case on the route between Montreal and Kingston. In former years the passage vessels for all emigrants proceeding to the western section of the province, were required to be conveyed upwards, *via* Bytown and the Rideau Canal; a passage which required from four to six days. During the past season, owing to the completion of the Beauharnois and St. Lawrence Canals, the shorter and more direct route has been opened. Large class steamers have been enabled to perform the distance regularly in from 28 to 30 hours, and without any increase in the charge for passage. At the same time a considerable saving is effected in the provisions required, and the comfort and convenience, more particularly of females and families, are greatly increased.

The rates at which Mr. Hawke was enabled to effect contracts with the steam-