

You will acquaint the Mayor and Common Council of that City, that their Resolutions dated the 3d September, 1847, have been duly received. You will explain to them the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government on this painful subject, as stated in my Despatch to Lord Elgin, which I have already referred to; and you will add, that we shall be prepared to recommend to the consideration of Parliament the claims of the Province to a fair share of assistance in meeting the burthens which have been thrown upon it.

I lament to see by several of your Despatches, and especially by No. 84, of the 28th of September last, that while there is no lack of employment for those who are able and willing to work, it is frequently found that the Irish Immigrants this year are too confirmed in habits of vagrancy to apply to labour, and that in several instances after they had been engaged by farmers, it became necessary to discharge them, because they refused to work. The only remedy I can see for such an evil, if unhappily it continues, would be an effective Vagrant Law, coupled with provision for those who are really destitute in a Work House.

Of course no relief should be given to able bodied persons, unless they perform some actual labour, nor should the amount they receive be otherwise than much less than can be earned by the exertions of an independent labourer.

I am not aware how far the existing provisions of the Law in New Brunswick, on the subject of Vagrancy, may be of a satisfactory nature, and I shall be glad to be referred by you to the Provincial Statutes on the subject; but in the meantime I enclose for your information, in case the question should require to be brought before the Legislature, the copy of an Act 10 and 11 Victoria, cap. 84, which was passed in the last Session of Parliament for the repression of Vagrancy in Ireland.

There remains to be mentioned the important subject to which I have already adverted, in the reply you are authorized to make to the Corporation of Saint John, of some contribution towards the charges brought on the Province by the recent Immigration. It will be necessary that you should furnish me with full information on the nature and amount of the expenditure incurred on this account, and also with an exact statement of the manner in which all funds raised for the relief of Emigrants have been laid out.

When the particulars arrive, and assuming the whole proceeds of the Emigrant Tax to have been applied to their proper object, I shall be prepared to submit to my colleagues a proposal for submitting to Parliament our recommendation that there shall be granted to New Brunswick, on the same principle as to Canada, an equitable contribution from Imperial Funds towards the expense created by the unparalleled misfortunes of Ireland this year, and by the sickness and distress which they have thrown upon the British Provinces in North America.

I have now, I believe, considered all the topics requiring separate notice, in the Province under your Government.

For the general views of the Government on the misfortunes which have occurred, and on the proper measures to be taken for the future, I have to refer you to the enclosed copy of the Despatch I have addressed to the Earl of Elgin, [1st December, 1847,] accompanied by a Report from the Commissioners of Emigration, which you will find to supply a comprehensive review of the occurrences of the past season, and of the important questions connected with it.

You will of course lay all these documents at the first opportunity before the Legislature, to which you will intimate, as I have authorized Lord Elgin to do in Canada, that Her Majesty's Government will be ready to recommend the Royal assent to be given to an Act passed in the first instance for not more than two years, containing provisions of the kind there described.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

GREY.

Lt. Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, &c. &c. &c.

(Copy)

*Downing Street, 1st December, 1847.*

MY LORD,—I have purposely deferred answering your Despatches of the 28th June and of the 13th July, transmitting Addresses to Her Majesty from both Houses of the Provincial Legislature, and from the Corporation of Montreal, on the subject of the Immigration into Canada of the present year, until the termination of the season for Emigration had enabled me carefully to review all that has taken place during its progress.

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