

Witt, to their forwarding Contractor, W. L. Whiting; they appeared as if they had been huddled into the boat, with about the same feeling that a load of pigs would be shipped at Prescott for the Montreal market. The forwarder, I understand, alleges as an excuse, that they crowded into the boat in spite of him. But he must allow, that he weighed the luggage of each individual before it was put into the boat, for each hundred weight of which he received four shillings from the Emigrant, independent of his ticket, and that if any one of them had shipped his luggage, before it was weighed and paid for, that it would have been instantly unshipped. Surely, then, if, to serve his interests, he could find force and power sufficient to remove the luggage, he could, with the same force and power, have regulated the loading of the boat, with some regard to the common feelings of humanity. Mr. Hawke, who informed me, that he had been sent forward as agent to Montreal, arrived here from thence a few evenings before the boat came; when he had seen her at Montreal, and had remonstrated with Mr. Whiting on the state that she was in, he made the excuse I before stated, and promised that forty of the tickets should be transferred to another boat, and, apparently, took such measures as to convince Mr. Hawke that it would be done; who communicated the circumstances to Mr. Forbes, and was recommended by him to proceed immediately to this place, in order to consult with the Magistrates and Board of Health here and myself, and to ascertain whether there was a power in either, to put an effectual stop to the shameful proceeding. A magistrate, a member of the Board of Health, declared there was no such power; and never did I regret the absence of it more than since I have been in the situation I now hold. It is very painful to be obliged to look tamely on, whilst imposition and brutality are committing uncontrolled depredations upon these poor creatures, in the protection of whom I would not only cheerfully discharge a duty, but feel the utmost pleasure in the execution of it. If I had been authorized, I would have reduced the number considerably in this boat, and employed waggons at the expense of the forwarder. Instead of sending them up by contract, if their conveyance was thrown open to all the forwarders, it is very likely they would get their luggage up at a cheaper rate, and they would, undoubtedly, get up themselves with more comfort.

Mr. Hawke luckily had not left when the boat arrived, and, therefore, had an opportunity of seeing that not one of the number had been taken out, or yet any portion of the baggage or cargo. I have requested that he would represent the circumstance, and the hardship and impositions of this route, in the strongest colours to Mr. Forbes, and to engage the attention of that liberal-minded and noble-hearted gentleman to the subject.

It would be a great relief if the route could be, up the Ottawa and through the Rideau Canal to Kingston.

The boat with this overload of souls remained all Sunday at the foot of the Rapids above the town. I made them all get out, got them under the shade of the trees, and persuaded the mothers to wash their children, and get their bedding and loose clothes out and spread on the bank of the River. They seemed quite refreshed towards the evening.

I have, &c.

Lieut. Col. Rowan, }
 Civil Secretary, }
 York.

(Signed) CHEESMAN MOE.

23
 1899