

ceeding any further, to be cleansed and rested from the fatigue and trying influence of a voyage made under unfavorable circumstances.

6. Has the Agency of Mr. Dixon, in England, of whom you have made mention in your answer to question No. 2, been attended with any results and of what character?—The Agency of Mr. Dixon in England has been attended with some results; but I am sorry to say, in general, not of the most satisfactory character. Although it is impossible to determine what portion of the immigrants belonging to the desirable class who have settled in Canada since the appointment of Mr. Dixon, (25th January, 1866,) is due to his efforts. I have reason to believe that his exertions must have determined some of them to have come to our shores. But the action of our Agent has caused to emigrate to Canada, many of a class of persons, whose advent in the country has proved a great hardship for those poor people and a great embarrassment for our own citizens, as may be seen in the letter written to the Department by the St. George's Society, of Toronto, a copy of which I now produce.

I also produce an extract of the Immigration Report of the Province of Nova Scotia, for 1866, which shows, that there, the same system has brought similar results.

This very morning, we have received a communication from the Quebec Office, containing information from the Society of the East-End Relief Fund Committee of London, intimating that a body of emigrants from the dockyards of the metropolitan city is embarked for Canada, and clearly given to understand that they should be here received, taken care of and provided for. These people, belonging to the poorest class of the destitute, are by such proceeding got rid of. In my opinion such immigration is simply calculated to prevent the coming to our shores of the better classes of settlers.

7. In what way have immigrants been assisted; and has the assistance so rendered, been received by persons remaining in Canada?—The pecuniary assistance given to emigrants (apart of what I have mentioned in relation with the Quarantine station,) may be classed under two categories, namely: 1st, actual temporary support; second, passage money, or inland transport.

The assistance of the first category consists in the providing lodgings, medical or hospital attendance, food, clothing, &c., &c., but such succor are only given as temporary relief and in cases of urgent necessity, for obvious reasons.

The assistance of the second category consists in the forwarding of emigrants by railway or steamboat to the inland frontier or to some intermediate place, and in some cases into the interior of the country. The sum hitherto expended on that account may be said to have amounted annually to about \$15,000 in round figures.

The great bulk of the emigrants so transported, I have every reason to believe, and for many I have evidence of it, have been immigrants destined for the United States.—Some years ago, as I noticed it in the first account submitted to me on my coming into my present office, passages were very often paid over, as far as Chicago. This, however, was stopped. Of late, new orders have been issued by the Department to the different Agents not to pay any transport of immigrants unless in exceptional and very peculiar cases.

It is a notorious fact, that many emigrants are advised before leaving Europe, by agents of forwarding companies or by friends, who have preceded them by the way of the St. Lawrence, to plead poverty, on their reaching Quebec or other places where our agents are located in order to get their passage free.

The system, nevertheless, has always had its supporters, and has been the subject of much discussion till it has been finally set aside by the policy recently adopted.

8. Are the returns made by Immigrant Agents of the number of immigrants who annually settle in Canada, reliable?—The returns made by the Immigration Agents of the number of immigrants who annually settle in Canada are very far from being correct. So much so that after enquiring into the matter, the late Mr. McGee, then Minister of Agriculture, thought it better to withhold this information altogether from the body of the Departmental Report for 1865, explaining such omission by the following paragraph:—

“The uncertainty of the figures returned to us, under the head ‘Immigrants remaining in Canada,’ is such as to induce me to withhold them altogether this year. More stringent instructions have been lately issued, on this head, to the Inland Agents, but until we can compile Annual Returns from Townships and Municipalities, there will be no positive certainty to be attached to this class of figures.”