

FURTHER PAPERS

RELATIVE TO

EMIGRATION TO THE BRITISH PROVINCES

IN

NORTH AMERICA.

(No. 7.)

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of ELGIN to Earl GREY.

EMIGRATION.

MY LORD,

Government House, Montreal,
25th February, 1847.

No. 1.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, in consideration of the difficulties which I had been led to expect would attend the endeavour to carry into effect the scheme of colonization, proposed in your Despatch, No. 11, of the 31st of December, I have hitherto refrained from expending any portion of the sum of £50,000, which I was authorized to advance towards the construction of villages for the reception of immigrants. Many of these difficulties are detailed in a Memorandum furnished me by Mr. Draper, Her Majesty's Attorney General, a copy of which I herewith enclose.

For Earl Grey's Despatch, 31 Dec., 1846, No. 11, *vide* Papers relative to Emigration, presented to Parliament by Her Majesty's command, Feb. 1847, p. 3.

Feb. 17, 1847.

It is satisfactory to me to perceive, that the course which I have pursued in this instance accords with the further instructions conveyed in your Lordship's Despatch, No. 20, of the 29th of January. I am led to believe, from the inquiries which I have made since I arrived in the Province, that the augmentation of the grant for forwarding immigrants from the port of disembarkation to the spot where their labour is required, will be a very judicious and safe measure, and I shall lose no time in giving the necessary instructions to the emigrant agents.

Vide ditto; ditto, pp. 3, 4.

I transmit, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Buchanan, the Emigrant Agent at Quebec, with reference to the disposal of the probable immigration of this year. Suggestions coming from such a quarter are entitled to respect; but until I have had the means of ascertaining more accurately the wants and capabilities of the Province, I do not think that I should be justified in offering an opinion with respect to the practicability of the scheme which he propounds.

Feb. 12, 1847.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

The Right Hon. the Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

Montreal, 17th February, 1847.

Encl. 1 in No. 1.

AFTER an attentive consideration of the Despatch of the 31st of December last, containing a suggested scheme for settling emigrants in Canada, the following objections suggest themselves, some of which appear to me to oppose serious difficulties to its practical operation.

The leading proposition is to offer to parties proceeding from the same village or parish, especially if accompanied by their clergyman or priest, the prospect of finding ready for them an opportunity of establishing themselves in a body.

For this purpose it is proposed that situations in which villages are to be formed should be selected in localities which would afford immediate employment for the people at wages: such villages to consist of a sufficient number of log-houses to accommodate at least three hundred souls, and to each house a garden sufficient to occupy the tenant's spare time, but insufficient for his support, or to relieve him from working for wages.

In each village also it is further suggested there should be a rather better house for the clergyman or priest, and a plain wooden building to serve both as a school and a church, these buildings to be of the very cheapest and simplest kind.