

No. 3.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OTTAWA IMMIGRATION AGENT.

(MR. W. J. WILLS.)

GOVERNMENT IMMIGRATION OFFICE,
OTTAWA, 31st December, 1883.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my Annual Report of this Agency, showing the operations of the past year and the number of immigrants arrived, together with their disposal.

The following tables will show that the arrivals exceed those of last year, and by comparison with several previous years it would seem that the flow of immigration into the Ottawa district is steadily on the increase.

The class of immigrants was very similar to that of previous years, and as work was abundant and labour in demand, there was no difficulty in finding employment for all. The railway constructions going on in various parts of my district greatly facilitated my labours, and the wages paid (one dollar and a half per day) were anxiously sought after. A number of clerks came out here with the impression that their services would be in demand, but it was difficult to find employment for this class. All, however, were sooner or later satisfactorily disposed of.

I wish particularly to call your attention to a very valuable class of immigrants who have this year come into this district, and who bid fair to become most desirable and thrifty settlers, viz.: Finlanders, who were directed here by Mr. Dyke, and who being the pioneers of a large body of their countrymen, whose intention is to leave Europe next year, it was very desirable should be induced to settle here. These men went to work on the Canadian Pacific Railway at Sudbury, under Mr. Worthington, who pronounces them amongst the best workmen he has ever had. As parties of them arrived during the season, they were sent up to Mr. Worthington, who very kindly did all in his power to make them comfortable, and the result has been that they have written very satisfactory accounts of their position to their friends in Finland, and what is still more substantial, have remitted through me, nearly \$400, besides a large amount sent by themselves direct.

With respect to the ultimate settlement of these immigrants, it would be a great inducement to their countrymen if a tract of land in the Nipissing district could be placed at their disposal for colonization. Being a hardy race and inured to a northern climate, no class of settlers could be better adapted for that district, and they would at once settle down if land could only be secured for them. If no inducement of this nature is held out, these men might be lost to the country, and a valuable immigration for some years to come, would be thus diverted elsewhere.

The immigrants arrived from the west of Ireland through the Tuke Fund have all done well, employment having been found for all to their apparent satisfaction.

The Scandinavian and German immigrants who came here during the year, were of a very good class, and have proved themselves entirely fitted for this country. Such of them as were placed on railway works are spoken of as among the best labourers, and I have orders from Mr. Worthington to send him all of their countrymen on arrival, for whom he will find steady employment. Some of these people have located themselves on land on the Upper Ottawa, and their reports will have the effect of inducing many of their friends to join them. As an evidence of the prosperity of this class, I may here state, that during the past year I have remitted \$3,056 handed me by immigrants to prepay the ocean passage of friends and relations whom