

CANADA.

eminently successful. Upwards of 10,000 immigrants have already passed Montreal, and although a considerable number of sick have been admitted and treated in the immigrant hospital, only one case of decided typhus has declared itself there, the prevalent maladies being continued fever, cold, and dysentery, to which persons arriving in a new country are at all times subject.

7. Your Lordship will not fail to appreciate the importance of the facts which I have in this statement briefly submitted for your information. They will tend, I trust, to allay the panic occasioned by last year's immigration, and to induce the colonial public to recognize more frankly and fully the advantages which the province derives from the introduction of labour and capital from Great Britain and Ireland: they will also, I hope, enable the Government to resist inordinate demands on the Provincial Treasury, on account of alleged services and expenditure in connexion with immigration, proffered by persons who remember the liberality with which aid of this description was afforded during the past calamitous season.

8. I cannot, however, in this short review of the condition and prospects of the immigration of the season, omit to mention one circumstance, which is not only very deplorable in itself, but which is also, I fear, likely to operate to the prejudice of the immigrants. I am assured by persons well qualified to offer an opinion of the subject, that the depression now prevailing among the commercial and trading classes in the province exceeds anything of the kind ever before experienced in Canada. So unfortunate a state of things necessarily reacts upon the agriculturalists who are deprived of the accommodation to which they are accustomed, and consequently disabled from employing the usual amount of labour. I must add that some of the great public works on which large sums have been expended of late years are completed, while others are progressing less briskly than heretofore. Nor is it probable that their place will be supplied by extensive undertakings on the part of individuals or companies until credit revives. The crops on the ground at present are, however, promising; and if Providence blesses the province with an abundant harvest, some of the evils which I have indicated above will, it may be hoped, disappear.

9. Meanwhile my council are desirous to render the waste lands of the Crown more readily available for settlement, and are adopting measures with that view. It is proposed to open up roads through the unconceded lands, and to make free grants in small lots upon them to actual settlers on the principles and conditions adopted in the Owen's Sound Settlement. Each individual thus located on land, when not himself an immigrant, provides for one by creating a gap in the labour market, which the latter may fill. The smallness of the grants, and the stringent conditions of clearance and occupation insisted on, have been found in the experiments hitherto made to furnish an adequate security against their falling into the hands of speculators—a risk which, in the opinion of some, constitutes an insuperable barrier to the success of any system of settlement which involves the gratuitous alienation of land. With respect to objections to such schemes, founded on the assumption that they have a tendency to produce over-dispersion of population and a consequent disturbance of those social relations which are indispensable to combination of labour and accumulation of national wealth, I venture to submit that they hardly apply to a measure so carefully guarded, or to the peculiar condition of a community which has the means of supplying from a source which is practically inexhaustible, any void in the labour market created by increased rapidity of settlement.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, (Signed)
&c. &c. &c.

No. 2.

(No. 90.)

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COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor-General the Earl of ELGIN AND
KINCARDINE to Earl GREY.

Government House, Montreal,

July 5, 1848.

MY LORD,

(Received July 25, 1848.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the Annual Report of the Medical Superintendent of the Quarantine Establishment for the year 1847, as directed in your Lordship's Despatch of the 6th ultimo.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, (Signed)
&c. &c. &c.