

cannot work. Is there employment on the public works for half of the remainder? or can they work, provided this be procured for them? I trow not. Their condition is that of depression, mental and physical. They are in the state which the commissioners, in making their report to the French government, in 1846, on the plague and quarantine laws, employ as their definition of plague, "a disease of the whole organism, in which the nervous, sanguineous, and lymphatic systems are especially affected." My position holds good, then, *they cannot work, because they are not able*. And what must be the result? To a great extent here, as in their native country, there must be want, congregation in badly aired and unclean tenements, disease, death, and propagation of disease. And what is the corollary of all this? Methinks, I already hear of the necessity of providing for the poor, the establishment in the principal towns of houses of industry, local taxes to be raised, and eventually the necessity of passing a poor law for Canada, this country of unexplored acres!

3dly, The number who are reported to have died during the passage last year, is 5293; but does this include all the deaths which occurred on board the vessels while lying at the quarantine station? for at one period of the season it was confidently asserted, and I believe with great truth, that there were many thousands of sick afloat, for whom there was no accommodation whatever at Grosse Isle. Then of the 8563 admitted into the quarantine hospital, 3452 are said to have died, giving us an average of 40 per cent., and of those who were taken into the Marine and Emigrant Hospitals at Quebec, or who had procured private lodgings in that city up to the 9th October, there died 1041. The numbers who landed at, or were taken on shore at Quebec, is not given, consequently no approach at an average of mortality in that city can be arrived at; but from the foregoing numbers just given, we have an aggregate amount of deaths up to the period of the survivors being put *en route* for Montreal, of 9786, giving us an average thus far of over 10 per cent. Now, I regret to feel myself compelled to offer it as my opinion, from my personal knowledge of the effect of the overwhelming inundation of sick at the hospitals, and in certain districts of this city, during the early period of the season; from the fact of numbers of the medical attendants being daily incapacitated (from sudden invasions of the disease in their own persons) from making any returns of deaths; from these circumstances, I repeat, it is my own opinion, that the average above given would approach more nearly to the true one, if it were set down at 11½ or 12 per cent., and the same

remark will apply with equal force to the average of deaths in this city, notwithstanding the altered circumstances in which the emigrants found themselves on their arrival here.

4th, The number who are reported to have died in the Emigrant Hospitals and the city of Montreal, including, it is to be presumed, the Montreal General Hospital, Hotel Dieu, and the various orphan asylums, up to the 1st November, is 3579, but being enabled to state the number of admissions and deaths at the Emigrant Hospital of this city, to the 4th December last, without, for the reasons already given, desiring it to be understood, that the numbers which I am about to give ought not to be increased or otherwise modified; I will transcribe the contents of a note received by me from Dr. Liddle, our very intelligent, zealous, and effective medical superintendent at Pointe St. Charles, on this subject, and taken from the register which has been regularly kept at that establishment ever since the emigrants were removed to that place: "The admissions into hospital to the 4th December, were 10,063, and the deaths to the same date amounted to 3144; but since making these returns, I have found the names of many more admitted and dead, which are *now* being registered;" giving us an average of the mortality at that establishment alone, of more than 33½ per cent.; but even these numbers cannot be declared strictly correct. What do these aggregates of mortalities show us? I mean to the time when the survivors left or were forwarded hence, either up the country or to the neighbouring states, but an average of nearly 14½ per cent.; but I must take the liberty of stating, that this would be more correct, in my humble opinion, if transferred into *sixteen and a half* or *seventeen* per cent.; and how many foci of contagion have been established between Montreal and Hamilton or London westward?

The first cases of fever were admitted into the old sheds' hospital, at Wellington Bridge, on the 26th May; the largest mortality on any single day during the season, occurred on the 4th July, when there were reported dead, 54; the smallest number of deaths was on the 30th September, when there were only 6. I mean, of course, during the period of the navigation being open, and while emigrants were being forwarded to Montreal from Quebec. There was a very sensible diminution in the rate of mortality immediately on the admission of the patients into the new hospitals at Point St. Charles, which began on or about the 1st August.

I cannot conclude these remarks without tendering to A. C. Buchanan, Esq., my most sincere thanks for the promptitude with which he caused his immigration return to be published, and for the mass of information