

—No. 1.—

REPORT of the Commissioners for Emigration, addressed to Viscount  
*Goderich*, dated 15 March 1832:—(With 12 Enclosures.)

My Lord,

Colonial Office, 15 March 1832.

9 February 1832.

**W**E have the honour to enclose herewith the information which we have caused to be printed for the use of persons desirous to emigrate, or to assist others to emigrate, to the British Colonies in North America. The want of some authentic and compendious statement of this nature has long been felt, and we trust that the accompanying Paper will be found to supply the defect by the view which it presents, derived from Official Reports required expressly for the purpose, of the inducements to settle in the British Colonies in North America.

The utility of making this publication is much increased, (as your Lordship will see from what is mentioned in the statement itself,) by the incorrect representations which have been sometimes made to settlers as to the nature of the assistance which they may expect from Government. These representations, as we understand, have been put forth by agents who, having engaged portions of vessels upon speculation, have afterwards endeavoured to collect their complement of passengers by deluding uninformed persons either with expectations of gratuitous grants of land, or with the hope of a supply of tools, or even of being maintained for a limited period at the public expense. We need scarcely say that we concur in the views which prevent Government from affording any such extraordinary aid. Impolitic as it would in any case be to undertake the entire charge of large bodies of people, and thus to destroy in them the habit of reliance upon their own personal exertions, this course would be more especially unwise in countries where there exists a great and constant demand for labour, and where consequently the exercise of individual judgment and industry cannot fail to meet its own reward. Besides which it is obvious, that if 14*l.* (the lowest estimate for lodging and provisions) were required to be expended by Government for every family which should emigrate, this necessity would be an effective bar to the removal of any considerable number, and that both the colonies and the mother country must relinquish the hopes they have hitherto indulged, of great mutual benefits from increased emigration. There are, however, other objects to which we believe that the efforts of Government may be advantageously applied; and by which useful assistance may be afforded to those who emigrate. Emigrants may be benefited by the collection and gratuitous communication to them of statements showing the demand for labour in different districts; by advice and information to be given them through the Government agents who have been appointed for this purpose at the principal colonial ports, and by contributions from public funds to the hospitals and emigrant societies which exist in the principal colonial towns. These are the modes in which it appears to us that Government may with advantage interfere, and to which we learn that your Lordship has already directed the public resources to be applied.

In the despatches which your Lordship has addressed to the Governors both of the Australian and the North American Colonies, and which you have caused to be laid before us for our information, you have fully stated the grounds on which His Majesty's Government has decided no longer to permit the disposal of land in these colonies except by sale. As far as we can judge experience has shown that the most prudent course for working people in these countries is, to commence by earning their livelihood in the occupation to which they have been accustomed at home, and afterwards to acquire land, should that be their object, by purchasing it out of their savings from the high wages paid in these colonies. This course, which is rendered easy in Canada