

NEW
BRUNSWICK.

— No. 10. —

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EMIGRATION AGENT, NEW BRUNSWICK.

To His Excellency the Honourable *J. Henry T. Manners Sutton*, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Province of New Brunswick,
&c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

HEREWITH I have the honour to submit the annual abstract of immigration to New Brunswick during the year 1854.

	<i>Souls.</i>
1853 - -	3,762
1854 - -	3,618
Decrease -	144

1. The whole number of immigrants during the year, was 3,618 souls, being a decrease in the year 1853, of 144 souls.

2. There were 41 deaths on the voyage and in quarantine during the season, being one and one-eighth per cent. on the numbers embarked; but the deaths were all confined to one vessel, the "Blanche" from Liverpool, on board which cholera broke out during the voyage. The particulars of this case have been already specially reported.

3. All the immigrants of 1854 were landed at the port of St. John, and nearly all from the admirable packet ships of the Liverpool line, arriving semi-monthly with much regularity. Not a single death or casualty occurred on board these ships, nor has it been necessary to place one of them in quarantine.

4. The emigration being almost confined to these Liverpool packets, well fitted, furnished and provided, and commanded by efficient masters of the better class, there has not been the slightest occasion for a prosecution under the Passengers' Act. The provisions of that Act are so well adapted to remedy and prevent the evils which formerly existed, that prosecutions must become rare, and only in very flagrant cases, not likely to occur often.

5. Not more than 10 per cent. of the immigrants of the past season have left the province. Those that departed, consisted chiefly of such persons as had friends in the United States or Canada, by whom their passage-money had been paid, and whom they came out expressly to join.

6. In the early part of the past year, the demand for labour was very great, and rates of wages extravagantly high. The depression in the prices of ships and timber, consequent upon the war in Europe, has abated the demand for labour, and reduced wages very considerably in the ship-yards, saw-mills, and timber ponds. In the country there has been a steady call for labour throughout the year, at fair rates of wages. Female servants and farm labourers are much wanted throughout the province, and large numbers of these are needed to meet the absolute requirements of the country. The demand in the rural districts for boys, from 12 to 18 years of age, continues unabated.

7. A "Hand-book of Information for Emigrants to New Brunswick," has been recently printed at my expense, copies of which are herewith submitted. I beg especially to refer to this Hand-book for the advantages which New Brunswick presents, either to the labouring classes, or to persons possessing means who wish to become settlers in this flourishing portion of British North America.

8. I cannot conclude this report without reiterating the complaint I have made annually for several years, against the difficulties and delays attending the acquisition of Crown land by intending settlers. I now earnestly entreat that some change may be made in a system which I have every reason to believe has deterred, and continues to deter, many persons of the most desirable class from purchasing, and becoming settlers in this province.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) *M. H. Perley*,

Her Majesty's Emigration Officer.

Government Emigration Office,
St. John, New Brunswick,
2 January 1855.

Enclosure