

Sickness at Quarantine Station and Marine Hospital.

Distribution of Emigrants.

Good condition on landing.

Increased number of labourers and artisans.

Aided in Emigration.

Emigrants sent out by Earl of Egremont; by Earl of Stradbroke.

Funds remitted and paid to Emigrants.

Payments made to Emigrants previous to sailing; Objectionable.

Settlement on British American Land Company's Lots in Eastern Townships. Favourable Accounts of same.

Number of Emigrants to Eastern Townships.

Conduct of Ship-masters and Ship-brokers.

It must be a source of great and continued thankfulness to all, that no death from cholera has been reported in these provinces during the past season. I regret, however, to state, that several cases of sickness terminating fatally, occurred among the emigrants at the quarantine station and at the marine hospital, near this city; a statement of which your Excellency will find in Paper No. 4, at page 10 of the Appendix.

Your Lordship will remark also in Paper No. 4, at page 10 of the Appendix, a statement of the several places to which the emigrants of this year proceeded for settlement and employment. I have much pleasure in stating, that, generally speaking, they landed in good condition, and, with the exception of a few from the south and west of Ireland, were possessed of sufficient means to make their way to their respective places of destination.

A very important increase, in comparison with the year 1835, has taken place in the number of the persons of the working classes, particularly agricultural labourers and artisans, who have been aided in their emigration either by parochial assistance or by their landlords. The total number of persons arrived this year, as will appear on reference to Paper No. 1, at page 6 of the Appendix is 4,625, while that of 1835 was 1,043, showing an excess in favour of this year of 3,582.

The majority of these individuals so aided by the parish or by the landed gentry, came from Norfolk, Suffolk, Kent, Hampshire, Wilts and Sussex; and ample funds had been remitted for their benefit on their arrival at Quebec. Amongst the number are 266 persons aided by the Earl of Egremont, from his estates in Sussex, through whose continued benevolence these provinces are every year enriched with many useful settlers; and 177 aided by the Earl of Stradbroke, from his property in Suffolk, which last were particularly recommended to this department in a letter from his Lordship. These two parties proceeded immediately on arrival to Upper Canada.

I have also received several communications from magistrates and clergymen in different parishes who have aided their tenantry to emigrate. In many instances a considerable amount in cash has been remitted through Mr. J. D. Pinnock, Government Agent General for Emigration, to this department, which has been paid over in accordance with the instructions received.

On reference to Paper No. 6, at page 11 of the Appendix, your Lordship will find a detailed statement, with the names of the vessels in which the emigrants arrived, the county they are from, the sterling amount remitted, and the amount, in Halifax currency, paid to each party. The same paper also shows a statement of those emigrants who received the sum allotted to them in England, previous to sailing, or from the captain of the ship, on arrival here. This arrangement I do not consider favourable to the emigrants, or likely to fulfil the wishes and intentions of their benefactors, since, in frequent instances, persons so assisted, dissipated nearly all their money on their passage, principally in purchasing ardent spirits from the captain. The consequence was, that on landing, they were unable to proceed further, and recourse was necessarily had to the charitable societies of this place to forward them. This happened to several families on board the "Allandale," sent out by the Earl of Stradbroke; and I took the liberty of communicating the circumstance to his Lordship, and of recommending, in the event of any further emigration from his estates, the adoption of Mr. Pinnock's arrangement, by which all money intended for the benefit of the emigrant is now paid to him on his arrival at Quebec, under the superintendence of this department.

I have forwarded a separate Return for each parish to the Government Agent in London; and in my letter, to be found at page 16 of the Appendix, it will be seen that I have alluded at some length to the circumstances abovementioned. There cannot, I think, be any reasonable doubt of the ultimate success of the emigrant who receives parochial aid, or of the permanent benefit which will have been conferred upon him by his change of situation, provided only he follows the instructions given to him, and conducts himself with ordinary industry and sobriety.

A considerable number of persons, assisted as above, have settled on the British American Land Company's lots in the eastern townships, and in the newly opened settlements on the Salmon River. The accounts which I continue to receive of the progress of emigrants settled in that part of the country are most satisfactory, especially with reference to two parties from the county of Hants. The first arrived here early in May last, and, according to my directions, proceeded at once to Sherbrooke, with my letter of recommendation to the sub-commissioner at that place. All who wanted employment obtained it immediately; while a considerable number of families went on lands, and were sufficiently early to get in a small crop, which will enable them to pass the approaching winter in comparative comfort. The second party alluded to did not arrive until September, and although they have not the advantages which the first party possess, still they have been enabled to get upon their land, and have a comfortable log-house, with their winter provisions secured.

I beg to refer your Excellency to two letters from Mr. Webster, the sub-commissioner of the British American Land Company at Sherbrooke, at pages 25 and 26 of the Appendix, which allude to these people, and furnish besides some general information as to the views and intention of that Company. The number of emigrants who have proceeded to that section of the country since the opening of the navigation is upwards of 6,000 souls, who are all well satisfied; and from the arrangements going forward and in contemplation, I anticipate next season a very extensive emigration to that part of the province.

I have to regret, my Lord, that many complaints still exist against the conduct of certain masters of vessels and ship-brokers to passengers, with frequent positive infringements of the new Passenger Act. A very general charge is the insufficiency of the supply of water, and