

pose of sending these poor people out to Canada. Neither did it appear to him to be clearly established, that the distress was owing to the reduction of the duties on barilla; but even if that were established, he doubted whether they were called upon to provide for all cases in which distress was the result of an alteration in the duties. The proper remedy for such evils was to avoid the formation of an artificial value.—(*Hear, hear.*) There was another question also involved in the consideration, namely, whether the Highlanders alone were to receive the benefit of this grant of $\pm 120,000$. There were other places in which distress was equally prevalent. In the Lowlands of Scotland, in several parts of England, and various districts of Ireland, distress and famine were peculiarly pressing and urgent. Could Parliament propose, under these circumstances, to confine to the Highlands all the benefit of this grant? To the statements of the Hon. gentleman, as to the peculiar fitness of sending these persons to Canada, it would be a sufficient reason to deny the grant that others, in equal distress, had been refused. That, alone, seemed a sufficient reason against making the grant general; but, with respect to making it with a view to sending these persons out to Canada, there were other objections which should be taken into consideration. The question of emigration was a very important one, and should always be viewed in conjunction with other circumstances. It should be ascertained whether, in addition to transferring those people to Canada, they could be placed in such a position there as would enable them to procure a livelihood. What was to be done with the older members of the community, for whom it would be difficult to make a provision by throwing them upon the public? Any attempt of this sort should, therefore, be made in concert with the authorities appointed by the Crown in Canada, as well as with the new Assembly which was about to be called into existence there.—(*Hear, hear.*) On any question likely to affect the finances of the country, the opinion of that Assembly should be looked to with great consideration and respect. In giving assent, then, to the motion of the Hon'ble gentleman, he should, for the several reasons assigned, question the conclusion to which the Hon'ble gentleman had come, but, at the same time, he should not adopt the harsh mode of refusing his assent to the motion."

The following *Memorandum on Free Grants of Land to Emigrants*, by the Honorable S. B. Harrison, explains the reasons which have guided the Government in making those grants. We have already stated that only *fifty-eight* persons have actually settled on the Garrafraxa road. Mr. Harrison has himself set led emi-

grants on land, so that his statements are derived from practical experience.

Memorandum on Free Grants of Land to Emigrants.

BY THE HON. S. B. HARRISON.

I assume that the object in making free grants of land is, to create a class of agriculturalists having an interest in the soil, by being made owners of a portion of it, and whose surplus labour, beyond what may be necessary for the subsistence of themselves and families, may be made advantageous to the community at large. In a new settlement, so far at least as regards agriculture merely, the relation of employer and employed, and capitalist and labourer, cannot exist. Experience has furnished many lamentable examples in Canada of the failure of capitalists to render the clearing of heavy timbered land, and raising grain from it, a profitable speculation in a commercial point of view, whilst on the other hand, the mere labourer has, when industrious, invariably succeeded in reaching the object of his ambition, the procurement of subsistence, and the realization of a competency relatively great for him.

This observation is confined to employment of capital in improvements of an agricultural character, and does not extend to such improvements as benefit the community by the erection of mills or buildings for manufacturing purposes. The first object of the settler is to acquire the means of subsistence. It is not until he has done this, and his neighbourhood has assumed somewhat the character of an old settlement, that he is solicitous about the disposal of his surplus produce. To bring a settlement to such a state it appears to be most advantageous to admit settlers who are equal, or nearly so, in point of capital; they assist each other by their mutual exertions, and their efforts are sufficient to advance the settlement to the position of having surplus produce to dispose of.—Whilst accomplishing this object, they are satisfied if their subsistence is provided; and when it is attained, they are in a situation to avail themselves of the increased facilities arising from the improvement of the country.

It may be necessary to review the course adopted upon a settlement in the bush. The land generally is thickly covered with trees, its surface matted with living roots, and its substance of an exceedingly light and porous character. The only mode in which a crop can be got into newly cleared forest land, thus thickly covered with stumps and undecayed roots, is by sowing the seed on the surface of the land, after the vegetable matter is destroyed by fire; and then scratching it in the best manner possible with a very strong rough harrow. Even when this is done with the greatest care, it of-