

My correspondence with the different emigrant agents has been marked by a desire, on their part, to promote to the utmost of their efforts the advantages of the service in which they are engaged.

Early in the season about 900 persons from different emigration societies in Glasgow, arrived by the "Elutherid," "Jane Duffies," "Brilliant," "Bona Dea," and "Romulus." £.70 sterling were remitted by Alexander Gilkinson, esq., secretary to certain emigration societies, to be applied to the use and benefit of these immigrants on their journey westward. All of those persons that were destitute were forwarded to the interior at an expense to Government exceeding the sum remitted; and the 70 l. sterling were, in compliance with instructions from A. C. Buchanan, esq., put to the credit of the Government.

On the 23d of May the steamer "Queen," on her passage from Quebec to Montreal, came in collision with the steamer "Lord Sydenham," and received so much injury as to sink the former. This disaster happened in the night, and most of the immigrants on board suffered severely, some being compelled to make their escape half dressed. Three individuals were drowned, one of them an immigrant. I felt it my duty to assist the unfortunate strangers by furnishing them with food for a few days, and forwarding them to their destinations at the expense of Government; I also relieved a number who were nearly destitute of clothing with garments at my individual cost.

According to orders received from A. C. Buchanan, esq., chief agent for emigration, Canada East, a new shed was erected early in the spring at the emigrant establishment, at an expense of 170 l. currency, which, with the sum of 41 l. 7 s. 4 d. currency for coal-tarring, repairs, cleansing sheds, &c., constitutes the whole cost of keeping the emigrant establishment in good condition during the season, being in all 211 l. 7 s. 4 d. Halifax currency.

In former reports I have deemed it as a duty incumbent upon me to suggest the propriety of opening new settlements in Canada East, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, and also in the Eastern Townships, and would most respectfully refer to those suggestions.

Eastern Canada participates but sparingly of the enriching current of immigration; only about three per cent. of the gross arrivals at this port the last season have settled in this part of the province. Perhaps no part of Canada offers more inducements to new settlers than the Eastern Townships.

If the Government would assist in opening up that territory with plank roads and a railroad, and lay a moderate tax on the lands left in a state of nature by absentee proprietors and speculators to cover such outlay on roads as might be incurred, most essential benefits might accrue to the country at large, and immigration would be very considerably promoted.

Complaints of ill-treatment by shipping agents and captains of vessels have not been numerous or of a very aggravated character the past season; several immigrants, however, stated that delays occurred at the port of embarkation; these delays consumed a considerable portion of their sea stock provided for the voyage, and passengers have been under the necessity of purchasing provisions from the captains at exorbitant prices, and consequently were deprived of all their funds by this process. This evil has been frequently noticed in previous years, and nevertheless it still continues, though very perceptibly diminished. It is much to be regretted that it has not been wholly remedied, as it casts on our shores large numbers of truly indigent immigrants, many of whom become a charge to the Government.

From numerous disclosures made by investigating into the destination and circumstances of immigrants, I am inclined to think that many forwarded to Kingston and the head of Lake Ontario pass over to the United States. I would therefore most respectfully recommend that the attention of the different emigration agents west of Montreal be called to this circumstance, and that as many be settled eastward of Lake Ontario as may be found practicable. The Ottawa country presents an inviting field for immigration.

A detailed statement of the number of adults, children, and infants forwarded to sundry parts of the province at the expense of Government, together with the names of the forwarding merchants, and the amount paid to each, may be seen in Appendix (C.)

All which is most humbly submitted.

(signed) *Jas. Allison,*

Emigration Agent, Montreal.

No. 3-

Sir C. T. Metcalfe
to Lord Stanley,
12 March 1844.