

Appendix  
(W.)

22nd March

grants most likely to become chargeable to the Province, while, looking to the purposes to which the money raised by the tax is applied, it would be only reasonable that, as being the most likely to become chargeable, such Emigrants should pay more than others.

With a similar object, I should suggest that the tax otherwise payable should further be doubled in respect of all Emigrants who should arrive later in the season than the 1st of September, and should be trebled on those arriving later than the 1st of October in each year. There is no doubt that the arrival of Emigrants so late in the season greatly increases the probability of their becoming a burthen on the Province during the winter, and the tax to which they are liable should be augmented in proportion.

It might also be expedient to add a clause imposing a penalty upon the ship, if it should appear that during the voyage the passengers had not been supplied with a proper amount of provisions. You will find it explained in the enclosed Report, that the ration of bread which the Act of Parliament requires to be supplied to Emigrants by the master of the ship was not intended to be their only food, but that, in the scarcity of last year, many of those who embarked for America were induced to trust entirely to the ships' provisions, which afford by no means a sufficient allowance for the maintenance of health. It would therefore seem highly expedient that, in any Provincial Act which may be passed, the masters of Emigrant ships should be required to take care that their passengers should either put on board a stock of provisions for themselves, or that such an addition should be made from the ships' stores to the ration of bread now required by law, as to guard against the consequences of an inadequate allowance of food.

The enactment of such a law as I have now described would be calculated to relieve the Province, both by diminishing the expenses which would be likely to be thrown upon it on account of the Emigrants who arrived, and also by increasing the amount of the tax now levied upon them, and applicable to these expenses. To such a measure, therefore—not carrying the restrictions to be imposed upon vessels engaged in this trade further than I have suggested—Her Majesty's confidential servants would be prepared to advise that Her Majesty should assent; but I must remind you that, while it is proper, for the reasons I have stated, that some such regulations as I have recommended should be enforced, the true interest of the Province, no less than that of this Country, requires that these regulations should not, by their over-severity, throw needless obstructions in the way of an intercourse between the Queen's dominions on this and on the opposite side of the Atlantic, which is of the utmost importance to both. Not only has Emigration been the means of adding largely, in the last twenty years, to the industrious population, and therefore to the wealth, of Canada, but also it is to be recollected that the profit derived from the conveyance of Emigrants in the outward voyage enables the ships which carry them to bring back the produce of Canada at a much cheaper rate than would otherwise be possible. With regard, therefore, to any bill for the regulation of Emigrant ships which may be tendered for your acceptance by the other branches of the Provincial Legislature, it will be your duty carefully to consider its provisions before you assent to it, and to decline doing so, if you shall judge that it is of too rigorous a character. It is the more indispensable that you should perform this duty with caution

and with firmness, on account of the obvious inconvenience which would arise from its being necessary that Her Majesty should disallow an Act upon this subject to which your own assent had been given, while at the same time it would be impossible that Her Majesty should be advised to permit an Act imposing needless or improper restrictions upon so important a trade to remain in force. I should further recommend that the operation of any Act of this description should be limited to two years; this would remove much of the difficulty of permitting it to continue in force, if it should contain any provisions of a questionable character. I have also to instruct you, if any such Act shall be passed, to forward it to me by the very earliest opportunity, in order that Her Majesty's final decision may be pronounced upon it with the least possible delay.

Before I close this despatch, I have only further to direct your Lordship, in bringing this most important subject under the consideration of your Council and of the Legislature, to remind them that, although the enactment of such a law as I have suggested might be of great service in checking abuses, and preventing the recurrence, with the same intensity as before, of the evils which have just been so seriously felt as arising from Emigration, it would do nothing towards the accomplishment of such an improvement, as I believe to be no less practicable than it is desirable, in the existing mode of settling upon the soil of Canada the host of Emigrants which annually lands in her ports. Upon this subject I have, in former Despatches, so fully stated my views, that it is only necessary for me now to repeat my firm conviction, that there is nothing in the situation of Canada which renders it impossible, by judicious regulations, to provide for the occupation of her vacant territory in a regular and systematic manner, instead of leaving this to be effected, as heretofore, by the desultory and too often ill-directed efforts of individuals. The saving of labour and of capital which would result from such a system would cause the increase of the numbers of her inhabitants by Emigration to be the means of advancing the Province yet more rapidly in wealth and in civilization. The powers necessary for establishing such a system are by the Constitution of Canada vested in her own Legislature and people: to them, therefore, I must commit the consideration of the subject, only assuring them, through your Lordship, that any measures they may adopt for this purpose will meet with the best encouragement which it is in Her Majesty's power to afford.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) GREY.

Governor General The Right Honourable  
The EARL of ELGIN and KINCARDINE,  
&c., &c., &c.

(Copy.)

DOWNING STREET,  
11th December, 1847.

My Lord,

With reference to the question which has been so frequently suggested, whether every ship conveying 100 passengers to North America should be required by law to be provided with a Surgeon, I have the honour to acquaint you that, with a view to obtain some authentic evidence on the point—whether or not such a rule could rarely be carried out in practice, I applied to the principal Medical Institutions in the United Kingdom to favour me with their opinion whether the required number of duly qualified

Appendix  
(W.)

22nd March