

Miscellaneous.

[From Report of Minister of Agriculture.]
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

REPORT OF LIVERPOOL AGENT. (MR. JOHN DICKER.)

15 Water St., Liverpool,
31st December, 1877.

Sir,—I have the honor to make my Report for the year 1877.

I herewith append a detailed Statement of the year's emigration from this Port. The nationalities of the emigrants as compared with 1877, were as follows:—

English..... 1876 1877 Decrease.
30,050 32,502 2,502

Scottish..... 631 425 206

Irish..... 5,510 5,021 489

Foreigners..... 17,982 14,288 3,674

Nationalities not given..... 3,250 2,672 584

66,400 56,908 11,501

Total Decrease..... 11,501

7,007 emigrants were carried by the

Montreal Ocean Steamship Company; 425

by the Dominion Line; 33 by the Beaver

Line, and six by the Anchor Line. Of the

emigrants destined for Canada, 2,970 were

single passengers, as compared with 2,784

in 1876, showing an increase of 186.

I have been in constant attendance at

my office, and have to the best of my ability,

carefully watched and promoted emigration,

and other Canadian interests. My

communications to the Canadian press, offering

information to intending shippers of produce,

have resulted in the material advancement

during the year of several new branches of the

Canadian export trade, and for most amongst which I

may mention poultry, eggs, potatoes (large quantities

of which are now arriving here) oatmeal,

which is seriously affecting the prices of that

supplied by Scotland and Ireland, and Canadian

clover and grass seeds, for which there is an

increasing demand, not only in Great Britain

but in Germany.

I am glad to report that my office has

been extensively used by Canadians during

the past year. My intimate knowledge of

Europe and its business generally, has enabled

me to render many of these visitors valuable

assistance and advice. I hope that each

successive year will cross the Atlantic, and thus

more cement Canadian interests with those of

Great Britain. Many Liverpool merchants

and others have also used the Canadian

list of newspapers and statistics in this office.

All steamers carrying emigrants have

been visited either by myself or clerk, and

we have been prepared to render assistance

and advice when required. I have sent

out several farmers and other parties with

capital, to the Dominion, and I am pleased

to find that they are satisfied with their

success. I have a considerable number ready

to go to Manitoba and other parts of Canada

in the spring.

A third successive season of bad weather,

interior crops, and, owing to continued

competition, falling markets, has not improved

the condition of tenant farmers in this country.

Recent official returns disclose, for the

first time, the fact that there are one

million one hundred and sixty thousand

tenant farmers in the United Kingdom. Of

course the majority are occupiers of small

holdings, upon whom any depression of

farm interests must tell with immediate

severity. At the same time they are the

class of emigrants to Canada most to be

desired.

In my last year's Report I referred, in

some detail, to a subject which seems to

have a very immediate and important bearing

upon the promotion of emigration of small

tenant farmers and agricultural laborers

from this country to Canada.

My reference was to the initiation and

rapid development of a live stock, and meat

and provision trade between Canada and

this country—a trade which promises to

be limited rather by Canada's powers of

production than by Great Britain's, or I may

say, by Europe's power of consumption.

I propose, in the course of my Report, to

give some further information respecting the

development of this trade; but before doing

so, I desire briefly to analyze its bearings

and probable consequences in respect to the

position and prospects of the British tenant

farmer and agricultural laborer.

The population of the British Isles has

become so vast in proportion to the

productive area—and of course as the one has

increased the other has diminished—that

large supplies of all kinds of food must,

of necessity, be drawn from external

sources; and it is becoming more and more

apparent as the years pass by, that all

articles of consumption as food, save those

which are immediately perishable, such as

milk and some kinds of garden produce,

can be introduced to British buyers at

cheaper rates—to be remunerative—by

outsider producers, than by the British

farmer.

More increasingly great is the demand for

fresh milk and butter, on the one hand,

whilst such large encroachments are

constantly being made on lands hitherto

available for farming purposes, that in a

few years more the British grazing farmer

will have quite enough to do to keep up

the supply of such perishable things, without

troubling their heads about the cheese-

monger or the butcher.

Corn growing has long been a hazardous

and, and beyond doubt every year a more

risky enterprise in this country, and since

the farmer's chance of doing well is

proportionally less than that of the large

farmer, the number of holders must of

necessity decline rapidly as the

availing farming area becomes less and

individual farms grow larger.

The demand for food, however, is great,

and will steadily increase. Whence is the

supply to come? From no place better

or more legitimately than from Canada.

But, in order that Canada may be able

to meet this great demand, and to hold

her own with other purveyors, it is necessary

that her immense breadth of fertile

lands should be brought into cultivation,

and well, and economically farmed.

Who so well able to do this, alike for

his own benefit and for the advantage of

the country of his adoption, as the shrewd,

experienced and able-bodied English, Irish

or Scotch farmer, whose failure to make

ends meet at home has been no fault of

his own, but one of the inevitable consequences

of the nature of things?

What more fitting or happier solution of

this problem in supply and demand could

there be than that the small British farmer

and intelligent agricultural laborer, oppressed

by high rents, heavy taxes, and, above all,

by a keen and growing competition from

outside, until they find it impossible to

make a decent living, should transfer their

energies and such means as they possess to

the more congenial fields of Canada,

where a strong arm and a clear head, especially

if backed at the outset by some little

means, need never fear the rent day nor

the call of the collector.

Nature has, beyond doubt, destined Canada

to be one of the great food producers of

the future, and she has already proved

conclusively that, with two thousand miles

odd of ocean carriage given in, she can far

outbid the producers of the old country in

the items of live stock, dead meat, poultry,

cheese and eggs. If she can do so much

already, what else may she not have to tell

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And in all Colors.

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Bridgetown, July 19th, 1876. 6m n15

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H. F.

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FRED. LEAVITT, Lawrenceton, Nov. 7th, 77

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Parties wishing to purchase will do well to call and examine. Will take part payment in trade. Am prepared to sell 25 per cent lower than any other dealer.

Farmington, Nov. 1st, 1877. y n27

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August 2nd, 1876. n17 y

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