

currency per day; and other trades, such as carpenters, painters, and all classes of workers in iron received a proportionate advance on the rates of previous years.

On a reference to Mr. Hawke's Report, it will be seen, that in Western Canada all emigrants disposed to labour have found employment during the winter months at a smaller reduction on the summer rates of wages.

Blessed with so good a soil and climate as Upper Canada possesses, and favoured by the kindness of a gracious Providence with a long and uninterrupted succession of good harvests, there is no country where the labouring man can find more constant employment and remunerative wages in proportion to the expense of living.

The opening of the Great Western Railway from Hamilton to Detroit, which is to take place during the ensuing month, will doubtless have a very beneficial effect on the travel by this route, the more particularly as it will render the St. Lawrence the most direct and expeditious medium for all emigrants desirous of proceeding to the Western States.

The transshipment and detention from Queenstown to Buffalo round the Falls of Niagara will be saved thereby, and all the dangerous navigation of Lake Erie avoided, and, moreover, what is of the highest importance, 100 miles of distance saved.

The distance from Quebec to Chicago by this route will be 1,048 miles, one half of which will be performed in comfortable steamers, and the remainder by railroad. Actual time of travel about 70 hours.

In forming any estimate of the amount of capital brought into the province by the emigrants of this past year, we have no reliable data, and therefore no means exist by which it could be ascertained with any correctness. The great body of the emigrants are doubtless of the labouring class, and possess little beyond their physical energies. But I am aware that a number of intelligent settlers, who have brought out a considerable amount of capital with them, have settled in Western Canada.

Several importations of valuable stock have taken place during the past season, by gentlemen in Upper Canada, which is a favourable indication of the wealth and progress of the country.

Should the present unsettled state of Europe continue, and result, as it is much to be feared, in a general war, this continent will doubtless receive a large accession of the better classes of emigrants, more particularly from the continent; and, now that Canada has become better known, and that correct conception of its advantages and capabilities are also more extensively diffused, it cannot but greatly benefit by the present unsettled aspect of affairs in Europe.

I have thus endeavoured, in a brief and I hope explicit manner, to bring before your Excellency a review of the past season's transactions of this department.

All which I respectfully submit to your Excellency's favourable consideration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. BUCHANAN, Chief Agent.

Emigrant Office,

Toronto, 17th December, 1853.

MY DEAR SIR,

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant.

The revolution which has taken place during the last year or two in the forwarding business, renders it impossible to keep any account of the arrival and departure of emigrants at this or any other of the principal ports in Upper Canada that could be depended upon. Formerly the Royal Mail line of steamers conveyed nine-tenths of the emigrants, and, as they were regular in their periods of arrival and departure, we could obtain correct returns; but now it is impossible, as the business is done by such a multitude of American and British steamers and propellers, many of which do not touch either at Kingston or Toronto, but proceed direct from Prescott, Ogdensburg, to Niagara, Hamilton, or Lewiston, and arrive and depart at all hours both night and day.

At this office we have granted, during the year 1853, 563 full passages, and as two children count as one passenger, we may assume that the number of persons forwarded at the expense of this department amounts to 687. Bread is the only food distributed, and as we have given away 2,196 loaves, and as each adult generally gets one loaf, and children under age half that quantity, the total number receiving such relief to this date may be estimated at 2,928.

The number of emigrants during the season who came to Upper Canada, via the St. Lawrence, it appears to me can be best ascertained at Quebec or Montreal, as they do not begin to branch off until after they leave these ports. As to the number who proceeded from Upper Canada to the United States, it is more than balanced by the number received from that country, which I estimate at upwards of 4,500. This number does not include the railroad labourers, which our extensive public works have brought to Upper Canada during the past year, hundreds if not thousands of whom will remain, as our next census will undoubtedly show, but is confined to those who landed at New York and Boston during the current year, and proceeded to this section of the Province with the intention of becoming permanent settlers.

As I have before stated in my letters to you, we shall no doubt get many more settlers of this class during the ensuing winter and spring. In fact, every arrival of the steamers