

CANADA.

the prospects opening for the immigration of 1858 have proved generally correct. The financial condition of the province has deterred the re-commencement of buildings and similar improvements which had been everywhere carried on to so large an extent; and, except at Montreal and its neighbourhood, artisans and mechanics have continued under difficulties in finding employment. Throughout the year, however, agricultural labourers have been nearly everywhere in demand, and in some districts, although not generally, unskilled labourers have been able to obtain fair wages. The very small immigration of the year has been a relief to the country for the time, and will shortly be felt in a more general renewal of the demand for ordinary labour. The moderate prices of agricultural produce permit the steady withdrawal from this class of labourers of such as have laid up some resources for settlement on wild land, to the effect of making room for the unemployed new comer.

In some parts of the province the farmers remain in some embarrassment, the consequence of their extensive purchases of lands, made during the past years of great prosperity. But for the greater part the agriculturists of the country are making great advances in real wealth, and will be necessarily seeking labour for their assistance in the cultivation of their lands. These circumstances concurring, if they should not raise again the rates of labour to their former standard, will relieve the province from all who are at present unemployed.

The Canadian Mail line of Steamers continues to maintain its high character for speed, safety and comfort. It has, during the year, brought out a largely increased proportion of the immigration, nearly 18 per cent. of the steerage passengers having arrived by their vessels; and there appears reason to anticipate that the arrangements, under which the line will next year make weekly trips, will further add to the proportions carried by them. The rate of passage is necessarily higher, but the difference must be generally made up to those who can afford it, in the saving of time and absence of many of the inconveniences incidental to the sea voyage by sailing vessels. The passages of these steamers compare favourably with those of the British Mail Steamers to New York and Boston.

A line of steamers has been established to connect Galway with Quebec. They made two voyages within the year, and propose to make regular monthly trips next season. They would seem to offer great advantages to emigrants who can conveniently reach the port of departure.

The prospects which Canada holds to some classes of the emigration of 1859 are less encouraging than could be wished for. The condition of the province is materially improved over that existing at the close of 1857, and it may be reasonably expected that each month, particularly after the opening of the summer, will show an increasing improvement in every line of employment. It will, however, be some time before the existing redundancy in mechanics' and artisans' labour can be provided for; and while established workmen are to be had, the newly-arrived will find difficulty in obtaining situations. I am called upon to repeat my warning against the immigration to Canada of all such classes as have no calling or experience in work; such persons can only injure their condition by resorting to a country where, if industry is generally well rewarded, there is no provision for those who are unemployed, whether from choice or misfortune. In Canada, to succeed, it is necessary to possess capital or the means of labour, and those means must comprehend physical ability, supported by industrial habits. The best description of settlers, not possessing money to purchase land and improve it, is the strong and active man, habituated to agricultural pursuits. These, and all others of analogous habits, can readily adapt themselves to some one or other of the descriptions of labour which are most general in Canada. Men, whether labourers or artisans, who have acquired less general knowledge of labour, who have been confined to special employments at home, cannot turn their hands without difficulty to such new and various work as may be open here, nor do they so soon accommodate themselves to the changed circumstances of a new country.

There is at present, throughout the western district of the province, a want of employment in all branches, and even agriculturists acquainted with the country are in many cases unable to earn fair wages. In this the Reports of Mr. Hawke and Mr. Dixon concur. But in the Ottawa district Mr. Clemow's information is to the effect that few or no men of any class are unengaged. If the antici-
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