

## P A P E R S

RELATIVE TO

## EMIGRATION TO THE BRITISH PROVINCES IN NORTH AMERICA.

## CANADA.

(No. 85.)

No. 1.

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COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor-General the Earl of ELGIN and KINCARDINE to Earl GREY.

Government House, Montreal,  
June 28, 1848.

(Received July 20, 1848.)

MY LORD,

WITH the view of ascertaining, by personal observation, how matters are conducted at the Quarantine Station, I proceeded to Grosse Isle at the close of last week. My visit was altogether unexpected by the authorities, and I had accordingly the advantage of seeing the establishment in its usual working order.

2. I have much pleasure in reporting to your Lordship that I have been highly gratified by what I have thus been enabled to see of its condition and management. In order to ensure greater regularity and system, it has been placed this year under the control of a military commandant, Captain Scott, of the 71st regiment, who has shown much good sense and firmness in carrying out the instructions he has received from the Government. The accommodations provided for the large and sickly emigration of last year have moreover been found hitherto, at least, with some partial additions and repairs, amply sufficient for the requirements of the present season.

3. The island itself is admirably adapted for the purpose to which it is applied. It is nearly three miles long by one broad at the widest part, and is situated about 30 miles below Quebec, in the open channel of the St. Lawrence. Its surface is generally rocky, and picturesquely wooded, but patches of arable and fertile land occur here and there. The portion which is allotted to healthy passengers is separated from the rest by a narrow tongue of land, on which a guard-house and sentry are established. A second guard-house and sentry are placed on the verge of the hospital ground, at the distance of about a mile from the former, the interval between the two being appropriated to the military and certain officers of the establishment. All unauthorized communication between the occupants of the different divisions of the quarantine station is thus cut off, for no one can pass from one to the other without an order from the Commandant.

4. The establishment for healthy passengers contains accommodation for about 2000, but I found very few there at the period of my visit, the ships which had recently arrived having been free from sickness, and consequently permitted to proceed with their freight at once to their destination. The hospital sheds are calculated to admit a still greater number, but the patients actually there did not, I was happy to observe, amount to 200 in all, and of these the larger portion were suffering from continued fever or dysentery, cases of ship fever of the virulent typhus type being comparatively rare.

5. With the view of preventing all unnecessary interruption to trade, permission has been granted during the course of the present season to masters of ships placed in quarantine to proceed on their voyage after landing their passengers at Grosse Isle, and depositing in the hands of the authorities there a sum of money for their maintenance, calculated at the rate of 7½*d.* currency per head per day for the period of their probable detention. The diseased are at once conveyed to the hospitals, and the healthy landed at the healthy station, whence, in case of sickness, they are transferred to the other end of the island. This arrangement has been found to work well and to be conducive alike to the interest of the ship-owner, the immigrant, and the public health.

6. The best proof of the efficacy of the measures taken, whether at Grosse Isle or elsewhere, under the provisions of recent Imperial and Provincial Acts for preventing the spread of ship fever in the province is furnished by the sanitary condition of the immigrants at stations in the interior to which they are conveyed in large numbers. Tried by this test, these measures would appear to have been