

No. 8.

J. F. BOYD, Esq., to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,

London, January 29, 1884.

I BEG to thank you for your letter dated 23rd instant,* and to express the satisfaction with which I learn that my scheme of State directed emigration, dated November 19, 1883, is approved in principle by the Earl of Derby.

I gather that his Lordship is disposed to recommend its adoption subject to "some strong corporation" engaging to carry out the practical work of selecting, removing, and settling the emigrants, and I have therefore applied to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for co-operation. The directors here have no power to act in such a matter, but copy of your letter was forwarded to the President, Mr. George Stephen, at Montreal, by the last mail.

I am anxious to send him full explanations as to the requirements of the Government by the next mail, and should be much obliged if you would, therefore, be so good as to inform me as soon as convenient whether I correctly interpret Lord Derby's views in supposing that what the Canadian Pacific Railway Company would have to do would be to select, remove, and settle the emigrants under the supervision of the Commissioners to be nominated as provided in clause 5 of the scheme:—

"5. The control of the organisation and funds to be vested in an Emigration and Colonisation Commission, consisting of three capable and salaried officials, who will make this their sole business. Two of such three officials to be appointed by Her Majesty's Government, and one to be appointed by the Dominion Government. The head office of this Commission to be in London, with a branch office at Montreal."

the actual expenses incurred, and interest, being refunded to them by the Treasury.

The following extract from the Dominion Lands Act, 1883 (46 Vict. chap. 17, sec. 38), explains the mode of creating charges on the settlers' allotments in order to secure repayment (in this case, I presume, to the Treasury) of such actual expenses:—

Governor in Council may order advances to immigrants for certain purposes to be a lien upon their homesteads.

Proviso. Conditions on which such lien be allowed.

"38. If any person or persons thereunto authorised by the Minister of the Interior place immigrants as settlers on homestead lands in Manitoba or the north-west territories, free of expense to the Government, the Governor in Council may order that the expenses or any part thereof, incurred by such person or persons, for the passage money or subsistence in bringing out an immigrant, or for aid in erecting buildings on his homestead, or in providing horses, cattle, farm implements or seed grain for him, may, if so agreed upon by the parties, be made a charge upon the homestead of such immigrant; and in such case the claim for expense incurred on behalf of such immigrant, as above, together with interest thereon, must be satisfied before a patent or certificate for patent shall issue for the land: Provided as follows:—

"(a) That the sum or sums charged for the passage money and subsistence of such immigrant shall not be in excess of the actual cost of the same, as proved to the satisfaction of the Minister of the Interior;

"(b) That an acknowledgment by such immigrant of the debt so incurred shall have been filed in the office of the local agent."

So soon then as an immigrant reached his destination in the North-West, the Company would obtain from him and file in the land office an "acknowledgment of the debt" incurred up to that point for transport and subsistence, and the official certificate of claim thus "made a charge upon the homestead of such immigrant," when vouched by the Commission, might constitute the "security" against which the Treasury would reimburse the Company the amount specified in the said document; a like course being followed from time to time, in each case, as regards other outlay, for buildings, wages, &c.

Under this system of re-imbursing the Company there would be no advance of capital by the Treasury except against mortgage security.

I should be glad to know whether this modus operandi is acceptable to Lord Derby, and I remain, &c.

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Signed) J. F. BOYD.