

reasonable ground for a calculation for the future, in regard to the relation which the demands for assistance will bear to the amount of the emigration. I know at present of no circumstance which promises to reduce the expenditure below its past average rate of 71*l.* per 1000 souls, after application of the emigrant tax.

On the contrary, the extensive distress in the United Kingdom, and particularly in Ireland, from the failure of the potatoe crop, and the high price of other descriptions of food, threatens us with an emigration in the ensuing season, such as the province has not yet seen equalled in destitution. If this should prove the case, and particularly if, with such a general character, the emigration of 1847 should be greatly increased in numbers, the department will find itself exposed to claims for assistance that will require the fullest resources.

The balance now remaining of the last year's fund, is only 226*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, and this will be entirely absorbed by the expense of the support of the emigrant patients admitted into the Quebec hospital, in the course of the season, should your Excellency direct the admission of the claim now brought forward. With no balance in hand, applicable to the purposes of 1847, I conceive that an appropriation by the Imperial Parliament, equal only to that of the last year, will fail to meet the demands of an average emigration; while in the case either of an increase of numbers, or a greater degree of destitution, an appropriation so limited must leave the department totally incompetent to carry out the objects of its institution.

An average emigration of 29,000 souls will require, upon the foregoing calculations, upwards of 2,000*l.* sterling; an addition of 10,000 souls to the number of the past season, making an emigration of 42,000—or greater destitution on arrival—or difficulty in procuring ready employment and support within the province—will involve the outlay not less than 3,000*l.* sterling, beyond the amount of the emigrant tax that may be collected.

The beneficial results of the continued working of the present system for the assistance of the emigration to this province, are experienced in the greatest degree by the emigrants themselves. But they are experienced by the province also; and, although it is in a less direct manner, the mother country must share in them to some extent. To reduce the privation, distress, and discomfort, attending the emigrant's voyage, to promote him, without delay after arrival, from idleness and want, to employment and competent means of support; and to supply him with the means of removal from the ports of debarkation, where labour is already redundant, to the distant interior districts, where his services are required, are the primary objects sought to be realized.

But it is plain that the ultimate effort of the intervention of the government, under the present system, is to permit, if not to encourage, the emigration from the mother country, of a class whose private means are only sufficient to provide their passage to the port of landing. An emigration, in fact, from among the poorest of the population.

It is well worthy of consideration whether an appropriation of the amount that has been devoted to emigration purposes in Canada, could have been directed in any other manner, so efficiently to promote the interest of the pauper population of the United Kingdom, or to further the views of a beneficent government.

With reference to the subject of provision for the future emigrant fund, I have only further to remark that, should an increasing confidence in the assistance afforded by the Government, leading to an extended, and, at the same time, destitute emigration, be met by deficient resources in the department, or the want of an adequate discretionary power in the provincial authorities, to provide for the case, the consequence to every interest engaged, must prove exceedingly hurtful. Accumulations of destitute labourers, with their families, in the towns of the eastern part of the province; want and disease inducing crime; a hostile feeling created between the inhabitant and the stranger, and certain reaction upon the disposition of the poorer classes at home, must attend any relaxation of the system with which the superintendence of the emigration has been conducted, or any inability in the department to maintain its course of assistance, to the full extent of the claims that may arise.

With reference to the subject of the prospects of the emigration recently received, as well as of that anticipated, I must refer principally to the annexed report, from the chief agent for Canada, West. I might, at the same time, quote the reports in general of the district agents of the department.

They concur in representing that there is little, if any, distress among the emigrants of the last year, unless the consequence of their own fatuity. Employment is generally to be procured at remunerative wages, and provisions and necessaries are plentiful.

EMIGRATION.
Report.

Future Emigration.

Future Imperial
Appropriation.

Result of Emigra-
tion Superintend-
ence.

Pauper Emigration.

Prospects for 1847.