

MILITARY EMIGRATION.

EX SOLDIER FARMERS AND TENDERS.

The following is from the *Army and Navy Gazette* :—

We understand that the following carefully considered scheme for a regular system of military emigration has been proposed by Lieut.-Col. Bray, 4th King's Own Regiment, to the Secretary of State for War and the Minister for the Colonies, and it has been favourably received and is likely to be reported on. It will be observed that the scheme proposes three advantages. 1. Reduction of the Pension List. 2. Abolition of the marriage of soldiers whilst serving. 3. The reward of grants of land in the colonies to soldiers who emigrate; commuted pensions to those soldiers who have earned pensions, and who would prefer a commuted allowance and a grant of land to a life pension. This scheme has the advantage of novelty, as it differs in many respects from any former proposition of this kind, and the two first objects proposed—viz., reduction of the Pension List and Abolition of Marriage in the Army, at once recommend it to the serious attention of the Government. Colonel Bray would abolish marriage in the ranks entirely, and, in place of the miserable advantages allowed by the rules of the army to married soldiers, he would not permit any soldier to marry whilst serving with the colors; in lieu, he would hold out to soldiers the prospect of a military emigration ticket, which would enable a man to marry and go out to a military district in Canada, Australia, Tasmania, or New Zealand, as soon as he chose after he had served a certain time in the army, say seven or ten years. This prospect would give a soldier an object in life, cause him to learn trades while serving, and prepare himself for his colonial life. The saving to the State would be very large, and the efficiency of the regiments greatly increased by the abolition of marriage in the ranks. The scheme is evidently deserving of careful and serious consideration, as the State is bound to provide for its soldiers; and if it can be demonstrated that a system of emigration will be not only highly beneficial to the army but also a great saving of expense to the State, then we think that the sooner the experiment is tried on a sufficiently large scale the better, not only for the service, but for the country and the colonies. The scheme is as follows:—

1. Land to be granted by the colonies, for military emigration, to the British Government, for their mutual advantage.

2. Such grants of land to be divided into military districts.

3. The districts to be regulated and controlled by half-pay or retired officers, under the orders of the local governments.

4. The men of regiments to be encouraged to settle in their own regimental districts. The districts to be divided—so many regiments to each district—in order to place the emigrants among former friends and comrades.

5. Soldiers of approved character only to be entitled to the advantages of emigration to a military district after seven or ten years service.

6. All soldiers emigrating under these rules to forfeit all claim to life pensions.

7. Free passages to be granted to soldier emigrants, their wives, and families.

8. No return passages to be allowed.

9. On location in his district, each emigrant to receive a grant of—acres of land, to become his property after a certain time and on his fulfilling certain conditions.

10. Soldiers who have earned pensions by service to be allowed to commute their pen-

sions for such sums as might be arranged, such sum (commuted allowance) to be paid to the emigrants in three different sums at proper intervals of time, in order that the money should be invested in the improvement of their farms.

11. In the cases of soldiers of 10 years service who have not earned pensions and, therefore, not entitled to change them for a commuted allowance, pay might be allowed for one, two or three years (according to service), during which time the men would be liable to be called out for military service.

12. Emigrants to be obliged to give a certain number of days' labour for general and public purposes, under the order of the district controller, such military labour—for erecting huts, clearing land, making roads, &c.—to be obligatory.

13. The districts should be marked out with a view to their future advancement.

14. Military emigration to be opened in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania; the two latter appear to be the best adapted for military emigration.

15. Large numbers of soldiers would emigrate under these rules to Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand, from India, in preference to returning to England on small and insufficient pensions.

16. The adoption of a well organized system of military emigration should put a stop to the marriage of soldiers whilst serving, and all the vast expense and inconvenience to the State with which it is now attended.

17. Marriage, a grant of land in a colony, and a home in a military district, should be the end and object of a soldier's career, and the reward of the State for good service.

18. The pensions now awarded to soldiers are a heavy charge on the country, and, though large in the aggregate, they are very small and insufficient for the support of the individuals, and there is no provision for families.

19. By the adoption of a regular system of military emigration the State would save—1st, by a large reduction of the pension list; 2nd, the great expenses connected with the wives and children of soldiers while serving.

20. The great saving by the reduction of the pension list and the abolition of marriage in the army would cover the expenses of passages, superintendence, land expenses, &c., and leave a very large balance in favor of the State.

21. A sufficient number of half pay and retired officers could be obtained by granting free passages to them and their families, and allowing them to purchase land in their districts on advantageous terms.

The above scheme (or one founded on it) is proposed in the interest of the Colonies and the English Army. The State would be benefited by a large reduction of the pension list, and the abolition of marriage in the army, with all its attendant expense and inconvenience. The army would be benefited by a system of emigration, which would enable every soldier to make a comfortable home for himself at the end of his military career and the profession would thus be made more popular among the poorer classes. The small pensions now granted are but a poor inducement for men to enlist, and take many years to attain.—The colonies would gain by obtaining large numbers of the best men in the army as emigrants, trained soldiers of all ages, who, under proper guidance and management would open up the districts in which they were placed, and who would be available for war if required. By an organized system of military emigration, thousands of good soldiers

and valuable citizens might be made to add to the wealth and strength of the empire in the colonies instead of struggling for mere existence in England on small and insufficient pensions, or adding to the pauperism of the country for the want of any pension at all, as in the cases of thousands of soldiers who are discharged after their first term of service, or from broken health, and who are unable to earn a livelihood in an expensive and over populated country, where the struggle for existence amongst the poor becomes greater every year.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

The Hon. Joseph Howe, of Nova Scotia, in a recent debate in the Canadian Parliament, said:—It is a common thing to contrast these North American Provinces and the United States, and say that the latter have made more progress than we have. But it should be remembered that these Provinces have had self-government only about a quarter of a century, while the United States have had it for nearly a whole century, and having a boundless continent to fill up, they have advanced we all admit, in a degree that is perfectly marvellous. But the true way to form a contrast is to contrast the United States and the British Empire, and when we do that, is there anything that a British American or an Englishman ought to be ashamed of? I think not. Within the last 18 or 19 years we have seen the population of the British Islands, though millions have emigrated to other parts of the world, increased largely, and they now contain within a few millions as much as the entire United States. Within the last 70 or 80 years we have founded and peopled the Australian colonies, New Zealand, the African colonies, the Mauritius and Ceylon, and now the scepter of Great Britain rules over some 60 or 70 great Provinces and Dependencies, filled with hundreds of millions of human beings.

When the United States declared their independence, the whole revenue of Great Britain was nine millions, and now it has grown to sixty-four millions. The imports of Great Britain at the time of the revolutionary war were valued at only 15 millions of pounds sterling; now the imports are 275 millions. And so with the exports at that time 15 millions and now 226 millions.—We have heard a great deal about the growth of New York, Chicago, and other large American cities. Why, London, that old central city, the old home and tomb of our forefathers, within my memory has more than doubled its population. When I first saw it, it had a million and a half of people, and now it has increased to upwards of three millions. And so Belfast has grown, so Dublin has grown, so Glasgow has grown, until nothing that we see upon this continent is equal to growth and expansion of the population and industry of this old island. Why, we see their spindles in operation so that the sun rises—though some days the sun does not rise at all, (laughter)—upon a busy hive of industry. When I was in England two or three years ago, I took the trouble to go where maps were made to measure the coast lines of Britain, France and United States. Now, sir, I look for seamen always towards the sea; men always grow upon the coast. When I came to contrast Britain, France and the United States this was about the result: France and the United States put together made a coast line of 11,600 miles; whereas Great Britain has a coast line of 39,000 miles so that in point of fact Great Britain has a