

No. 3.
Sir C. T. Metcalfe
to Lord Stanley,
12 March 1844.

The number of arrivals at this port by the St. Lawrence during the past season was 20,892, which have been disposed of as stated in Appendix (A.)

The immigration at this port the two last seasons stands thus :

In 1842, gross arrivals	-	-	42,355	-	-	13,060 paupers.
In 1843 - ditto	-	-	20,892	-	-	7,191 -

In 1842, the total expenditure was	-	-	-	-	-	-	£.	s.	d.
							4,283	4	2
Deduct for erecting a new shed and a new hospital, together with repairs to old buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-	518	10	6
Expense incurred in assisting Immigrants with free passages, provisions, &c. &c.	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,764	13	8
In 1843, the total expenditure was	-	-	-	-	-	-	£.	s.	d.
							2,973	4	1
Deduct for building a new shed	-	-	-	-	-	-	£.	s.	d.
							170	-	-
Ditto for coal-tarring and whitewashing ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-
Ditto repairs done to old sheds	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-
Ditto board footpaths, opening drains, and nails for the fences	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	7	4
Insurance on hospital, sheds, and cook-house, until 30th November 1844	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	9	9
							217	17	1
Expense incurred in assisting Immigrants with free passages, provisions, &c. &c.	-	-	-	-	-	-	£.	s.	d.
							2,755	7	-

From the above statement it will appear that in 1842 about 30½ per cent. of the gross arrivals at this port were utterly destitute, and were forwarded at the expense of Government. In 1843 about 33½ per cent. were in a similar condition, and have also been forwarded to their respective destinations at the expense of Government, giving an increase of pauper immigration in 1843 of 2½ per cent. over the immigration of 1842. This increase was caused, in part, by a greater number of destitute females; most of them were mothers, with families, proceeding to join their husbands or relatives; and, in part, by the diminished demand for labour in Montreal and vicinity, there being scarcely any public works in progress, which often left me no other means of disposing of paupers than forwarding them to the interior.

I feel confident that had I occupied an office in the city (the office at the sheds being sustained), as in former seasons, I could have saved a considerable portion of the expenditure under notice, by finding employment for destitute females as domestic servants; but my office having been about a mile from the centre of the city, I could do little in disposing of female paupers, by employing them among the citizens.

In 1842, I found employment in Montreal and vicinity for - - 2,084

In 1843, for - - - - - 258

The immigration of 1842 is a little over 50 per cent. greater than that of 1843, but the outlay of 1842 exceeds that of 1843 only about 27 per cent., while the pauper immigration of the two seasons differ only 2½ per cent. It may be necessary to explain from what cause this increase of expenditure has arisen.

Besides the causes already alluded to arising from the diminished demand for labour in this vicinity, and the consequent necessity of forwarding indigent immigrants westward, and my being unable to settle many females as domestic servants, owing to the remoteness of my office, there is one arising out of circumstances over which I had no control, namely, a combination among the forwarding merchants to exact 60 per cent. higher rates of passage the past season; this combination the chief agent, A. C. Buchanan, esq., found it impossible to break up, and was consequently obliged to submit to the higher rates of passage.

When due allowance is made for the advance of prices in forwarding indigent immigrants, and for the other inconveniences to which I was subjected, the ratio of last year's expenditure will be lower than that of 1842.

For the last three years there has been a progressive improvement in the health and cleanliness of immigrants. The amount of disease in 1843 has been less than in former seasons, and the attention of Dr. Bowie, the emigrant physician, has been very punctual and satisfactory. The return for the last season will be found in the Appendix marked (B.).

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