

rive in the country, the Committee finds itself called upon to express a warm feeling of gratitude to the Ottawa Steam-Boat Company for the liberality its members have displayed; and as there is very little prospect that the Company will derive any adequate compensation for the trouble it will occasion in conveying merely the poorer classes of the Emigrants, the Committee is strongly impressed with the opinion, that the Government Agent at Quebec should point out to the better classes of Emigrants the advantages they will derive from adopting the Ottawa and Rideau route in preference to that of the St. Lawrence, as these could afford to grant the Steam-Boat Company the same terms that are now given to the St. Lawrence Forwarders.

The Ottawa Company has offered to provide places of reception for all the Emigrants they may convey, at La Chine, Carillon, Grenville and Bytown, which are the only places where, by possibility, a portion of them might be required to land for a few hours. This advantage is too important, as regards the health and comforts of the Emigrants, to be overlooked by the Committee.

The accompanying letters from the Cedars and Cornwall will suffice to prove an absolute necessity that the system of forwarding every class of Emigrants to the Upper Province should undergo an entire change.

On the line of the Ottawa and the Rideau, which is settling very fast, and where great numbers might find employment in agricultural and mechanical pursuits, there always has existed, and still exists, a great demand for labour. Persons with capital to purchase lands may likewise find on this route a desirable location.

C. J. FORBES, *Chairman.*

(COPY.)

CEDARS, July 27, 1832.

DEAR SIR,

WHAT I am about to state would, perhaps, be more regular in being addressed directly to the Board of Health, but feeling persuaded that, in its passage to that body, it will be certain to acquire additional energy from the medium through which I taken the liberty to submit it for previous consideration; I claim no other shelter from the consequences of the steps I am now taking than the proofs which are so widely disseminated of the earnestness of those endeavours, so beneficially put forth on your part, in the cause of humanity.

The objects of this intimation originate in the united requests of the several gentlemen of this place, whose names have appeared in the public prints as constituting a Board of Health, but whose exertions have, until this late period, been kept under painful restrictions, from the absence of authentic confirmation of their appointments.

I hasten, therefore, to state to you, in the first place, a long train of serious evils resulting (I trust not designedly so) from the manner in which Emigrants are forwarded in boats, by this route, to the Upper Province. I should be sorry to impeach the characters of the persons connected with this important branch of our inland navigation, on the score of charitable feeling, or as men, but from the sad consequences that arise daily to view, there must be a something very wrong somewhere connected with this branch of business;—the whole would, however, seem to have its origin in the overloaded and crowded state of the boats, and the omission to fumigate those that are partially decked, after the voyage upwards. Almost every day there are instances of Emigrants put ashore with cholera; and yesterday a boat passed, from which there were three put ashore at different points, and it would almost seem as if the malady were diffused from the impure state of the boat itself, for fourteen other cases declared themselves amongst the resident inhabitants along the river on the same day:—two of the Emigrants died, and the third is still doubtful,—they have all large families, and were put ashore without any part of the passage-money which they had paid for the whole distance having been returned to them!—thus are we exposed to a dissemination of the disease far and wide, and a comparatively poor population daily becoming more oppressed by numerous objects of poverty. We had been led to expect that the praiseworthy intentions of the Emigrant Society would have checked the spread of disease, but, from some cause not yet ascertained, it manifests itself but too frequently in this quarter, and, if in any degree contagious, there remains no shadow of doubt that it is kept in action, either by the Emigrants coming away from Montreal or La Chine with the malady upon them, or that they contract it from the impure state of the boats; in either case, the numbers falling sick along the river is decidedly influenced by the passing up of the boats having emigrants, and possibly also by those having none, for it frequently occurs that some of the crews are put ashore also. When it is borne in mind that these boats are, to such a great extent, the medium of conveyance for provisions and articles of deposit in the magazines of Montreal, it becomes a matter well worthy of investigation, whether (the principle of contagiousness being admitted) they do not, under the circumstances, constitute a species of revolving disseminators of the disease. There is a certain degree of cruelty in permitting so many Emigrants to crowd into the boats, and particularly so when they are in other respects deeply loaded, for it not only ex-