

tends to bring to these ports great numbers of persons, who leave our own country for the express purpose of proceeding to the United States, but choose this as the cheaper passage, it may on this account be considered the more expedient to entertain the measure prayed for, viz. an enactment authorizing the officers of His Majesty's Customs to exact from every ship, bringing passengers into the province, 15*s.* sterling for each passenger, excepting only small vessels from the contiguous colonies of Canada and Nova Scotia; the said sum to be paid over to the province treasurer, to be applied only to the support of such emigrants as have, or might become destitute.

I have, &c.

The Right Honourable  
Viscount Goderich,  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed)

*Howard Douglas.*

To His Excellency Sir Howard Douglas, Bart., Lieutenant-Governor,  
Commander-in-Chief in the Province of New Brunswick, &c. &c.

The Petition of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the City and County  
of Saint John, in Sessions assembled.

Humbly Showeth,

That they approach your Excellency on the subject of support for destitute emigrants with regret; well aware of the attention your Excellency has given the matter, and of how ineffectual the assistance granted has been, either in relieving every instance of misery, or in enabling your memorialists, as magistrates for this city and county, to reduce the assessments made upon the inhabitants for the support of emigrants.

Enclosure.

That it is not necessary for your memorialists to question the policy of throwing so many of the helpless peasantry of Ireland on the shores of this colony, nor is this the place, even if to your Excellency such detail were necessary, to enter into a description of the general character of the emigrants—their poverty—the diseases they bring into the country—their inability, for a length of time, to do the work required here—or their vices; but your memorialists do conceive it to be their duty, fully to state to your Excellency that the fact of so many persons, from a distant country, being thrown on the scanty population of this city and county for support, (12 or 13,000 being the whole population,) is most oppressive, and even unjust. And that the taxes annually imposed by your memorialists for the support of these emigrants, and of numerous black persons brought from the United States during last war, and left here, are so deeply felt as to make this appeal necessary, more particularly as the evil, (owing to the former restrictions, in respect to emigrants from Britain, being at an end,) is much on the increase, as appears by the custom house books, which show the numbers landed in this port during 1825 as 1,865, for 1826 as 2,752, and for this year, to this date, as 3,200.

That as the passage money is paid to the ship master in advance, it becomes a matter of consideration with him, how many human beings he can take on board; and that of course the passenger vessels are crowded to excess, no regard being had to their age, the state of their health, or their capability to procure a livelihood in America. On landing here, the young and active push their way on to the United States (their destination on leaving Ireland, though they came this way, as being less expensive than a direct passage, where the numbers are very limited,) leaving the old, the infirm, the diseased, here.

That it appears to your memorialists there are only two plans by which the city and county of St. John, and the province in general, can be relieved from the burthen they now complain of, and that neither of those plans can be carried into effect by your memorialists; viz. either that an Act of the Imperial Parliament pass, authorizing the officers of His Majesty's Customs to exact from any ship bringing passengers into the province *fifteen shillings sterling* (25*s.* being paid in the United States) for each passenger, (excepting only small vessels from the contiguous provinces of Canada and Nova Scotia,) which sum should be paid over to the province treasurer, and be applied only to the support of such emigrants as were, or might become destitute; or that an exact account, on oath, be kept of the expenses attending the emigrants, and that the British Government make provision