

CANADA.

depression in the money market, have tended greatly to increase during the autumn, so that I estimate the increase to the population of Upper Canada, independent of this class during the past season, at about 25,000 souls.

From a return of the emigrants at the Port of New York it appears that the number at the close of the year was 284,945, being a decrease on that of 1852 of 14,559, over 9,000 of which was on that from the United Kingdom, which number during the past season was 147,928 against 156,983 in 1852; but the greatest proportionate decrease is on the emigration from Norway, which being in 1852, 1,889, fell during the past year to 377. This may in some measure account for the large increase in number received from that country by this route during the past year.

The decrease in the past season's emigration to this continent was fully anticipated from the improved condition of the working classes, more particularly in the United Kingdom; and I find, on comparing the decrease among the arrivals at New York with that to this port, that in the former it was equal to 5 per cent., and by the St. Lawrence to 6½.

I have not been able to ascertain the extent of mortality among the emigration of the past season arriving at New York, as I cannot find that any report of this is ever made public. I observe, from a statement published in a New York paper of the deaths on board 28 emigrant vessels arrived in that port during the month of November, that out of 13,762 passengers, the frightful number of 1,141 is stated to have died on the passage from cholera, equal to 8 per cent., thereby showing a mortality much more severe than that experienced in the emigration to this port during the fatal season of 1847.

The emigration of 1853 has on the whole been satisfactory. They have generally been well clothed and respectable in appearance, and their general health, when the circumstances accompanying long passages are taken into account, may be admitted as satisfactory. I may here again be permitted to revert to the case of the passenger ship "Fingal," in which no less than 34 deaths were reported to have occurred among the emigrants on their passage, including fourteen children. When, however, it is taken into consideration that these unfortunate emigrants had sailed for the second time from Liverpool, the vessel in which they first sailed, the "Joseph Howe," having put into Cork in distress, where she was condemned; that for several weeks from stress of weather they had been reduced to the ship's allowance of food, their own supply having been all expended during the period of their detention; and if, to being weak and ill fed, we have the adjuncts of cold, damp, and stormy weather, it may truly be a matter of surprise that a greater number had not succumbed to disease.

Your Excellency has already been made acquainted with the panic and disquietude which the number of deaths reported to have occurred on board the "Fingal" had excited in the public mind; but the contingency of such a large mortality on board of one single ship, so soon following the accounts of the prevalence of cholera in some of our transatlantic ports, could not, it was reasonable to expect, have operated otherwise; particularly in a country which had already suffered so much by its invasions in 1832, 1834, and 1849.

The judicious measure, however, which was immediately adopted by your Excellency and Council in ordering the vessel to Grosse Isle, for the purpose of quarantine, had the desired effect of at once allaying public anxiety; and soon after, from the report of the Medical Superintendent that no sickness had since manifested itself among the passengers, and that a dietary of fresh provisions and vegetables had completely restored them to their wonted constitutional vigour and health, the citizens became fully assured that nothing prejudicial to the general health could be apprehended from the return of the vessel and the emigrant passengers to this port.

The establishment of the Canada line of steamers has, it may be observed, already been beneficially felt here, by the great increase of cabin passengers from Liverpool during the past season. This field of enterprise, so important to the general interests of the colony, will it is hoped be extended, and amongst other advantages prove the means of diverting and accelerating the tide of trade and travel to its proper and destined course (the St. Lawrence), to obtaining which the energies and resources of our great rival and neighbour have been employed, and not without success; and it is not advancing too much when I observe, that for the emigrant no country offers better guarantees for the successful pursuit of competency and happiness than this.

Its unbounded and, in comparison with the United States, as yet hardly developed resources, the salubrity of its climate, and the liberal character of its institutions are advantages not to be overlooked by transatlantic adventurers, and which, when properly appreciated, cannot but secure a preference over all other destinations.

With reference to the prospect for 1854 I have every reason to anticipate the most satisfactory results. The demand for labour both skilled and unskilled, as well as for farm servants and female domestics, will be very great; and the opinions which I had the honour of expressing in my report of last year, that the colony would offer steady and profitable employment for the labouring classes of the mother country for several years to come, have from the experience of the past year been more than fully confirmed.

The wages of all classes of labour accustomed to railway work, experienced an advance during the early part of the past season, and common labourers received from a dollar to 5s. 6d. per day, platelayers 7s. 6d., masons and bricklayers from 2 dollars to 12s. 6d.