

Appendix
(W.)

22nd March.

merchants and resident public authorities with the conduct of the Government Emigrant Agents. But we will not dwell on any of these topics, because we think that the most direct evidence how the duty is discharged is to be found in the reports which arrive from the other side of the Atlantic.

Every Emigrant ship is visited and examined immediately on reaching the British Provinces by officers specially appointed for the purpose, who report each violation of the Act, which, if it be of a kind that could have been prevented or detected beforehand, is then made a subject of inquiry in this country. Now, we will not lay any stress on the circumstance that no returns have yet arrived from Canada, pointing out defects or reporting the necessity of prosecutions there, because, under the extreme pressure of this year, it is very possible that it may have been found impracticable to observe the usual rigour, or that the detailed returns may still be incomplete and may arrive at a later date. But we beg leave to point out that, throughout the more general official reports which have been received from Canada, there is not the remotest intimation that there appeared any signs of neglect of duty in the circumstances under which the ships have sailed. If there had been reason to suppose that there were indications that the fever was in any degree traceable to defects for which the Passengers' Act afforded a remedy, it is inconceivable that the principal officers in Canada, who were witnesses of such lamentable sufferings, would not have mentioned the fact. But, on the contrary, we have shown already that they ascribe the sickness to very different causes.

And from New Brunswick we are able to supply some information in detail. Returns have been received for eighty-one ships; in five of which there was a very limited excess in the number of passengers, mainly occasioned by differences in the mode of computation, and far too small to affect the people's health. With respect to two of the vessels, it was complained that they had only a deck on temporary beams; but many of the vessels in the North American trade have no permanent beams or decks, and it has been judged that the officers in this kingdom are not at liberty to object to the others, if they are securely fixed. We have ascertained that they attended to the subject in these two instances, and satisfied themselves, to the best of their judgment, with the fastenings, which we do not understand to have given way.

Setting aside the preceding instances, which are at any rate not of a kind directly to affect the people's health, we find that out of the eighty-one ships which have as yet been heard of, there are only three in which it has been detected that there was any defect in the quantity or quality of provisions laid in before sailing. One of these vessels (viz., the "Sea") was despatched by a firm at Liverpool, which had long been watched, and frequently prevented before from sending bad provisions. They escaped detection in the present instance, but their license will be opposed at the end of the year; and it may consequently be expected that they will be removed from the trade. In another case, the vessel (the "Bloomfield") had been driven back to Ireland, and the law, which has since been amended, did not at that time afford adequate means of compelling the provisions to be replenished. The third case is that of the "Magna Charta," in which we have no doubt that the quantity of the provisions on board was too small. But it would appear that some imposition must have been practised before starting, as the receipts were produced for the full quantity necessary, and their sufficiency was attested by the master, who

afterwards made the complaint. We may perhaps here explain, that a defect now and then may be expected to escape the preliminary inspection in this country; but that, for that very reason, it is part of the system to rely also on the check supplied by the officers at the port of arrival. Having thus specially reported on three cases in which defective provisions were mentioned, we may observe that, with respect to the great majority of the ships, it is common to find the goodness and sufficiency of the provisions especially noticed in the Returns.

On an unfavourable remark made by Mr. Boyd, at St. Andrew's, without specifying instances, we have reported separately.

But while, for these reasons, we would submit that there is no ground to assume that the enforcement of the ordinary law was neglected, we may be allowed also briefly to advert to the special measures which were adopted to meet the exigencies of this year.

The Emigration Estimate was at once increased by Her Majesty's Government from £10,364 to £23,813. Five officers were appointed at new stations in Ireland. Lieut. Hodder, at Liverpool, whose energies were to be so severely taxed by the vast multitudes who pour through that town, was reinforced by some very efficient assistants. The vote taken for relief in Canada was increased from £1000 to £10,000, or to ten times its previous amount. These measures took place before any extensive sickness had yet become prevalent here, or been reported from the Colonies.

And as soon as the sufferings among the Emigrants became known, the Government forthwith sent large supplies of the disinfecting fluids recently invented both to Canada and New Brunswick, and distributed them among the subsequent Emigrant ships; besides despatching Colonel Calvert to Canada, at great expense, almost immediately after his experiments had been made known in Parliament. There has not been time to hear the result.

No sooner did the Emigrant ships begin to arrive in the St. Lawrence with sickness amongst them, than Mr. Buchanan procured the appointment of a Medical Board, despatched large supplies of provisions to the Quarantine station, and engaged a small steamer to act as a tender to the health officer, for the purpose of landing the sick, collecting provisions, and otherwise facilitating the service. Lord Elgin at once caused tents sufficient for the reception of 10,000 men to be issued from the Ordnance, which measure was immediately approved by Earl Grey. His Lordship also conveyed to the Governor General an intimation, which has since been repeated, that Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to apply to Parliament to contribute an equitable proportion of the burthen thrown on the Province in consequence of the distress and the calamities prevailing in this country. The same principle will, we understand, be also applied to New Brunswick; and we perceive, by Lord Grey's Despatch of the 4th of October, that £20,000 is already placed at the disposal of the Provincial authorities in Canada.

We have heard it imagined, that £50,000 had been destined to the relief of distress in Canada, which was afterwards withdrawn. This is a pure mistake. There was a project of offering loans to that extent to Canadian proprietors to assist in furnishing employment; but this would only have applied to healthy

Appendix
(W.)

22nd March.

Special measures adopted in the course of the present year.

Increase by the Government of estimate and of officers.

Disinfecting fluid.

Proceedings in Canada.

Further proceedings in this country.