

CANADA.

Report of the Agent
for Emigration.

aid of their transport into the interior of the province, to their friends. This sum, amounting to 84 l. currency, was applied as the committee requested; but owing to the extreme poverty of these people, and no suitable employment being to be had for them, either in this or the Montreal district, I was under the necessity of forwarding them, at the expense of this office, to the Bathurst, Midland, Home, Gore, and London districts, and some as far westward as Goderich. The expenditure on their account has necessarily been very heavy, and may be stated at between 600 l. and 700 l. These parties had all large families, whom it was impossible to provide for otherwise than by enabling them to join their friends and relations. They all appear anxious and willing to work, and were a moral, industrious class, who will no doubt, in a short time, become valuable settlers.

In Paper No. 6 of the Appendix will be found a statement of the distribution of the emigrants during the past season, compiled from the monthly reports received from Mr. Hawke, the chief agent in Canada West, and the other local agents of this department. Six-sevenths of the emigration appear to have settled in Canada West. The number of emigrants arrived from the United States was, at Kingston, 1,146; at Cobourg and Port Hope, 92; and at Hamilton, 248. No return has been received from Toronto, but the number may be estimated at 300; this does not include the number who have come in at different other points for employment on the public works, which Mr. Hawke estimates on the whole at from 3,000 to 4,000.

The number who have proceeded to the United States this season I should state at under 2,000; few have gone there unless with the intention of joining their relations, who have in many instances sent them the means of emigrating; so that I estimate the addition to our colonial population, during this year, at fully 22,000 souls.

The remarkable feature in the immigration of the past year has been the very large proportion which have come out to their relations. I estimate it at full three-fourths of the whole. This is, as I have had occasion to state to your Excellency, a most fortunate circumstance; for had these persons landed here total strangers, without friends, or a destination in view, serious distress must have occurred among them, from the difficulty of procuring work. A return received from the superintendent of the sheds in Montreal, shows that 220 women, with their children, numbering together 854 persons, applied to, and were aided at that agency, to proceed to join their husbands in different sections of the province.

The public works have absorbed but few emigrants this year, and they continue to be more than supplied by the influx of labourers from the neighbouring states, who, as I stated in my Report of last year, owing to their being habituated to this description of work, invariably receive the preference from the contractors. Wages on the different public works have ranged from 2 s. to 2 s. 6 d. per day, without board; but owing to a strike and combination among the workmen, they were, for a short time, raised to 3 s. per day.

Labourers in this city are at present working for 1 s. 3 d., and handy axe-men in the ship-yards only receive from 1 s. 8 d. to 2 s. per day, without board.

The expenditure of this department, in the direct relief and assistance of destitute immigrants, from the commencement of the past season, up to the 30th November, may be stated at 6,717 l. 17 s. 10 d., under the following heads: viz. transport, 5,387 l. 19 s. 9 d.; provisions, 636 l. 19 s.; medical relief, 692 l. 19 s. 1 d. currency.

In the early part of the season it was found necessary to erect additional buildings at the immigrant establishment of Montreal: this, with sundry repairs to the old buildings, amounted to 226 l. 1 s. 11 d. The charge for agencies in both sections of the province, for the same period, has been 1,330 l. 2 s. 7 d. The entire expenditure of the department, therefore, has amounted to the sum of 8,274 l. 2 s. 4 d., Halifax currency. The funds received to meet this expenditure have been derived from the emigrant tax collected at the ports of Montreal and Quebec, amounting to 4,251 l. 19 s. 2 d.; the imperial vote, and the balance from last season, 4,492 l. 16 s.; total 8,736 l. 6 s. 10 d., Halifax currency.

Many circumstances during the past season have affected unfavourably the situation of the arriving immigrants; and the claims for relief from this department have been proportionably more numerous than in the preceding year. From my monthly reports, and from those received from the different agencies, copies of which have been from time to time transmitted to your Excellency, it is shown that a number, equal to 4,032 adults, were forwarded from this agency, chiefly to Montreal; 5,469 were provided with passages from Montreal to Bytown and Kingston; 4,275 were assisted in proceeding from Bytown upwards, either by the Rideau navigation or the Ottawa; 5,093 were forwarded from Kingston to different ports on Lakes Ontario and Erie; 1,684 have been assisted at Toronto, and 730 at the Hamilton agency, making a total of 21,283 adults who were aided by this department with the means of progress towards their respective ultimate destinations. Of this number 851 received medical treatment, besides a considerable number relieved with provisions. The number of deaths which occurred at the different agencies throughout the province in the course of the season was 49.

A considerable increase in the rates of inland transport has taken place in the past year, more particularly between Montreal and Kingston, the advance on that route being equal to