

Of the Germans, about 2,000 are estimated as having remained in this province. They all proceeded to Hamilton, where a large number found profitable employment; and a number of families possessing capital, I am informed, had purchased farms in the German settlements in the Waterloo and Perth districts.

The appointments which your Excellency was pleased to sanction, of a German interpreter at this and the Montreal agency during the past season, has been found of essential service, and has enabled this department to communicate freely, and to afford the necessary advice and protection to this class of our emigration.

Several of the emigrant vessels from foreign ports during the past season were found, on arrival here, to have on board a much greater number of persons than they could have legally carried under the laws of England or the United States; and as no law exists regulating the carriage of emigrants from foreign ports to this province, beyond those which may exist at the ports from whence the emigrants sail, it may be considered necessary, in order to prevent over crowding, and to protect the province from the introduction of disease, that a provincial law should be passed to meet all cases not provided for under the Imperial Passenger Act of 1852.

I consider that, in order not to impose any unnecessary restriction on this growing branch of our trade, to regulate the number of passengers according to the space and tonnage check, and to require a list of the persons on board to be deposited with the chief officer of Customs in the manner and form prescribed by the Imperial Act, is all that would be necessary.

From a return of the emigration to the port of New York, it appears that the number arrived to the close of the year was 299,504, being an excess of 9,903 over that of 1851. The numbers from the United Kingdom show a decrease of 44,587; the numbers in 1851 were 201,570, and in 1852 156,983. The falling off is altogether from Ireland, which amounts to 47,719. The numbers from England, Scotland, and Wales show a small increase on each. The great increase has been among the Germans, which, from 69,883 in 1851, reached 118,126 during the past year.

I was in hopes of being able to ascertain the extent of mortality during the passage among the emigrants arriving at New York, but am informed that no correct information can be obtained upon this important subject.

With reference to the prospects and demand for labour in 1853, I consider them most satisfactory.

The immense railway system now undertaken by these provinces will greatly stimulate general prosperity, involving, as it will, the introduction and expenditure of a large amount of capital, which will secure steady and profitable employment for the labouring classes for several years to come, so that Canada never presented a more favourable opening for the reception of all classes of Her Majesty's subjects, or such others as may desire to seek a comfortable home. The demand for labour is on the increase, and some apprehension exists that a scarcity will be felt during the ensuing season. The wages paid during the greater part of the year to common unskilled labourers was 4s. sterling per day. Should, therefore, the emigration of 1853 experience any considerable decrease, which I fully anticipate, owing to the improved and satisfactory condition of that class in the mother country, and the great impetus given to emigration since the gold discoveries in our Australian colonies, the railroads already under contract may be considerably retarded, and both public and private enterprise materially suffer.

In confirmation of this opinion, I would submit the following extract of a report recently received from Mr. Hawke:

"As to the prospects for 1853, I have conversed with many intelligent persons on the subject, and they are of opinion that able-bodied unskilled labourers will be able to command a dollar per day throughout the spring and summer months. Agricultural labourers must either get equal wages, or the farmers will not be able to retain them in their service. As these extensive works will not be completed for several years, and as such a large outlay of money will stimulate every other branch of business, I do not think it will be possible to overstock the labour market for many years to come. In fact the prospects before us are of the most cheering description, and capitalists, merchants, mechanics, farm servants, and common labourers may safely calculate on finding in Canada an abundant demand for skill, capital, and labour, to a profitable as well as to an almost unlimited extent."

I may also remark, that agents from the United States were in this city in the month of September, distributing printed notices requiring 10,000 men on the Illinois Central Railroad, 370 miles long, wages one dollar per day, with steady employment for three years.

The Emigration Department has experienced a loss during the past season in the death of the agent at Kingston, Mr. Anthony Hawke, who had for 12 years faithfully and zealously discharged the duties of his office; his death was hastened from the effects of a severe attack of typhus fever, which he contracted in 1847, and from which he never completely recovered.

I have endeavoured to bring before your Excellency a brief review of the transactions of this department during the past year; for further detailed information respecting which I beg to refer your Excellency to the accompanying Appendix.

All of which I respectfully submit to your Excellency's favourable consideration.

I have, &c.

A. C. BUCHANAN,

Chief Agent.