

EMIGRATION.

No. 1.

less than ten years, by equal annual instalments, and interest is to be charged at the rate of five per cent.

Another very important element of success is to ensure an adequate supply of food for the people throughout the first winter. The officer reporting upon a location should be required to state what provision the proprietor is himself willing to make ; and whether any danger of scarcity of food might be apprehended during the first winter from settling together at the same time such a body of persons as I have alluded to.

The number of villages which each officer should be at liberty to recommend ought to be communicated to him in his instructions. Your Lordship will be the best judge whether each should have discretion to propose the same number, or whether more would be fitting in the district of one officer than of another. I have only to desire that the total amount of money to be advanced is not to exceed £50,000, leaving it to your Lordship to determine in what manner that sum may most advantageously be applied. I trust that by the assistance of some of the great land companies, as well as of the owners of large tracts of wild land in the different districts of Canada and of New Brunswick, your Lordship will find no difficulty by means of advances to this amount, in preparing villages for the reception of a considerable number of emigrants ; but if I should be disappointed in this respect, it will deserve your consideration whether it might not be proper to apply to the provincial legislature for power to allow the purchase of considerable tracts of land, either by companies or by individuals, upon the condition that any money expended by them in preparing villages for the reception of emigrants should be considered as part of the purchase-money. In this manner a great inducement might be afforded to capitalists to embark in enterprises of this description, and the arrangement, though not altogether free from objection, would not be open to any which, in a great emergency, should be regarded insurmountable. To any attempt to meet immediate difficulties by departing from the principle of alienating lands only by sale, I have to instruct your Lordship to refuse your assent. I am persuaded that a rigid adherence to that principle is the very foundation of every good system of colonization.

When each officer has recommended those proposals which appear to him most advantageous for the expected immigrants, your Lordship will decide which proposals are to be accepted, and will then apprise the Emigration Agents at the ports of disembarkation, of the sites and particulars of the intended villages, as well as communicate them to me without delay, and I will place the Emigration Commissioners in possession of the information.

Such is a general outline of the measures which Her Majesty's Government think it will be desirable to adopt in Canada. They are well aware that the scheme will be far from adequate to provide for the whole number of people who may be expected to arrive in any season, nor have they the least wish to interfere with the ordinary means by which the mass of the emigration is usually spread over the country without serious difficulty or distress ; but they trust that in endeavouring to provide an acceptable resource for collective bodies of emigrants, they may at the same time increase the chance of a favourable issue to the other portions of the year's emigration.

Combined with these arrangements in Canada, there will be corresponding measures adopted in this country. When considerable parties of people are emigrating together, the Commissioners of Emigration will be empowered to undertake, if wished, to expend their funds for them in providing passages ; and they will also be authorised to furnish such parties with letters to the Emigrant Agents in Canada, describing the kind of village for which the people may be supposed to be best fitted. The precise manner, however, in which this part of the scheme can be worked will require some deliberation, and as it is less urgent in point of time, than the measures to be adopted in the province, it is unnecessary that I should enter further into detail on this subject. Much must arise in so new a scheme which cannot be foreseen or provided for beforehand ; but I feel entire confidence in the discretion with which you will supply any defects, or correct any inadvertencies, in this outline of the plan, which on the other hand, is I hope, explained with sufficient fulness to give you the necessary conception of its general scope and objects.

I have, &c.

Right Hon. Earl of Elgin,
&c. &c.

(Signed)

GREY.