

CHAPTER XV.—INFORMATION AND ADVICE FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

In Chapter XII. of this pamphlet the classes of persons who may, with confidence, be advised to go to British Columbia, have been indicated; and in Chapter XIV., the principal facts have been given in relation to the important question of routes and communications. There are, however, some further important points which intending emigrants will do well to consider.

Lists of Agents of the Department of Agriculture, that is, of the department of the Canadian Government specially charged with the subject of immigration, will be found on the inside of the last cover of this pamphlet, and it cannot be, at every step, too strongly impressed on the mind of the intending emigrant, that the first thing he should do, as well before he starts from home as after his arrival in Canada, is to consult the Government agents. He may do so, either by letter, or, if convenient, personally. These agents are all responsible to the Canadian Government for the advice and information they give, and are charged to use the utmost carefulness in giving either. They are especially charged not to mislead emigrants by any exaggerations. They are all reliable men, and their statements may be received with perfect confidence. Their advice should always be taken instead of that of irresponsible persons.

These remarks apply to all persons intending to emigrate to any part of Canada. Those going to British Columbia should, immediately on landing at Victoria, put themselves in communication with Mr. R. H. Smith, the Dominion Immigration Agent for that province, who will generally be in attendance on the arrival of the steamers. If the immigrant have any complaints of any kind to make, he should at once address himself to this officer. If any baggage should be lost or left on the route, a full description of it should be immediately left with him, and he will at once enter into correspondence with the officers of the transportation companies to recover it. He will further give to the immigrant general information regarding the places or districts where employment may be found, rates of wages, routes of travel, distances, expenses of conveyance, etc., and he will receive and forward letters and remittances from settlers to friends at home, or from their friends to settlers.

He will also give information regarding the districts in which land may be most easily obtained for homesteads, or where farms may be bought. His duty is thus to be a disinterested and faithful friend to the immigrant, under his responsibility to the Government of Canada.

The Provincial Government of British Columbia has also intimated in a formal despatch to the Dominion Government at Ottawa, its willingness and intention to supplement the agency of the Dominion Government by Provincial Agencies, in order to insure to immigrants on their arrival the necessary assistance and the fullest possible guidance, so as to prevent as far as possible any of those mistakes to which settlers, on first entering a new country may be liable.

Immigrants on their arrival may give their confidence to the Provincial agents in the same manner as to the agents of the General Government. It is well to caution them against giving implicit confidence to any statements made, or advice offered to them by mere hangers on who are sometimes found about the stations or landing places on the arrival of parties of immigrants. Until the immigrant has been a sufficient time in the new country to learn its ways, he should look very closely at the motives or interests of those persons who offer transactions or advice, and not accept them without consulting the responsible officers.

If any further information should be desired by the immigrant which he cannot obtain on the spot; or should he desire to make any statements, he can write directly to the General Government at Ottawa, addressing his letters to the "Secretary of Department of Agriculture, Ottawa," and he will receive due attention. Letters addressed as above are post free, and may be simply dropped in the post office without stamps.

THE OCEAN VOYAGE.

All emigrants from the United Kingdom and the Continent of Europe, with scarcely any exceptions, now cross the Ocean in steamships. These are in every way better for the service than sailing vessels, as the passage is made in eight or ten days.