

viii. of the Revised Statutes of that Province. This officer receives a salary not exceeding \$800 per annum, and reports to the Local Government.

Besides the general duties of his office in affording information to intending or actual immigrants, the agent is authorized to act as guardian to immigrant orphan children, and to temporarily provide for and distribute immigrants sent to the Province, drawing upon the treasury for sums necessary for such contingencies.

The number of immigrants who arrived in 1866 was 932. How many of these remained in the Province there is no return made, but Mr. Pineo states that but few of those who were agricultural laborers left.

In 1866 it appears from the published accounts there was \$19,800 drawn from the Provincial Treasury by the Immigration Commissioners; this unusual expenditure in that year was doubtless largely on account of the fearful prevalence of Cholera among immigrants who arrived at the Port of Halifax.

The grant, in 1867, for immigration was \$4,000.

TRANSIT.

The amount expended by the Immigration Department in Ontario and Quebec, in the transport and assistance of immigrants was, in 1866, \$14,180.36. There arrived, at Quebec, in that year, 27,084 steerage passengers, of whom 4,303 are reported to have remained in Canada; of these, 3,393 adult immigrants were assisted by direct relief at the respective agencies, as follows, *viz* :—

Quebec.....	2,554½
Hamilton.....	58
Toronto.....	272
Kingston.....	34
Ottawa.....	127
Montreal.....	347½
	3,393

giving an average expenditure of \$4.18 per head.

From New Brunswick there are no data as to the distribution of the immigrants, nor of any expenditure authorized under that head;

And, in Nova Scotia the immigrants were mostly distributed among the mines and in the rural districts, as openings presented themselves.

When necessary the transportation was provided by the Government Agent.

Your Committee, in pursuance of the object of their inquiry, addressed copies of the following circular letter to the Commissioners of Crown Lands of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia :—

(Copy.)

“ HOUSE OF COMMONS,

“ Ottawa, April 20, 1868.

“ SIR,—The Standing Committee on ‘ Immigration and Colonization,’ before being able to report to the House of Commons a plan whereby the immigrant may be encouraged and assisted to settle in Canada, must first be made acquainted with the facilities offered by the respective Provincial Governments for the settlement of its wild lands.

“ The public lands being under the control of the respective Provincial Legislatures, it must be obvious that the Legislature and Government of Canada can only further the settlement of such lands in one of two ways. First, by concerted and united action, and, second, by independent, but supplementary, effort. Will you have the goodness, at your earliest convenience, to reply to the following queries, and to add such further particulars as you may deem to be of interest to the Committee, touching this important subject?

“ 1st. On what terms can wild lands be obtained for the purpose of settlement?

“ 2nd. What quantity is surveyed, or available for settlement on these terms?

“ 3rd. What is the general character of these lands, and where are they situated?

“ 4th. By what mode of conveyance and route are they accessible?

(Signed),

“ GEORGE JACKSON,

“ Chairman.”