

(Circular.)

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
17 April 1847.Land Board
Reports.

Sir,

IN reference to questions which have arisen respecting lower beams, in consequence of the pressure for shipping this year, I am desired by the Commissioners to give you the following directions for your guidance.

They are led to understand, that, if the height between deck is insufficient when the lower deck is laid on the original lower beams, there is no objection by law to laying the deck on additional lower beams, introduced for the purpose at a lower level, provided that these new beams are clearly strong enough, properly fastened, and in all respects capable of carrying a lower deck of the requisite thickness to be properly and substantially secured to them, of which it will be the duty of the Government Agent to judge.

I have, &c.
(signed) *S. Walcott,*
Secretary.

— No. 15. —

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
10 November 1847.

Sir,

WE have the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 6th instant, accompanied by a despatch from the Lieutenant-governor of New Brunswick, enclosing a return of emigrants from Cork, by the barque "St. Lawrence."

Adverting to the attention which has been drawn to the state in which vessels reached St. Andrews, we are glad to perceive by the present return, that this barque, carrying 104 persons from Cork, imported them without any death; and that the vessel is reported to have arrived perfectly clean, the emigrants in a healthy state, and without any complaints as to the food or water.

We have, &c.
(signed) *T. Fred^t Elliot.*
Frederic Rogers.

B. Hawes, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

No. 16.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
6 December 1847.

Sir,

IN reference to Mr. Stephen's letter of the 8th ultimo, enclosing a return of emigrants who had arrived at the port of Quebec between the 5th and the 12th June, we think it our duty to call attention to the following report by Mr. Buchanan, in respect to some emigrants from the estates of Viscount Palmerston.

"These people," Mr. Buchanan remarks, "were well provided with good and wholesome provisions at his Lordship's expense, and landed in good health, presenting a marked contrast with several of the other vessels from the same port, and which tends to prove that had the emigrants of this season been supplied with good wholesome provisions, much of the mortality might possibly have been avoided."

B. Hawes, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

We have, &c.
(signed) *T. W. C. Murdoch.*
Frederic Rogers.

— No. 17. —

EXTRACTS of a LETTER from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to
H. Merivale, Esq.; dated 8 December 1847.

It appears from the enclosures to Sir William Colebrooke's despatch, that the whole number of emigrants who had arrived in New Brunswick during the present year, amounted, on the 1st October, to 15,269, being an excess over the emigrants of last year of 5,720; that of these one-third had proceeded to the United States, and that the two-thirds who remained are "of the most miserable and helpless class of Irish peasantry." It further appears, that many heads of families had gone to the United States, leaving their families behind them, and that these families had consequently become a burthen upon the people of New Brunswick, and would probably so continue throughout the winter. With reference to this point, Sir William Colebrooke repeats an observation which he has frequently made in his despatches of the present year, that the practice of sending out families before they can be provided for is productive of suffering to the emigrants, and throws an undue burthen on the colony.

We now proceed to notice such of the reports from the emigrant agent and others, attached to Sir W. Colebrooke's despatch, as appear to call for special observation.

1. The emigrant agent reports the arrival of the barque "James," from Limerick, with 123 passengers, and adds, that the whole meal was more than half bran, and a portion of the water was of bad quality. This is a serious charge; but as the emigrants refused to appear against the master in the province, it will be impossible now to enforce the penalties of the Passengers' Act. We have, however, called on the emigration agent at Limerick for an explanation on the subject, which we shall hereafter submit, with our opinion on it, for Lord Grey's information. We may also take this opportunity of mentioning, with reference to an