

WEEKLY MISCELLANY.

Devoted to the Intellectual and Moral Improvement of the Young.

Vol. 1. Halifax, N. S. Thursday, November 12, 1863. No. 21.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, AT \$1 PER YEAR

IN ADVANCE, BY

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Subscriptions received by the Agents, and at the office of publication.

IMMIGRATION OFFICE.

The Government Immigration Office is now open at 46 Bedford Row, Halifax; where the duties according to the subjoined Act of last Session of the House of Assembly will be attended to and carried on.

Persons wishing to engage mechanics or labourers can call and enter their names and addresses.

Immigrants arriving, or who have recently arrived, and requiring aid or information from the Agent, can obtain the same, in so far as lies in his power, by application at the office.

CHAPTER 26.

An Act

TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION AND SETTLEMENT OF INDUSTRIOUS IMMIGRANTS.

[Passed the 29th day of April, A. D. 1862.]

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly, as follows:

1. On the passage of this Act it shall be lawful for the Governor to appoint an Immigrant Agent, with a salary not to exceed eight hundred dollars, who shall have power and whose duties shall be to correspond with the Secretary of the Board of Land and Emigration in London, and with the agents appointed by that Board, with the officers of any associations, or with public spirited persons desirous of promoting emigration for the Colonies; and to furnish from time to time such information as may be useful, to enable them to send out emigrants for whom there is likely to be suitable employment in this Province.

To open a book in which persons wishing to engage mechanics, laborers and apprentices, can enter their names and addresses.

To correspond with County officers, and keep a registry of the distribution of immigrants sent into the interior.

To act as the guardian of orphan children, to bind them as apprentices, and to protect them in case of necessity.

To render accounts quarterly to the Financial Secretary, and to make a an-

ual report of his proceedings for the information of the Government and the Legislature.

To act under such instructions as may be issued by the Governor in Council from time to time.

2. The Governor in Council may authorize the Immigrant Agent to draw from the Treasury such sums as may be necessary to temporarily provide for and distribute such Immigrants as may be sent into this Province; but no part of the monies so to be drawn shall be disbursed on account of passages to or from this country.

3. Wherever there are tracts of land suitable for settlement it shall be lawful for the Commissioner of Crown Lands, when so instructed by the Governor in Council, to lay them off in one hundred acre lots, with convenient roads running through them, and to place them at the disposal of the Immigrant Agent for actual settlement.

4. Whenever such lands are required, either by inhabitants of the Province or by industrious Immigrants coming into it for actual settlement, surveys shall be made, and the applicants put in possession and allowed a credit of three years for the purchase money, which shall be expended in opening such roads as may be required for the formation and improvement of the settlement, and upon payment grants shall issue. Oct. 8. 6i.

HALIFAX, N. S. NOVEMBER 12, 1863.

FISHERIES OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Our fisheries constitute a most important branch of our natural and industrial resources. Our coasts and rivers swarm with fish; and we may venture to say that, in this respect, we are not surpassed by any other country in the world—unless Newfoundland be an exception, which we are not quite ready to admit. Our line of coast exceeds altogether nine hundred miles, and is indented by numerous bays and natural harbours, affording every facility and advantage of safety to vessels and boats engaged in fishing. There is no part all round our shores where fishing may not be carried on profitably.

The most important of our sea fish are Cod, Halibut, Haddock, Herring, Alewives, and Mackerel. The first three are found most abundantly on the banks which lie off our coasts, but are taken in

no inconsiderable quantities nearer shore. There is no part of the coast where herring may not be taken in season; and the alewife or *gaspereau* is taken in the mouths of rivers and streams, in the spring, in great quantities.

The mackerel frequent the coast from the month of June until November in great quantities. Those taken early in the season are much inferior in condition to those taken in the fall. They are inspected and classified, according to quality, as Nos. 1, 2, and 3. No. 1, being the best, is never got until the month of October. These fish congregate together in large masses, or *schools* as they are called by the fishermen; and are sometimes of several miles in length and breadth. Large takes or captures are frequently made by nets called *seines*, and 800 to 1000 barrels are known to have been taken at one haul; but such great luck rarely occurs.

To these fish we may add the Shad, which is taken during the month of August in Cumberland and Minas Basins. It is a delicious fish and of delicate flavor.

In addition we have only space to name the Hake, Pollock, Sea Trout, Whiting, and Tom Cod. The first is abundant—pollock not so much so, neither is whiting; but the Tom cod is plentiful during the winter months, and sells at about 4d. per dozen—mixed sizes.

Oysters exist in unlimited quantities along the shores from Cape Breton to New Brunswick; and might furnish a source of profitable employment to a large number of persons. Those of Tatamagouche are reputed to be of a particularly fine flavor.

Lobsters are found in enormous quantities on every part of the coast, and are thrown up by gales on our northern coast in such quantities that they are often used for manure. They are generally sold for a penny each in Halifax market.

The Salmon is found in most of our large rivers, and is also taken on the coast before it has entered them. They appear about the middle of May, and before July are remarkably fine. Their price