

No. 8.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HALIFAX IMMIGRATION AGENT.

(MR. EDWIN CLAY.)

GOVERNMENT IMMIGRATION OFFICE,
HALIFAX, N.S., January 15th, 1874.

SIR,—In transmitting to you my annual report, I am happy to be enabled to state a small increase over last year, the number then returned being 1,432, and this year 1,653, being an increase of 221 over last year. Many of those who have arrived in our Province this year were farm hands with their families, and are now comfortably settled. Colonel Laurie has built upon his estate at Grand Lake seven very neat cottages, in which a number of farm hands are living with their families. There are now on the Colonel's farm 41 English immigrants, mostly from Devonshire.

As a part of the result of M. B. Des Brisay's, Esq., M.P.P., mission to Europe, we have 221 French miners, with 35 women and 45 children; they are at work in our coal mines at Pictou and Cape Breton, and will no doubt prove a very useful class of settlers. The reason that only 77 miners appear in the lists of trades, is that most of the French miners gave in their names as "mechanics," which increases that list very much.

Messrs. Birt brought over from Liverpool 76 young people and children, six women, 26 girls from two to fourteen years of age, and 44 boys, from seven to seventeen.

They were all taken in charge by Colonel Laurie, and placed in good situations; many of them having been adopted into some of our most respectable families.

The class of persons from which this Province may derive the greatest benefit, is, first married men and their families, and the class referred to above, introduced by Messrs. Birt and Colonel Laurie. The families settled this past year will bring out from one to a dozen this year.

M. B. Des Brisay, Esq., M.P.P., the Agent for the Local Government, with the members of the Government, have very kindly aided me by supplementing the Dominion warrants, by giving ten dollars per head to adults and five per head for children, thus enabling many poor families to settle in our Province, who could not have done so without such assistance.

The arrivals at this port have been as follows:—

Married men	383
Single men	654
Married women	199
Single women	215
Children between one year and 12	175
Infants	27

Total..... 1,653

Besides the above, there are 306 steerage passengers who landed here from St. John's, Newfoundland, and 493 cabin passengers, a large number of whom came over for the first time.

In compliance with the instructions I received from the Honorable the Minister of Agriculture, I wrote to the Collectors of Customs in different parts of the Province,