

The Commissioners are subjected to considerable inconvenience by the want of funds, and very recently borrowed £80 on their own responsibility from the Charlotte County Bank, £40 being due to the Keeper of the Alms House, and the balance required for the out-door paupers, the number of whom I am informed is rapidly increasing.

The County of Charlotte is very destitute of provisions, and in the country parts many families are poorly provided with food.

The burning during the last Summer of a Rope Walk and of a Vessel then building, increased the number of paupers, by whom, in the shape of street beggars, the Town of Saint Andrews is at present heavily taxed, as well as by many (probably the majority) of the Emigrants before mentioned.

These circumstances, added to the general depression in mercantile business in which Saint Andrews deeply participates, warrant the opinion which was pressed upon me, that a Parish assessment could not be levied if ordered.

On a careful consideration of the circumstances of the Railway Emigrants, and of the Poor Funds of the Parish, I availed myself of the discretionary power granted to me, and handed over to Mr. Boyd £25, drawn by me from the Central Bank, and made several suggestions as to the cases which appeared to urgently require attention.

The result of Mr. Boyd's action on my suggestion will appear in the statement which I append to this report. The weekly amount which will be borne on the Provincial expenditure, including the amount of support which Mr. Boyd was giving previous to my inquiry, will be between £10 and £12 per week.

The circumstances of the 79 Emigrants at present at work, and earning a portion of their subsistence, but about to be discharged by the Railway Company, have yet to be considered; and it is with regret I have to state that these are of so uncomfortable a nature as to leave little room for doubt, that a large portion of these unfortunate people will have to be supported by public funds.

I may not conclude this Report without referring to the cheerful resignation manifested by the Emigrants amidst their squalid poverty and destitution, nor the conviction that the cordial reception that was given to Mr. Boyd and Mr. Whitlock during my visit at the residences, shanties and working places, proceeded from the full assurance that these Gentlemen had acted with the consideration and kindness which the unfortunate circumstances of the people demanded.

All parties were desirous of aiding me in the discharge of the duty intrusted to me, and I entertain no doubt that the beneficial effect of this inquiry will be more extensive than its limited nature at first view would seem to promise.

I have, &c.

Fredericton, January 1849.

ASA COY.

Chamcook, Friday morning, 26th January, 1849.

DEAR SIR,—You inform me that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor has deputed you to visit this County for the purpose of ascertaining the situation of Lord FitzWilliam's Emigrants employed on the Saint Andrews and Quebec Railway.

I am very much pleased and relieved by the course His Excellency has adopted in this matter, as I have every reason to suppose the Governor has been misinformed as to the situation of these people.

We are now in the most unpleasant dilemma with those people, as it was our intention to have kept them at work till Spring, but owing to the awful state of the Country, and our not being able to collect from Stockholders one penny, and all our Railway Funds being exhausted, the Board have this day determined to discontinue employing them after next week, and what will become of them I am greatly perplexed to know.

You will notice by the several letters from Earl FitzWilliam that *one hundred able bodied men* were all we had any reason to expect, but to our surprise, with the one hundred men sent out, were two hundred and seventy seven old men, women and children, and the whole afflicted with sickness, death and poverty.

I am sure you will see that we have employed those men and boys principally out of charity, as their work is not worth six pence a day, being so enfeebled by the voyage and sickness that but few of the men were able to do a day's work. Already many
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