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CANADA.

FURTHER

CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO

THE AFFAIRS

OF

CANADA.

(Presented by Command of Her Majesty.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,

22 June 1840.

403.

Under 1 oz.

255-

CANADA.

FURTHER
CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO

THE AFFAIRS

OF

CANADA.

(PRESENTED BY COMMAND OF HER MAJESTY.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
22 June 1840.

SCHEDULE.

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CANADA.

CORRESPONDENCE relating to the AFFAIRS of CANADA.

— No. 1.—

(No. 117.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right honourable *C. Poulett Thomson*
to Lord *John Russell*.

My Lord,

Government House, Montreal, 28 May 1840.

SHORTLY after my arrival in this province, I received from Mr. Denis Benjamin Viger, who had been in confinement since the beginning of the outbreak in 1838, an application to be set at liberty. To this gentleman, as to the other persons arrested with him, Sir John Colborne had offered his discharge on his giving bail for good behaviour, a condition which had been accepted by every one except Mr. Viger; he, however, constantly refused to give any security whatever, and was consequently retained in prison until my arrival.

It would have given me great satisfaction had I been able at that time to put an end to Mr. Viger's long imprisonment, but, after fully considering his case, and consulting with the Attorney-general, I felt that I should not be justified, at the commencement of a new administration, and at the beginning of the winter, in setting Mr. Viger at liberty unconditionally; I therefore directed him to be informed that I could not depart from the decision of my predecessor in regard to his release.

The time, however, appeared lately to me to have arrived when it was quite useless, with a view to the public tranquillity, to continue Mr. Viger in prison, even without the security from him which my predecessor deemed necessary, and I accordingly directed him to be released unconditionally.

The Ordinance for the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act will expire on the 1st of next month, and I have much satisfaction in stating to your Lordship that the province is in so tranquil a state as to remove any necessity for its renewal.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. Poulett Thomson*.

No. 1.
Right hon.
C. P. Thomson to
Lord John Russell,
28 May 1840.

— No. 2.—

(No. 112.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right honourable *C. Poulett Thomson*
to Lord *John Russell*.

My Lord,

Government House, Montreal, 26 May 1840.

I HAVE great pleasure in stating that the immigration into these provinces from the United Kingdom has been proceeding very rapidly since the opening of the navigation.

I enclose the weekly list which I received yesterday from Quebec, which, with the observations appended to it by the emigrant agent, may appear interesting.

I hear from Mr. Buchanan that there has been hitherto no difficulty in finding employment for such of the emigrants as are inclined to remain in the Lower Province, and I have taken measures for affording information here and for giving it at the different ports above, as to the best places for employment in Upper Canada to such as have that destination in view.

In the absence of funds from the emigration tax, I have authorized Mr. Buchanan to afford assistance, where it appears absolutely necessary, to the most indigent emigrants. I have appointed an assistant emigrant agent, in

No. 2.
Right hon.
C. P. Thomson to
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this city, to whom I shall give the same discretion, under the superintendence of the executive, and I lately directed Mr. Hawke, the immigrant agent in Upper Canada, to attend me here for the purpose of conferring upon the subject generally.

It was Mr. Hawke's opinion, in which I concur, that by appointing the usual agents in the different stations of Upper Canada, and through their exertions in collecting information upon the places where labour is in demand, the greater number of emigrants at present arriving or shortly to be expected may be advantageously placed; and additional facilities will be obtained for this purpose if the public works in Upper Canada, of which I have lately authorized the continuance, can be carried on.

If, however, the emigration shall be carried to the extent during the season, which there is reason to believe, it is not to be expected that either the demand for labour from individuals, or the limited extent to which public works can be carried in the financial state of the province, will suffice to meet the demand for employment, and it will therefore be necessary to adopt some measures for providing for some of those persons.

The disposal of the Crown Lands in Upper Canada is still partially restricted by an Act of the Legislature, but as the House of Assembly have addressed Her Majesty in the most earnest terms on the subject of emigration, and have expressed their readiness to concur in any scheme by which it may be facilitated, I shall not hesitate to authorize the concession, with a view to settlement of small portions of land to emigrants, provided this can be coupled with their employment on some public work, such as a road, which may be wanted through the district; and I have put myself in communication with Sir George Arthur, with a view to carry into effect such a plan, if called for.

Pending any general arrangement for the settlement of emigrants, and for the disposal of Crown Lands, I consider this course the most advantageous I can adopt; for I should be extremely sorry to lose the opportunity which seems to be afforded this season, by voluntary emigration, of augmenting the British population of these provinces, and to see this useful body of men pass into the States.

I have, &c.

(signed) C. Poulett Thomson.

WEEKLY RETURN OF EMIGRANTS ARRIVED AT THE PORT OF QUEBEC AND MONTREAL FROM THE 16TH DAY OF MAY TO THE 23D DAY OF MAY 1840, BOTH DAYS INCLUSIVE.

DATE.	VESSEL'S NAME.	MASTER.	WHERE FROM.	NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS.			OCCUPATION.	If sent out by Parishes or Government Aid.	If voluntary.	OBSERVATIONS.
				Male.	Female.	Children under 14 Years.				
1840:										
18 May	Cruckstow Castle	M'Inlay	Greenock	7	5	6	Farmers, Farm Labourers and Trades	-	18	-
"	Providence	Wilson	Hull	5	4	4	Farmers and Farm Labourers	-	13	-
"	Andrew Marvel	Chambers	Hull	4	3	3	Farmers and a Trade	-	10	-
"	Heroine	Walker	Aberdeen	4	4	3	Farm Labourers	-	11	-
"	Edward Thorne	Roy	Greenock	2	2	2	Farmers	-	6	-
"	Clio	Brown	Padstow	71	46	29	Farmers and Farm Labourers	-	146	-
"	Tottenham	Brown	Waterford	39	26	18	Farmers, Farm Labourers and Trades	-	83	-
"	Try Again	Hancock	Cork	91	52	46	Labourers and a few Trades	-	189	-
19 May	Sarah	Allan	Aberdeen	13	9	7	Farmers and Farm Labourers	-	29	-
"	Undine	Judge	Limerick	69	41	37	Farmers, Farm Labourers, Trades and Servants	-	147	-
"	Robert Kerr	Agnew	Belfast	131	71	51	Ditto	-	253	-
"	Llan Runney	Simpson	Hull	22	19	16	Farmers and Farm Labourers	-	57	-
20 May	Brigilla	Richard's	Falmouth	3	3	-	Farm Labourers	-	3	-
"	Henry	Ross	Dundee	13	10	7	Ditto	-	30	-
"	Anne	O'Brien	Dundee	39	36	40	Ditto	-	115	-
"	Sarah Stewart	Simpson	Belfast	139	90	47	Labourers and a few Trades	-	276	-
"	Urania	Clarke	Cork	79	47	31	Labourers and a few Trades	-	157	-
"	Breese	O'Donnell	Limerick	108	61	32	Ditto	-	201	-
21 May	Rainbow	Arnold	Plymouth	8	5	6	Farm Labourers	-	19	-
"	Albion	Robinson	Londonderry	57	28	22	Labourers and a few Trades	-	107	-
"	Ocean	Knox	Waterford	42	20	20	Farmers, Labourers and Trades	-	82	-
"	Robert Watson	Elliot	Bristol	4	5	4	Farmers	-	13	-
"	Caroline	March	Aberdeen	9	4	3	Farmers	-	16	-
"	Ebor	Smith	Montrose	5	3	4	Farmers	-	12	-
22 May	William Walker	Moon	Gloucester	1	7	1	Farmers	-	1	-
"	Victoria	Peters	Leith	9	3	5	Farmers	-	21	-
"	Mariner	Burdett	Portsmouth	3	3	2	Farmers, Labourers, Trades and Servants	-	8	-
"	Chaplain	Dunn	Youghal	75	46	26	Farmers, Labourers, Trades and Servants	-	147	-
"	John and Ann	Dale	Plymouth	28	20	17	Farmers, Labourers, Trades and Servants	-	65	-
"	Dominica	Bowman	Cork	120	69	45	Farmers, Labourers, Trades and Servants	-	234	-
"	John and Mary	Wright	Limerick	44	29	23	Farmers, Labourers, Trades and Servants	-	96	-
"	Don	Muir	Liverpool	38	30	18	Farmers, Labourers, Trades and Servants	-	66	-
"	Governor	Gorman	Limerick	91	60	37	Farmers, Labourers, Trades and Servants	-	188	-
				1,373	855	611			2,839	

Note.—The emigrants arrived this week are in general in good circumstances, and nearly all from Ireland; they consist chiefly of labourers, small farmers and mechanics; those who do not possess sufficient means to proceed further up have obtained employment about the coasts and shipping. I am happy in being able to state, that among all these emigrants there are comparatively few going to the United States. I have seen several persons among the passengers who have been out in this country before, and resided in different parts of New York and Pennsylvania; they are returning now, with their friends, to settle in Upper Canada. Instances of this kind will have a great effect among their countrymen; and I can safely state, that four-fifths of the emigrants arrived this week intend remaining in these provinces. In the "Clio" from Padstow were 146 very respectable people; they are all going to settle in the Township of Whithy, and near Port Hope, Upper Canada. Several families in the "Sarah" from Aberdeen have large capital; they are going on the Canada Company's hands. The office has been exceedingly crowded daily by emigrants soliciting aid to recover the capitation tax. I regret to say that, owing to the want of a responsible person to represent the parties in the United Kingdom with whom the emigrants have engaged their passage, I find it almost impossible to obtain any redress; I have, however, succeeded in getting it refunded in three cases—the passengers per the "Andrew Marvel" and "Llan Runney," from Hull, and to part of the passengers in the "Chaplain," from Youghal. I continue to receive most favourable accounts of the demand for farm labourers and mechanics in Upper Canada and Eastern Townships.

A. C. Buchanan,
Chief Agent.

Emigrant Department, Quebec,
23 May 1840.

ENGLAND	421
IRELAND	2,275
SCOTLAND	143
Previously reported	2,839
	896
To same period last year	3,737
	620
	3,117

— No. 3.—

(Separate.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *John Russell* to the Right honourable
C. Poulett Thomson.

No. 3.

Lord John Russell
to the Right hon.
C. P. Thomson,
19 June 1840.

Sir,

Downing-street, 19 June 1840.

I HAVE received your despatch (No. 112) of the 26th of May, enclosing a return from the agent for emigrants at Quebec, and adverting to various points of importance which relate to emigration.

It is very satisfactory to observe the large increase over last year for the same period of time of 3,117 emigrants arriving in the province, and to learn from Mr. Buchanan's report, that of those comprised in the return comparatively few intended passing into the States.

It is universally admitted that the difficulty in finding employment for emigrants on their arrival in British North America, and the facility with which it is procured in the United States, are powerful reasons for the too frequent removal of British subjects into the adjoining country; hence it is gratifying to me to hear that there has been hitherto no difficulty in finding work for such of the emigrants as were disposed to remain in the Lower Province. Any measures which you can originate for the purpose of collecting and communicating information as to the best places for employment in either province will be highly advantageous to the country and to the settlers themselves; I am inclined to think that a system of registry offices would be the most convenient, and probably the least expensive mode of effecting this object, but your local knowledge will enable you to decide what course is the best for the attainment of the desired end. In the present exigency of the Canadas, and feeling strongly the importance of facilitating the settlement in the British Provinces of emigrants from the United Kingdom, I have to convey to you my approval of your intention to concede small portions of land to settlers, provided it can be accompanied by employment on some public work in the district on which they shall be located; but whilst I approve of your measures in this respect, I have to state that the whole subject of granting lands must be brought before the United Legislature of Canada, with a view to a permanent plan for the encouragement of immigration.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Russell*.

— No. 4.—

(No. 34.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-governor Sir *George Arthur*, K.C.H., to
Lord *John Russell*.

No. 4.

Sir G. Arthur to
Lord John Russell,
27 May 1840.

My Lord,

Government House, Toronto, 27 May 1840.

SINCE my despatch (No. 32) of the 6th instant, nothing has occurred to affect the perfect tranquillity on the frontier, and absence of excitement in the country generally, which I had then the honour to report to your Lordship, nor do I think there is any probability of much excitement in the public mind until the elections shall take place; all parties appear to be willing to await patiently the determination of the Imperial Legislature upon the important measures now before it.

Notwithstanding my intimation to your Lordship that I should refrain from renewing the reports upon the state of the province which I had been in the habit of periodically transmitting, yet as Her Majesty's Government must be anxious to learn the state of the public mind upon the important political measures now in contemplation, I feel myself bound to depart, in some degree, from the course I had laid down for myself.

The Bill for effecting the union of the two provinces has been received here, and, so far as the limited space of time since its receipt will allow of forming any opinion, I am inclined to think that it is viewed in a favourable light; of course various objections have been taken, chiefly applicable to the curtailment of the power of the Assembly as regards the money votes. These objections are of a
dcsulory

desultory character, and I am induced to believe that there is not any concentration of objection which will materially militate against the measure being fully and fairly carried into operation.

A very strong feeling exists upon the subject of the clergy reserves amongst all classes of persons, and I feel quite satisfied that it is the general wish of all parties that the subject should not again be remitted to the local legislature, but should in some form or other be set at rest in England.

I observe that a right reverend prelate has in his place in the House of Lords "expressed it as his opinion that his Excellency the Governor-general has given a greater degree of importance to the feeling excited upon this subject than it really deserves." I cannot refrain from saying that, in my view of the case, his Excellency has rather understated the importance which is attached to the settlement of this question by the people here.

I consider that it is regarded as a subject of the most vital consequence to the welfare and happiness of this country; and that the people generally, and more particularly the Scotch portion of them, have always felt this in the most eminent degree. I also think the right reverend prelate labours under some misapprehension in supposing that any difference of a serious character existed between myself and the members of the Scotch Church. I never considered that which occurred upon my first arrival in this country more than a mere ebullition of a temporary character; and I think I am borne out in saying that the most cordial feeling has always existed between that body and myself. A manifestation of this occurred recently, when the synod took an opportunity of expressing their sentiments in an address, a copy of which, and of my answer, I have the honour to enclose for your Lordship's information.

Probably it may even at this late period be of some use to mention a plan which I had under consideration for the settlement of the Clergy Reserve Question in 1839, and which I then thought it likely would be satisfactory to the country, and which I am inclined to think would still be so. The plan I allude to, contemplated giving a specific portion of these reserves to the two Churches of England and Scotland, and the remainder for educational purposes, with a view to meet the wishes of that portion of the community which appear to desire that mode of application. I, however, merely throw this out for your Lordship's consideration.

I have, &c.

(signed) *George Arthur.*

Enclosure in No. 4.

(Copy.)

Unto his Excellency Sir *George Arthur*, K.C.H., Lieutenant-governor of the Province of Upper Canada, a Major-general commanding Her Majesty's Forces therein, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, the Commission of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connexion with the Church of Scotland, embrace the opportunity of our assembling in this city to express the sentiments of esteem and respect which we entertain for your Excellency. During the critical and perilous times of your Excellency's administration, it was felt by us to be a token for good that the Supreme Disposer of all things had directed our Sovereign the Queen to delegate Her authority in this province to one who had been approved by fidelity, wisdom and zeal for the public welfare in another dependency of the Crown. And we attribute, under the Divine Blessing, much of the harmony and confidence which prevailed among our fellow-subjects, while opposed to the lawless aggressions of wicked men, and tempted as many were to insurrection, to the well-grounded confidence which the community at large reposed in your Excellency; and when we may no longer enjoy the presence of his Excellency the Governor-general, it will be to us a matter of unfeigned satisfaction that the reins of Government will be recommitted into your Excellency's hands. Encl. in No. 4.

Permit us, in conclusion, to say, that we, and we trust we may say our people in their solemn assemblies, do pray, and will continue to pray, that He who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords may bless your Excellency in your person, family and administration, and render that administration subservient to the temporal and spiritual well-being of the community,

No. 4.
 Sir G. Arthur to
 Lord John Russell,
 27 May 1840.

munity, and the glory of his own great name, and that he may also prepare your Excellency, through the teaching of His Word and Spirit, for an inheritance in His Heavenly Kingdom.

Encl. in No. 4.

In name, in presence, and by appointment of the Commission of Synod, at Toronto, this 6th day of February 1840.

(signed) *Wm. Rintoul,*
 Moderator, pro tem.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S ANSWER.

(Copy.)

Gentlemen,

I THANK you for the sentiments of esteem and respect which you express towards me.

Whilst in the administration of the government of this province it was my most anxious desire by every means in my power to promote a feeling of harmony and confidence amongst all classes of Her Majesty's subjects, and I rejoice to find it to be the opinion of so respectable a class of the community that my endeavour in this respect proved useful to the country.

I am much gratified by your expression of good-will towards myself personally, and I most cordially join with you in imploring a continuance of the favour of the Almighty upon this fine province, temporarily depressed indeed in some respects, but in others highly blessed.