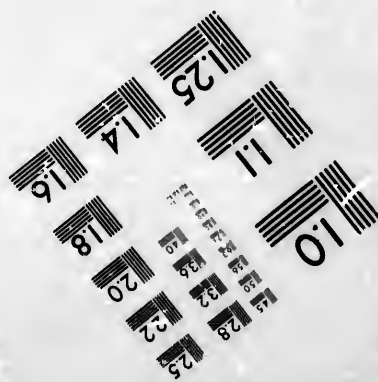
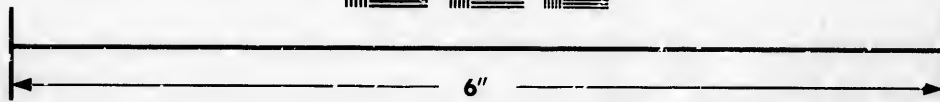
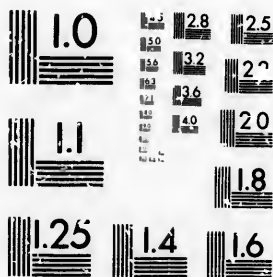


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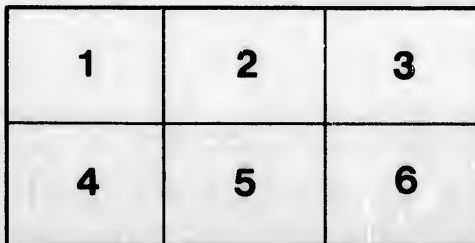
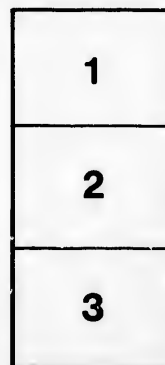
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ENGLISH EMIGRATION MISSION.

REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE MEETING OF SUBSCRIBERS

HELD 24th JULY, 1873.

PUBLISHED AT THEIR REQUEST.

SHERBROOKE:

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE "SHERBROOKE NEWS."

It would add too much to the length of this Report; to append to it copies of all the Correspondence referred to; but if there are any who take a sufficient interest in the subject, the correspondence itself is open to inspection, and will, I think, well repay a perusal.

J. H. C.

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ENGLISH EMIGRATION MISSION

To the subscribers towards the fund for defraying the expense of My Emigration Mission to England, on behalf of the *Eastern Townships of Quebec*; and to the Hon. the Commissioner of Public Works and Immigration for the Province of Quebec.

GENTLEMEN :

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H. C.

In presenting to you a Report of the proceedings of the Emigration Mission to England, which you did me the honour to entrust me with, I need not dwell on the preliminaries which conduced to my undertaking the important duties it involved, further than to state that for the purpose of defraying some portion of the necessary expenses, and as manifesting at the same time the deep interest taken by the public in securing a respectable and substantial class of emigrants a local subscription was formed of.....		\$432 00
To this the Colonization Society of Quebec (No. 1,) contributed.....		25 00
Mr. Peterson, of Drumduan near Lymington, in England, (my brother-in-law) also subscribed ...		100 00
And the Eastern Townships Bank allowed on the temporary deposits for interest.....		4 00
Making a total subscribed fund of.....		561 00
Which the Provincial Government supplemented by two grants of \$200 each		400 00
		961 00
From this must be deducted, Leakage...	30 00	
Cost of collection, &c.....	24 00	
Passage and other charges of journey to and from England.....	175 00	224 00
Leaving available for the direct purposes of the Mission in England the sum of.....		737 00

On the 5th of June, last year, I left Quebec in the Steamship "Thames," of the London (Temperley) line, arriving on the 20th of that month; and I sailed again by the same steamer from London on the 4th of June, of the present year, reaching Quebec on the 22nd; thus being engaged in England about twelve months in disseminating the information respecting the Townships, that was the special purpose of my visit. How far the efforts I have been enabled to make will be practically manifested time will show, for it is not by the immediate results that such work must be exclusively estimated—it is rather "bread cast on the waters to be found after many days." The Deputy Commissioner of Public Works and Immigration, Mr. Lesage, expresses, I believe, a most just and sensible appreciation of what is to be expected from such efforts when in writing to me under date of 19th July, 1872, he says:—"As I have told you already, the work you intend to perform is not one which will tell a great deal at once; but I think that by the course you propose to adopt, you will reach an important part of the population which has never had any good opportunity offered of learning something reliable on our Province. No matter if there are only a few who come (at first), they will be of the best stamp, and they will succeed, and later on others will follow."

On my arrival I remained some little time in London in order to confer personally with the Editors of the leading agricultural press on the subject of my mission. Noticeably amongst these were Mr. Morton, one of Her Majesty's Commissioners on the River-pollution inquiry, who for nearly 30 years past, has edited the *Agricultural Gazette*; Mr. Algernon Clark, Secretary to the Central Chamber of Agriculture, and the editor of its journal; and the able editor of the *Field*, all of whom promised me assistance, and subsequently afforded me every facility, through the medium of their respective publications, for making the object of my mission known. We were also specially indebted to the editor of the *Standard* and of the *Globe* for like courteous facilities through their columns, that gave to the mission, not only the advantage of the publicity of their general circulation, but at the same time a status and significance that were of essential service. I had also to pay my respects to Mr. Dixon, the Dominion Agent, to whom I was favoured with an introduction from the Department in Quebec, requesting him to furnish me with a supply of the official pamphlet for distribution amongst my correspondents. These arrangements made, I took up my headquarters at Loughborough, in Leicestershire, at the residence of my sister, from whence, as a central point, there is ready access by railway to all parts of the country.

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It had been, as you are aware, my original intention to avail myself, as much as possible, of the meetings of the several Farmers' Clubs to speak before them of the advantages of our Townships; and the agricultural papers, in alluding to my mission advocated this course, and suggested that the secretaries of these clubs should confer with me on the subject; but, unforeseen difficulties interposed, and with two or three exceptions, I found it better to abandon my intention and confine myself to the opportunities through the press, that were constantly presented from various quarters. From a short conversation I had with the secretary of the London Farmers' Club, which assumes to take the lead of all the country clubs, to whom I was introduced by my old friend and drainage co-adjutor, Mr. Bailey Denton, of the General Drainage Company, I was first led to fear difficulties might arise, for he said with some warmth on learning the object of my mission, and on my asking him if the London Club would give me a hearing—"so then you want to take our best men away from us!" And this finally proved to be a prevailing apprehension, very unjustifiably, as many allowed; but at the same time it was not policy on my part to kick against the pricks of such a feeling, however absurd, when there were other equally desirable sources open to me for disseminating information. Indeed, as the purpose of my mission had more especially in view people of respectability and means, rather than the labourer, I purposely abstained from entering into any discussion on the vexed labour questions of the day, and I believe you will concur in thinking that in so doing I exercised a wise discretion. Another consideration that induced me the more readily to give up the idea of personally addressing the Farmers' Clubs was that having regard to the nature and importance of the mission, I believed, on reflection, that it would be much more likely to be effective if it partook more of a persistent than of a transient character. That, in fact, with the limited amount of means at my disposal, more real and enduring good would be accomplished by judiciously prolonging the work, and so give time for inquiry and discussion, than by a hurried run of a few months through the country, which would very quickly have exhausted my funds, been probably a nine days talk and as soon forgotten. By the plan I followed I was enabled, as opportunity offered, and as hospitality was kindly accorded me, to visit many parts of the country imparting information, both in public and in society without drawing so heavily or so constantly on my means as I must have done in making a round of the clubs. I believe, therefore, in this you will consider I acted for the best; and that whatever impression was made, it had time, comparatively, to fix itself in the public mind.

I have the pleasure to lay before you, arranged in alphabetical order, (Nos. 1 to 6 inclusive) the letters of inquiry I received from various correspondents, most of which you will observe are from people of respectability, with means, either as income or capital or both, to live in comfort here and be an acquisition to our community. As my time was pretty fully occupied, I did not think it necessary to keep copies of all my replies; but in a few of the more special instances I did so, and you will see from them the information it was necessary to give. In every case my reply was accompanied by the government pamphlet on the province, and a copy of my own paper, and on the map in the former I made a point of always indicating by a separate colour the Eastern Townships. I think it right to mention that this official pamphlet was written by Mr. Lesage, who in describing the Townships has done the district ample justice.

It is my duty also to submit to you the correspondence with the Department, and with the Hon. the Provincial Treasurer. How far this correspondence bears out the expectations of co-operation from the Provincial Government which, as I think, you were justly entitled to form, is for you to judge. It must be borne in mind that your subscription was, I believe, the first effort ever made in this province, by direct contributions, to promote immigration. It was a significant expression of the deep interest you took in the subject, designed to strengthen the hazds of the government, but by no means to lessen or supersede the application of a fair proportion of the parliamentary grant.

I have further to ask your attention to a short correspondence with Mr. Dixon, the Dominion Agent in London, involving features in our immigration policy not yet adopted, but which are nevertheless essential to success. Wishing, if possible, to provide for the passage of some labourers families that had applied to me (and amongst them that of a working smith, the brother of a farmer in this district, and who besides his trade was accustomed to farm work.) I wrote to Mr. Dixon to ask if he had any means at his disposal for such a purpose; in reply to which he informed me that he had government warrants for passages at reduced rates, and added, "the season is so late I do not expect other funds for assistance this year." On my informing the people what could be done for them I found, what in the majority of instances is the case, that a passage at £4, 5s. 0. per adult is practically as impossible for such families to raise as the full fare of six guineas. By a recent Act of the Dominion Parliament, equitable contracts made in England with emigrants are legally binding in Canada, and it would enable many more respectable families of this class to come out,

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If availing themselves of this law, arrangements were made for the payment of the whole passage money, taking from each emigrant or head of families a written undertaking to remain in the country and to repay by instalments such a proportion of the passage money as the government might see fit to charge. Besides enabling many to emigrate that are now prevented by inability to find even part of the passage money, this plan would give to the Dominion Agent a very desirable controlling power, which at present he does not possess, viz: that of *election*. Under the present system, if an emigrant pays the amount required for his assisted passage the Agent has no option but to give him his passage warrant; whereas, if no money was taken from him at the time, the Agent would say to the emigrant—before your application is entertained, you must satisfy me by a note from your clergyman, or minister, or some fitting authority, of your respectability, and when this is done you shall be immediately furnished with a passage certificate for yourself and your family on signing the required engagement. Financially this plan would, in the end, involve the government in no more expense than the present arrangements, but it would secure a better class of emigrants; and more than this, it would be the means of preventing many from coming of whom we have already a superabundance.

Wishing also to learn how far his experience concurred with my own views of season agencies, I ventured, as you will see, to express to Mr. Dixon a conviction of the comparative insufficiency of mere transient efforts, and the necessity for persistent exertions; and moreover that erroneous impressions had hitherto prevailed as to the most suitable season for our agents to operate. His reply was: "My experience exactly coincides with your own, that winter (and the late autumn) is the best season to work for those we most urgently need in Canada; and I have more than once pointed it out. This is, however, the first year a systematic principle has been adopted, and I feel sanguine from the changes making in Canada, that we shall work well in the future."

Whilst on this part of the subject it may be useful, perhaps, to allude to the very scant share of the general immigration which apparently settles in the Province of Quebec, and which is mainly to be attributed to an internal influence that can only be counteracted by direct and active exertions. It is impossible to interfere with the interests of the Grand Trunk Railway by prohibiting them from selling through tickets whenever they can, and so carrying emigrants either altogether out of or as far into the Dominion as possible. Hence, whilst the majority of the steerage passengers are, as a rule, booked beyond Quebec, there are many who have no fixed destination, and who

would thankfully be guided by any information given them either on board or by Agents on landing. A great deal of good would, I believe, be done by distributing on board the steamer short pamphlets, with full information about the Townships which would be read and considered during the voyage, and would, in many instances, save the people much anxiety and a little time and expense. On the steamer in which I returned there were many in the steerage that had no fixed destination and I took the opportunity of speaking to them collectively pointing out to them, on a large and excellent map that I bought in London, the position of the townships and the many advantages they possessed. This, of course, could only be occasionally done; but there could be no difficulty in having pamphlets distributed on all the steamers before starting.

You will not fail to notice that many of those who have been in correspondence with me, speak of their being induced to think of emigrating by the present high prices of almost every thing in England. And when I tell you, as a further consequence of this state of things, that Canada and her resources and her social condition has become not only a fashionable topic in society, but one in which a very general interest is manifested, you may readily understand the prospect of an enlarged immigration that is likely to come amongst us, and the means that should be taken to secure to the Townships our fair proportion of such immigration. It is a strange difference in value, to be accounted for, I believe, more by our apathy than from any other cause, that whilst farms in Ontario of no better quality of land, or in better situations, and certainly with no better markets, are readily saleable at from £20 to £30 per acre, the best of those in the Townships will barely realise a many dollars per acre. I have frequently in my communications taken occasion to refer to this as one proof of the obvious advantage of settling in our district, and I doubt not but that many will avail themselves of the information.

I think it right also briefly to speak of a practice which may well be dispensed with, as not only most impolitic and inconsistent, but as occasioning immigrants very unnecessary trouble and annoyance. The baggage and effects brought by immigrants are, very properly, free from duty; nevertheless they are subjected to search by the Customs Officers at Quebec. I myself witnessed in the immigrant shed there hundreds of poor people, already wearied with the voyage and with getting their things together, subjected to the further trouble of unloading and opening their boxes and packages, whilst I venture to assert that not a single article was found properly chargeable with duty; and many valuable hours were thus uselessly wasted. One of my correspondents who, with his family, was amongst

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The number appealed to me, saying, "you told me emigrants' baggage was free—why then should we be made to open our boxes?" I told him to refuse compliance, and I did the same to two other gentlemen to whom I was talking when an officer demanded to know what their boxes contained. A further instance has also been reported to me by another of my emigrants who was a cabin passenger on the *Prussian* along with the complainant, of a lady emigrant who had brought out some blankets for home use, and who was made to have the box unlocked that contained them, for examination, greatly to her annoyance and vexation. We may think lightly, perhaps, of the expression of disgust in her letters to her friends at home; but these things, trifles as we may think them, have done us, and are yet doing us more harm than we know of. It may be done very well, as was done by the gentlemen I have just spoken of, to require a formal declaration that their effects were for their personal use and were not merchandise; but beyond this (unless for some special reason in an exceptional case) is superfluous trouble and annoyance, and but ill accords with our professed anxiety to secure immigrants or their just expectations of meeting with a considerate and hospitable reception in their own territory.

Although it is not necessary to enter here at any length on subjects which I considered it might be for the interest of our farmers incidentally to make some inquiry about (and on which I may take some other opportunity of imparting in detail the information obtained), I may briefly mention that through an introduction to Mr. Wigan, the banker at Maidstone, and who is also an extensive hop-grower, I was permitted to make a personal investigation of the hop cultivation of that famous district; whilst on the same occasion I was present at a meeting of the Maidstone Farmers' Club—one of the oldest and most ably conducted clubs in the country—and was courteously allowed to speak to them of our Townships and their capabilities. I had a great deal of conversation with Mr. Wigan respecting hops, who took me over his grounds and his kilns and most unreservedly showed me all his arrangements. In speaking of the different kinds that were grown in that neighborhood, he expressed his conviction that, with proper cultivation, our climate was specially adapted to the production of the finest qualities, such as the *Gouldings*, &c.; and he most kindly offered to supply us with some sets of the different sorts. If our growers desire to avail themselves of this offer, and will communicate with me, I shall be happy to do what is necessary to further their wishes. When in Yorkshire, an introduction to some gentlemen in Bradford afforded me the opportunity of making a little inquiry about wool, for several people interested in manufac-

tures had asked me, "cannot you send us some wool from Canada?" What I learnt in my short visit was, that from the various samples shown me, we were not, as a rule, obtaining more for our wool than about half its value in Bradford; and that much may be most profitably done here in the production of this article, the demand for which, like many other raw materials, is largely on the increase. If I may be again allowed I would quote what Mr. Lesage says to me on these matters under date of 2nd September of last year. "the information you propose collecting on the cultivation of hops, and their preparation for market cannot fail to be useful all over the province." "So also as respects wool."

Before I conclude, there is a passage in the Hon. Provincial Treasurer's last communication to me, dated "Ottawa, May 15th," that demands some notice—he says—"You must bear in mind that there are dozens who want and expect like assistance, who are not agents, but think they could do some thing to induce parties to immigrate to this country." If there be one object more than another in which it is essential in the public interest to disregard indiscriminate pretensions, it is that of emigration; and you may rest assured, for all previous experience verifies it, that it is a wanton waste of money and time to send unknown men to England on such work. I have not lived half a century there without knowing something of the people, and more particularly of that class from amongst whom our best emigrants come; and I assert nothing beyond the truth when I say advisedly that, like ourselves, they look with jealous distrust, often but too well founded, on entire strangers advocating the claims of Canada. They want, as we should ourselves, some guarantee, by a knowledge of his antecedents, of a man's trustworthiness and integrity of purpose. So far as the Treasurer's remarks may have reference to my mission, their seeming to ignore the fact that I was honoured by your confidence and support, takes from them much of their personal application. No one knows better than the Hon. the Provincial Treasurer the preliminaries that conduced to my entering on this mission, or the special qualifications for it which, from circumstances, I possessed; and now that I have had a year's experience of its duties, I feel entitled to speak with the authority which that experience warrants, of the requirements necessary to do ourselves justice before the English public. I know too well the value and the effects of the work that has been accomplished, through this mission, to have much apprehension about the future; for the day is passed, we may hope, when a continuance of the "sop to Cerberus" system in such matters will be endured. What is at present to be deplored is the sudden termination of the work when it had become pretty

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ely known and appreciated; and when the insignificant sum \$40 or \$50 a month was alone required to carry it to something like a state of completion. Whether anything further to be done is for you to determine.

And now, in order to prevent any false impressions, I deem necessary to say, in conclusion, that whilst I have had the pleasure of giving my services gratuitously to the mission, I have had also to spend some \$30 of my own money, and hence have the further satisfaction of sharing with you in the assurance of having, so far as it has gone, done an important public service. I am sure, too, you will consider that an acknowledgment is due to Mr. Peterson for his good offices manifested by his handsome contribution.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your faithful servant,
JOHN H. CHARNOCK.

Lennoxville, 24th July, 1873.

