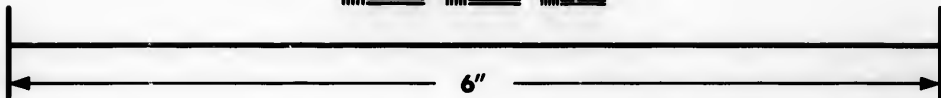
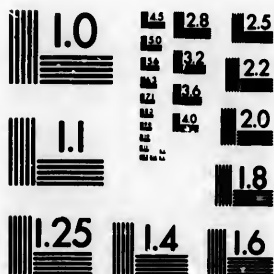


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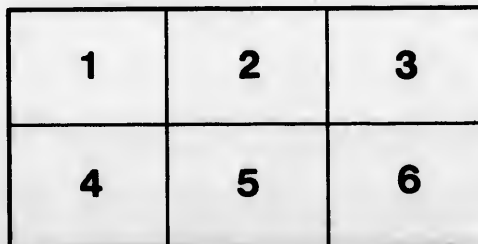
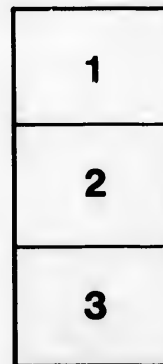
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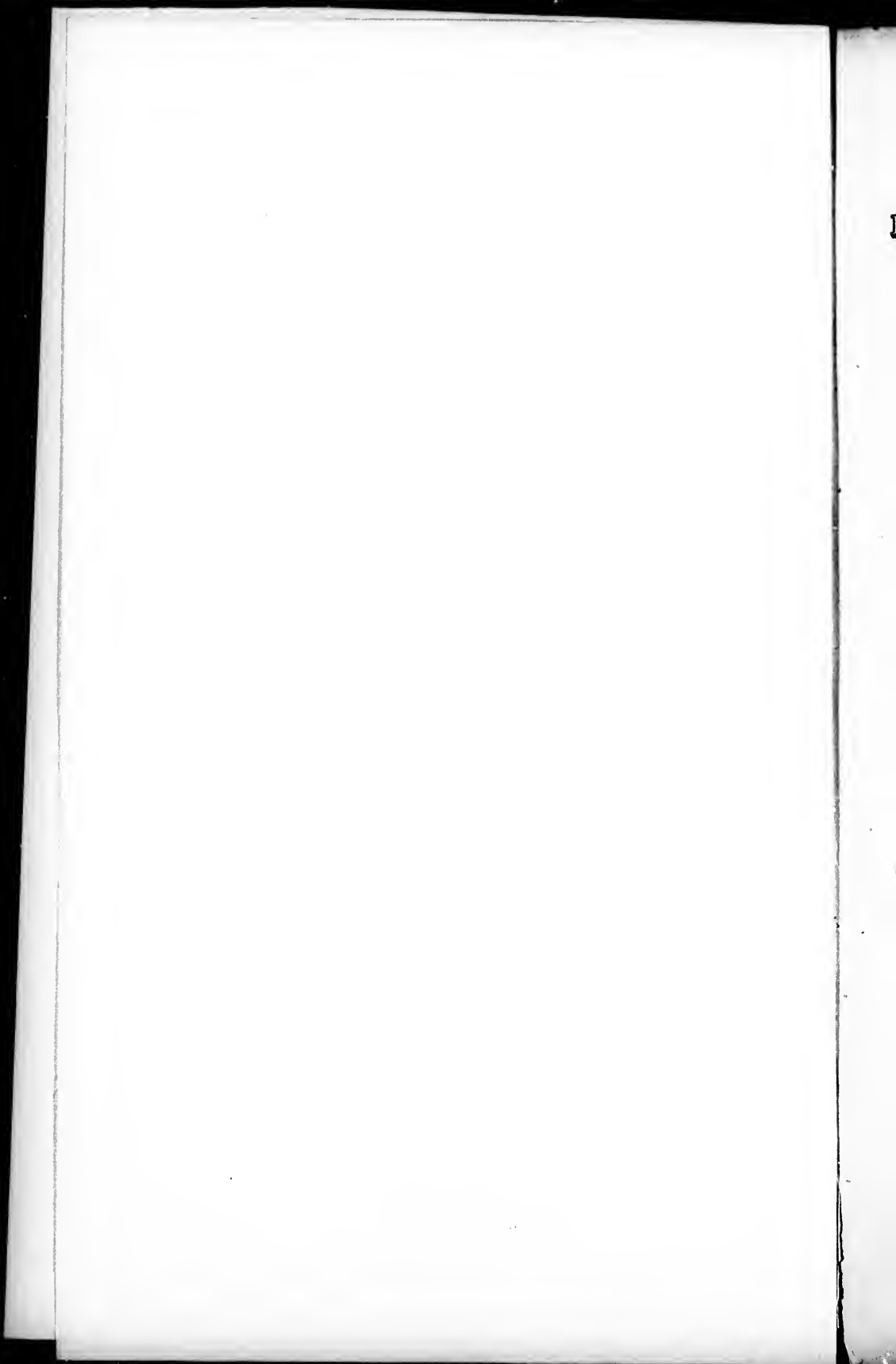
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QUEBEC
EMIGRANT SOCIETY.

REPORT
OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF A
SUB-COMMITTEE,
ON THE SUBJECT OF
COMMUTED PENSIONERS.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE
OF MANAGEMENT.

QUEBEC:
PRINTED BY THOMAS CARY & CO.
Freemasons' Hall, Buede Street.

1833.

THE 1946 ELECTIONS

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QUEBEC EMIGRANT SOCIETY.

REPORT

OF A SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE SUBJECT OF COMMUTED
PENSIONERS.

The Sub Committee appointed by the Committee of Management "to collect facts relative to the present system of sending out pensioners to the Canadas," in order to elicit the results of its operation, so far as it may have answered the intentions of the Home Government, having submitted several queries to the Clergy, Merchants and others competent to give correct information on the subject, have received answers from the greater number of those from whom such information was requested, which answers are now submitted by your Sub-Committee.

It is the prevailing and almost exclusive opinion, that the great bulk of the pensioners landed here are but ill adapted to the very arduous undertaking of becoming settlers in a colony situate as this is, with interminable forests and an intensely severe winter, where experience in agricultural pursuits, industrious habits, and a good constitution, are indispensably requisite to success.

If proofs were wanting of the many evils arising from the system, we refer to the great number of pensioners and their families, now paupers in this city, and obtaining alms through the different charitable Institutions. At the Emigrant Society's office, it is a fact that two-thirds of those now obtaining relief have been pensioners, although the number arrived last season, as compared with that of the general immigration for the same period, is only in the proportion of one to seven, the latter being over 42,000 and the former over 6000. The positive fact of their distressed condition, and their general ineligibility to become farmers in Canada is largely confirmed by the answers submitted from the clergy and others. Your Committee particularly solicit attention to the observations of the Venerable the Archdeacon, who has entered fully into the subject, his situation having afforded him ample opportunity of observing their imprudent habits, and the consequent misery entailed on them.

selves and families. These are confirmed also by the observations of the Rev. Mr. McMahon.

Independent of the radical evil—the general unfitness of the pensioners for the arduous duty of settlement—the system is of itself defective, and opposes many obstacles to the success of the undertaking. Of these your Committee will refer to a few of the most prominent. Great delay frequently arises after the pensioner receives his emigration order or warrant, while waiting the portion of the commuted allowance to enable him to embark; during which period he becomes the dupe of designing persons in the various seaports—much expense is incurred, and it frequently happens that the allowance to be paid on this side of the water becomes involved by such delays; besides which constant detention arises from the irregularity in the sailing of ships. Indeed it rarely occurs that pensioners do not arrive here largely in debt to the masters of the vessels, who invariably attend with them at the Commissariat Office here in order to receive the money due, a large proportion of which is generally for ardent spirits supplied during the voyage. Thus it frequently happens that the bulk of the pensioners have but a small sum to receive on arrival in Quebec, which in most instances is hardly sufficient to convey them and their families to their locations. How then are they to cultivate the soil, and subsist for at least 12 months previous to its yielding the fruits of industry?

Of the few who have gone on lands many have returned to this city in a state of destitution, and a large proportion also of the invalids in the hospital is composed of these unfortunate people. Another notorious evil of frequent recurrence, is the arrival of pensioners long previous to the receipt of the certificate of commutation by the Commissariat Department, from which cause they are detained in Quebec, until their expected allowance becomes involved in debts contracted in some of the innumerable low taverns which infest this city. Many in despair return home, others lose the opportunity of proceeding to their lands—winter overtakes them, and they but too frequently fall a prey to disease and despair. These and various other abuses have, we are informed, already been represented by the Commissary General.

Your Sub-Committee beg leave to refer to Captain Sewell's letter, which contains many remarks worthy of consideration.

Your Sub-Committee have to remark with reference to the observations of the Hon. W. Felton, which differ from all the others as to the general eligibility of the pensioners to become settlers, that that gentleman is singular in his opinion, and that no facts are adduced in corroboration of his

statement. Mr. Felton states that 1179 pensioners have made application for lands—the real question however of “How many pensioners have actually settled on those lands?” remains unanswered.

Your Sub-Committee have further to observe that the demoralizing effects of this system are daily manifesting themselves not only in this city but throughout those parts of the country where commuted pensioners have been located, and we cannot but view its continuance as a serious evil, and a source of much anxiety to this community.

JAMES HAMILTON,
Chairman Sub. Com.

No. 1.

The Sub-Committee appointed by the Emigrant Committee, “to collect facts relative to the present system of sending out Pensioners to this Colony,” submit the following queries, and respectfully solicit your answers thereto. By desire of the Committee.

JAMES HAMILTON, Chairman,
Sub-Committee.

Quebec, 12th Jany. 1833.

1st—Are you acquainted with any facts connected with the pensioners sent out to the Canadas under the commutation system?

2d—Can you state how many are now receiving alms through your Church; and if distress exists to a great extent among this class of Emigrants?

3d—Do the pensioners generally proceed to occupy lands on receiving the amount of their commuted allowance from the Commissariat Department?

4th—Please to state your opinion generally, as regards the present system—do you deem it inexpedient—If so, does it arise from physical disability, or what other cause?
To the Venerable the Archdeacon of Quebec.

ANSWERS.

1.—I have had occasion, holding the charge of this Parish, to become intimately acquainted with the many disastrous effects of the system as it respects the pensioners and their families, and the great embarrassments consequent upon it, in the administration of funds for the relief of the poor.

2.—I cannot at this moment state the number of commuted pensioners who have become burthensome to the charity dispensed at the Vestry; nor would it be by any means easy to do so, because several of the gentlemen who

have there attended in their rotation of duty, have probably omitted when applicants of this description have presented themselves, to enter this particular circumstance in the Book :—If they are in health, moreover, they and their families are not considered subjects for relief, according to the rules of the Vestry, but the urgency of their wants has often been admitted as a dispensation from a rigid observance of rule. Having been on duty last week myself, I caused it to be noted whenever the applicants were commuted pensioners, or members of their families, and the proportion of such applicants for that time, I can, in a day or two, state if required.

As to the more general enquiry with which the question is closed, I can only say that it is notorious that the streets swarm with beggars of the most wretched description in the shape of commuted pensioners and their families; and that the sufferings which many of them have undergone in the rigours of a Canadian winter, have been such as frequently to obliterate the recollection of the imprudences which have brought them on, as well as to disarm a feeling which very generally prevails, that they are an odious, and, in a manner, an unfair burthen imposed upon the charity of the city.

The Military Committee who administer to Soldier's widows and others having a claim upon the compassion of the Army, the collections made in Church among the troops, have done what they could for these unfortunate objects; but they found them multiply so fast upon their hands, that fearing they would swallow up the fund, they established a rule to relieve no *commuted pensioners*, from which, however, they are induced occasionally to depart, upon the same grounds which have influenced the Vestry, as stated above.

3.—I presume that an exact return may be procured from the proper offices, of the pensioners who have actually settled upon their land. I can only speak from the vast numbers who do *not attempt* to establish themselves upon their land; and the many who make a beginning, and abandon it to beg in Quebec. The actual settlers do not fall under my observation; but from my too painful observation of the others, I should judge them to be only few indeed; and I believe that a great deal of the land has got into the hands of the land-jobbers. (This, however, I do not say from any precise and positive information.)

I have been informed at the Commissariat Office, that between £50,000 and £60,000 has been there paid out during the last summer to pensioners alone; I have also learnt at the Commissariat, that a printed address to these pensioners which was drawn up by one of the Church

Wardens of this parish, exhorting them to lodge their money in the Savings Bank, was quite without effect.—Copies were put into their hands when they received their money, with an offer to send a person to conduct them to the Bank, but there was hardly an instance in which they would listen to the proposal; and I believe that by farther the greater proportion of the persons who received this money are now in a state of beggary. It is truly melancholy to reflect how large a proportion of the money itself has been spent in public houses.

4.—My opinion, generally, as it regards the present system, may sufficiently be gathered from my answers to the foregoing questions. I certainly regard the experiment as a complete and utter failure—more than a failure, it has brought ruin and misery upon the unfortunate subjects whom it was intended to benefit. In very many instances it has brought them to death.

As to the cause of the failure, I do not think it is to be found generally in “physical disability:” but in the improvident habits of the pensioners, and their unfitness, generally speaking, (for of course there are exceptions) for the routine of clearing and cultivating land. Men who have led a wandering military life,—heretofore unaccustomed to steady labour and not dependent upon it for their support,—acting, in many respects, in mechanical obedience to martial discipline,—when they are made the masters of a large sum of money at once, and their own masters at the same time, and when they are herding together with old comrades, among whom habits of intemperance more or less prevail,—such men so circumstanced, with the temptation on one side, of the multitudes of public houses which this city exhibits, and the cheapness of rum, and the uninviting task, on the other, of going into the depths of the forest, to hew down trees for their habitation and their clearing, with half a year’s winter to contend with,—are not calculated to make good settlers in Canada. I have spoken with great freedom of the effect of measures planned by greater and wiser persons than myself; but human sagacity could not foresee all the peculiar local difficulties which would impede the prosperous operation of the experiment; and, in my humble judgment it could only successfully be tried, in the case of *picked men*, of known and tried steadiness of character, combined with physical activity and strength.

I could support the foregoing observations by a *multitude* of examples, but I will only adduce *one* case, which is that of an old pensioner, labouring under hernia, who by his own confession had £100 at his disposal in 1831 when he came to this country. Before the winter set in a very great part of it was expended in public houses. Upon the

near approach of winter, he had so much forethought, as to lay in a stock of wood and some provision for the winter's use, in his lodging at Quebec, (for he had never made any attempt upon his land.) But the force of his old habits was such, that he actually sold again what he had thus provided to meet the most useful necessities of nature, to convert it into the means of destructive indulgence, and that very winter, himself and his wife became beggars in the streets, to save themselves from freezing and starvation. They are now pensioners upon the poor-fund of the Church.—Signed on behalf and by the desire of the select Vestry.

G. J. MOUNTAIN, D. D.
Rector of Quebec, Chairman.

The Brig Rachel from Leith arrived on Sunday last, having on board 74 settlers, among whom were a number of old soldiers who have taken a commuted allowance instead of their pensions. The last payment they received at Quebec while the vessel was there, and a great portion must have been squandered, as they have since been in a state of intoxication. A Mrs. M'Pherson died on Monday, having drunk too freely the day before. One of them received £15 at the Ordinance Office last week, and was robbed on his way home, when in a state of intoxication. The next day he called at the office to know if he had been paid, as he could not recollect where he procured the money he spent the day before.—*Montreal Herald, Oct. 20, 1832.*

*Address to Pensioners now receiving their commuted allowance,
by a Friend.*

It having come within the personal knowledge of the author of this address, that the greater part of the Pensioners who received their commuted allowance last year, for want of a careful application of their money, have come to poverty, and many to a premature death; leaving their wives and children destitute; that some have been robbed, that others have squandered it by living in idleness till all was gone; and that too many have actually spent it in intemperance, and have been cut off as well by other diseases consequent upon this fatal indulgence, as, in particular that awful scourge, the Cholera Morbus, the dreadful effects of all which are to be seen daily in the streets, in the utter destitution of their widows and orphans, who form a large portion of the present poor of this city.

To warn you from the same danger is the object of this address: as soon as you receive your money place it in the Savings Bank, which is open every Tuesday between the

hours of eleven and two, by doing this you will avoid the risk of being robbed and otherwise cheated, and particularly of being constantly tempted to spend it in a useless manner; you can draw it out any Tuesday in whatever sums you may think proper, and interest will be allowed for the balance remaining in the Bank.

If you intend to settle on land, (which I would recommend you strongly to do,) go to it immediately, taking with you only a small sum for present use, leaving the rest in the Bank, till you learn by experience how to lay it out to the best advantage for your future support; if you remain here, (which should be avoided as much as possible), seek employment, drawing out only a small sum weekly, till you obtain an income by your industry. You should bear in mind that this is your last resource, and if you should be so unwise as to spend it unprofitably, it will leave you in a distressed state of body and mind, and will have proved an evil instead of a blessing.

Quebec, July, 1832.

No. 2.

Answers of the Honble. W. B. Felton.

Quebec, 22d Jan. 1833.

SIR,—In answer to your request, made at the instance of the Sub-Committee of the Emigrant Society, for information on the subject of the Commuted Pensioners, I have great pleasure in forwarding you the following remarks.

Question.—I From your situation you are no doubt largely acquainted with the present state of the Commuted Pensioners who have arrived in this Colony.

Remarks.—My knowledge of the state of the Commuted Pensioners, who have arrived in the Colony, is confined to those who have applied for and taken up land in the Townships or Crown Lands under the charge of my department.—I know nothing more than the Public at large of the general condition or circumstances of those who have not settled upon lands as before described.

2. Pray how many have arrived in Quebec and what proportion have proceeded to settlement; and can you form any idea of the relative numbers who have gone to Upper Canada, and those who have remained in the Lower Province?

Remarks.—As the Pensioners do not present themselves at the Land Office upon their arrival, unless they desire to remain in this Province, I have no means of ascertaining the numbers of arrivals—but the Commissary General can doubtless furnish the Committee with full information on this subject. In respect to the number who have proceeded to settlement, I can furnish precise information.—Up to the present day there have been 1,179 applications for land, some

entitled to one hundred acres and others to 200 each. This number deducted from the total arrivals will probably exhibit pretty accurately the numbers of pensioners proceeding to the Upper Province.

3. Do the Pensioners generally proceed immediately on arrival to occupy lands, and do you consider them eligible settlers?

Remarks.—When the Pensioners apply at my office for the order on the Agents for land, they generally profess the most earnest desire to proceed immediately, and every facility is given to them for that purpose. I have no doubt however, that many of them have been tempted to lose much of their time in Quebec by the allurements of designing persons who wish to extract their ready money from them; and that some are induced to remain in reliance of the relief which the injudicious charity of well meaning people holds out to them.

4. Does distress prevail among them to any extent, and from what cause does it arise?

Remarks.—I am not aware of the existence of any distress amongst those of the Pensioners who have actually settled upon land, though of course many privations must be endured by new comers, ignorant of the precautions necessary to be taken to ensure their comfort in the woods—as to those who may remain in town, I know nothing more than from public rumour: but I am disposed to attribute much of the clamour about distress, to circumstances which affect the Pensioners in common with, and in no greater degree than other emigrants, who are induced by the high wages of the summer months, and the expectation of the succour of the charitable institutions in winter, to linger about the great towns instead of pushing into the townships, where constant employment for men, women and children would have been ensured them.

5. What is your opinion generally of the system? Does it work well? Is it susceptible of amelioration, or do you deem it inexpedient?

Remarks.—I am not aware of the existence of any systematized proceedings respecting the Commuted Pensioners, and therefore can give no opinion about it, neither can I say whether it works at all. But in respect to ameliorating the condition of these people, I can say decidedly that if those who undertake to advise or direct them, would insist on their proceeding to the interior before their funds are exhausted, or would assist them to do so when they become destitute, there cannot be any doubt as to their becoming useful settlers, or at least able to support themselves by their labour. It is not sufficient for this purpose that they should be merely shipped on board a Steamboat and transferred to Montreal, but measures should be adopted to convey them to such parts of the

Province as may be in want of working hands. If the question of expediency be meant in reference to *the fact of Com-muted Pensioners coming to this Colony* in preference to another, I must reply, that it would be a very difficult task to prove that the introduction of twelve hundred families with a capital of £40,000 or £50,000 is inexpedient. Some slight inconvenience might be felt for a few months at the port of dis-embarkation by the wealthy and charitably disposed, but even this is attributable to the fact of those who become objects of charity having expended their funds in the City itself. Whenever this population and capital shall have spread itself over the remoter parts of the Province, and the alarms of the charitable in town shall have subsided, we shall be surprised that any doubt could have been entertained as to the expediency of this immigration.

6. Has it any tendency to lower the value of lands, and from what cause?

Remarks.—The immediate local effect of granting a hundred thousand acres of land gratuitously, must have a tendency to reduce the money value of the adjoining lands; but this is an evil temporary in its nature, and *not injurious* to the Pensioner, altho' it may be inconvenient to the proprietor of wild lands who is desirous of selling them immediately.

I have the honor to be, dear Sir,

Your most obdt. hble. servt.

WILLIAM B. FELTON.

To J. HAMILTON, Esq.

Chairman Sub-Committee,
Emigrant Society.

No. 3.

Answers of Capt. Sewell, late 49th Regt.

SIR—In answer to your letter of the 12th Jany. 1833, I have to state that many pensioners have, during the last summer, arrived at this port, having commuted their pensions for four years' pay, intending to locate on lands granted them by the Crown as part of such commutation.

For 18 years of my life I had the honour of serving in His Majesty's army, during which time under the command of the illustrious Duke of York, whose memory is dear to every British soldier, I observed an anxiety pervading the highest military authorities, well emulated by all subordinate ranks for the comfort of the private during the period of his active service, which was only to be equalled by the gratitude of his country, evinced by a liberal pension granted on the termination of service.

Thus the Royal Duke, by this system of justice, elevated the army to an apex of glory that secured, after an arduous

and brilliant struggle the blessings of an honorable peace, and the admiration of Europe.

With this experience of the kindness of the British government, and the recollections of its army's renown, I cannot for a moment question the kindness of the intention of His Majesty's Ministers towards the destitute and improvident pensioners who are among us, and who are an additional and heartrending burthen to the many pauper emigrants at this moment depending on the charitable bounty of our fellow citizen, to shelter them from the double misery of starvation and cold.

The pensioners, on their disembarking at Quebec, have, with very few exceptions, abandoned themselves to the most deplorable debauchery and disgusting excess, which was only terminated by their exhausted pittance, leaving them loathed by, and degraded in the estimation of their fellow men, in a depressed state of mind and body to reflect on their irremediable indigence among strangers, in a country where no public provision for the poor is yet made, though its winter makes destitution a horror that cannot be faithfully conveyed or imagined.

Under these circumstances I feel it to be my duty to endeavour by every means in my power to assist the Emigration Society in their laudable intention of laying before the authorities of the Home Government such representations, founded on facts, as must tend to induce it to adopt such plans as it may in its wisdom think fit, to avert so painful a recurrence as that which we now witness in the miserable wretchedness of persons whose condition of life its beneficent Government intended to improve.

Experience has demonstrated that old soldiers, left to themselves are altogether unsuited, from previous habits of life, to undergo the privations and labour peculiar to a new country, some from loss of limbs, others from old age and general debility, are rendered particularly incompetent to the arduous and never ceasing activity of an American backwoodsman, who with youth, health, and experience, enters the wilderness to tame its forest wildness to pastoral scenes, and convert its want to plenty.

Yet from their experience of system and trained habits of military obedience, I entertain a hope that the concurrence of the pensioners may be obtained to a plan, organized and sanctioned by Government, carried on under the superintendance of half pay officers, which might render the present system of commuting pensions not only an advantage to Great Britain, as a measure of justifiable economy, but would also make the measure one of unquestionable benefit to the pensioner and his family.

If any evidence were wanting of the liberal spirit in which the pensioners were induced to emigrate to Canada, the

deficiency would be made up by this fact, that very many pensioners, whose lives were not worth four years' purchase, received four years of their pension.

By the foregoing observations I have endeavoured to convey my conviction of the benevolent intention of the Government, have evinced my belief of the failure of such intention, originating, it must be acknowledged, in circumstances it was difficult to anticipate, and I have also ventured to express my thoughts on the probability of Government's being able to remedy the present evil.

I take it for granted that every one must agree with me as to the kind intentions of the Government, and it now becomes necessary to explain why I think its goodness frustrated.

It is a matter of public notoriety throughout the Province, that of the 1700 pensioners who entered it this year, none have gone to their lands with sufficient funds, health, and experience to ensure the success of their labours, and it is equally true that those few men who have taken possession of their lands have been unable to remain on them, and are at the present moment as destitute as the rest.

Before I enter on the subject of the system to be adopted, I must observe I am perfectly aware of the arduous subject I should undertake, and how much out of place it would be in a letter of this kind to enter into a minute detail of a military system of colonization. I will therefore but succinctly state, that under the present regulation no advantage can accrue to the colony or military settler, but that in my opinion, they may come with a reciprocal advantage to themselves and Canada if sent out and settled under military Government: Observing the following rules and regulations as the out lines of the plan:—

1st.—The pensioner not to receive money, but an account opened for him, in which he should receive credit for four years' pension, and be debited with such monies as may be expended for him under the following heads:—

Building log hut, clearing and fencing 4 acres.

Horticultural tools, saw and axe.

Passage and provisions to America.

Provisions for first year.

Cooking utensils.

Slop clothing on embarking, and winter clothing.

Houses for the advantage of the common stock farm.

To be sent out in transports under the command of the Directors, in divisions of 500 men, each to be a separate command, under the superintendance of one Director, four Inspectors and four Deputy Inspectors, to be chosen from officers on half pay, with due regard to their agricultural judgment and habits, and who shall be at all times present at the

settlement for the two first years, unless absent on duty connected with the interest of the settlement.

The military settlement should be separate and distinct from all others.

Each settlement should be entirely of one faith, so that a greater facility may be afforded to the Bishops of the Established churches in Canada in granting the settlement churches and spiritual pastors.

From the mass of pensioners, individuals will be found to be of trades very useful in new settlements; they should be carefully divided in the proportion of their numbers to that of the divisions.

The settlement to be under military control for three years and no more.

The common stock farms shall for three years supply the settlement with all kinds of seed and brood cattle, &c. &c.—During the three years the produce of the common stock farm shall be equally divided among the heads of families, reserving the means of subsisting the brood cattle, to be purchased by the funds of the settlement.

At the end of these three years the stock farm shall become the property of the various officers, as a reward for their services in the settlement, and shall be independent of that grant of land which they shall receive as officers settling in Canada.

Each and every pensioner shall give in every year that the produce of the common stock farm is grown up, for the benefit of the settlement, days' work.

Every pensioner shall assist in clearing the common stock farm, the principal one, to consist of 500 acres, and the remainder 250—which shall not exceed four.—The common stock farm shall support the brood cattle till every settler shall have received in cattle and seed the amount of his share.

The pensioner to receive numbers of acres according to the rate of pensions they commute.

Having in a very imperfect manner expressed my views on the subject of your letter, as Chairman of a Sub-Committee appointed by the Emigrant Society, to make enquiry into circumstances connected with Emigrant Pensioners, I beg you will ascribe such defects to the mind and not to the heart, for there is no member in society whom I could wish to serve before an old soldier, with all his faults.

I remain, Sir, faithfully yours,

J. SEWELL,
Late Capt. 49th Regt.

J. HAMILTON, Esq. &c. &c.

No. 4.

Answers of G. Pemberton, Esq.

SIR—The Sub-Committee appointed by the Emigrant Committee to collect facts relative to the present system of sending out Pensioners to this Colony, submit the following queries, and respectfully solicit your answers to them.

By order, JAMES HAMILTON,
Chairman S. C.

Quebec, 12th Jan. 1833.

1st From your situation as a merchant and extensive connexion with shipping; you are doubtless acquainted with many facts regarding the pensioners sent out to this colony.

2d. Has it come to your knowledge that numerous pensioners who may have arrived in vessels addressed to you, have returned to Great Britain or Ireland after receiving the amount of their commuted allowance?

3d. Have their papers been sent to you by ship owners or brokers as security for monies advanced to them on the other side; or are you aware that they very frequently contract debts to a considerable amount with the masters of vessels who hold their commutation papers as pledges for the debts so contracted?

4th. Are you acquainted with any abuses that exist generally as to the manner of sending them out—please to state at length what they are?

5th. Could the present system be ameliorated and what are your views generally as to its expediency?

6th. Do you consider pensioners generally as eligible settlers in the Canadas?

To George Pemberton, Esq.

Answers to the foregoing:

1st. Yes.

2d. Yes.

3d. Their papers have been sent to me to obtain payment of money advanced them on the other side of the Atlantic, and they are in almost all cases indebted to the masters of the vessel they come out in, for provisions and rum, in which case the masters hold their papers as a security for the payment of what is due to them.

4th. I cannot state any particular abuses that exist generally in the manner of sending them out, further than what is mentioned in the foregoing, namely, the supplying them with rum on board ship in any quantity they require, which of course is an inducement to them to spend their money, which ought not to be permitted.

5th. The habits acquired by pensioners during the time they have been in the army, render them, in my opinion,

the least eligible of all others as settlers in a new country, where a robust constitution, industrious habits, and above every thing else, sobriety, are indispensable to success. There are very few indeed of those pensioners who have fallen under my observation, who possessed any one of the above qualifications, and I have not heard of any instance where they have become successful settlers.

6th. Answered in the foregoing.

G. PEMBERTON.

No. 5.

Answers of the Revd. P. M'Mahon.

SIR—The Sub-Committee appointed by the Emigrant Committee, to collect facts relative to the present system of sending out Pensioners to this Colony, submit the following queries, and respectfully solicit your answers thereto.

By desire of the Committee,

JAS. HAMILTON, Chairman Sub. Com.

Quebec, 12th January, 1833.

1st. Are you acquainted with any facts connected with Pensioners sent out to the Canadas under the commutation system?

2d. Can you state how many are now receiving alms through your church, and if distress exists to a great extent among this class of emigrants?

3d. Do the Pensioners generally proceed to occupy lands on receiving the amount of their commuted allowance from the Commissariat Department?

4th. Please to state your opinion generally as regards the present system—do you deem it inexpedient—and if so from what circumstances?

To the Rev. P. M'Mahon.

Answers to the foregoing :

1st. I am acquainted with a great number of facts regarding Pensioners and their families; and do declare it as my settled conviction, that they all tend strongly to prove the inexpediency of the present system of sending out Pensioners to this country.

2d. It is my opinion that a great majority of our present street beggars consists of pensioners and pensioners' families.

3d. Pensioners very rarely proceed to occupy lands immediately on receipt of their commutation money. It is on the contrary a fact notorious to this City; that they remain in or near town, till they have squandered away all, or nearly all, their money in taverns and other haunts of drunkenness and dissipation.

4th. I do not hesitate to repeat it as my decided opinion that the present system of commutation and of sending pensioners to this colony, is highly inexpedient and unjust, as the pensioner is both physically and morally unfit for a new country like Canada.

P. M'MAHON.

Resolved.—That the above Report and documents be received and adopted, with the thanks of the Committee to the Clergy and Gentlemen whose answers have been returned to the questions submitted to them, on the subject of commuted pensioners.

Resolved.—That the system of allowing pensioners to commute their pensions for a sum of money, and a grant of land, in order to their settlement in Canada, has not realized all the advantages which were anticipated; some having returned home after receiving their commuted allowances, at Quebec—others never having taken up the certificate of their land—while many after having taken it, have either not settled thereon, or after short trial have abandoned their lots, or sold them for a trifle to land jobbers.

Resolved.—That great distress exists among a large proportion of these commuted pensioners; and that many are entirely dependent for existence on the precarious resources of charitable institutions.

Resolved.—That much of this distress arises out of the present system of sending out pensioners to this province, who from physical disability and intemperate habits are unfitted to form useful settlers.

Resolved.—That in justice to the pensioners, and to the community at large, it is desirable that means should be adopted to prevent the recurrence of these evils, in future.

Resolved.—That although much of the distress under which Pensioners labour must be attributed to their own imprudence, yet under the considerations herein alluded to, it cannot but be matter of deep regret, that men who have exposed their lives in the service of their country, should be liable to perish from want, in a distant part of the empire—a fact which threatens every one of these unfortunate individuals unless his Majesty's Government should cause an entire change in the system.

Resolved.—That in the hope of obviating some of the evils complained of, and with an especial view to the future well doing of the Pensioners themselves, it is respectfully recommended: That no Pensioners be permitted to commute their pensions for the purpose of emigrating to

the Canadas, who are not fitted by their age, their physical strength and general good habits to become productive labourers; and, perhaps even it would be advisable that all such should undergo an inspection prior to their embarkation, and should produce certificate of character: That a preference should be given in favor of those who besides possessing the above qualifications of age and character, have been brought up to farm work, or to those handicrafts which are connected with it:—That no Pensioner should be allowed to commute his pension for this purpose, the amount of whose commutation does not bear some reasonable proportion to the number of his children who are unable to earn their subsistence. That in no case whatever the Pensioner should embark unaccompanied by his certificate, or at a later period than the month of April, or at a greater age than 40 years, unless under special circumstances of good health, &c:—That no payment of any part of the commutation money be made to the pensioner until arrangements have been made for immediate embarkation—that the whole payment of what may be still due to him do not take place in Quebec, or until his arrival at his location—and that he previously consent to the appropriation of a certain proportion in the purchase of provisions, stock, tools, or materials for building.

That in all cases the Captains of vessels enter into an engagement not to supply the pensioners with spirits or slops, or to detain their papers until payment be made of any sums of money due to the said Captains by such pensioners; and in order to prevent the necessity of any sale of provisions on board, it should be previously ascertained that each family embarks with an average supply. Finally, that arrangements be made at Quebec, either by the appointment of a special Agent for pensioners, or in some other mode, by which their immediate departure to their settlements may be secured.

Resolved,—That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in Chief, praying that he will be pleased to transmit the above Report, Documents, and Resolutions, to His Majesty's Ministers.

Resolved,—That the said Address be presented by the Sub-Committee already appointed on the subject of commuted pensioners.

Resolved,—That the whole be printed and published for general information; and that copies be forwarded to the three Branches of the Legislature.

(Certified,)

J. CHARLTON FISHER,
Secretary, Q. E. S.

Office of the Quebec Emigrant Society,
February 15th, 1833.

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