

Enlightened Emigration.

Emigration. Its Advantages to Great Britain and Her Colonies : Together with a detailed plan for the formation of the proposed railway between Halifax and Quebec

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It is now beginning to be admitted on all hands, that Emigration is the great question of the day, the only effectual remedy for the social ills which afflict this country.

England has no political grievances ; at least none such as would create any political discontent among the lower classes, if their labour could procure for them a comfortable support : grievances indeed there are, but not of a political character, and unfortunately no Government is able to reach them by direct legislation.

The contrasts of this great country, as has very often been remarked, are startling—they are appalling ; Dives and Lazarus elbow each other in our crowded thoroughfares by day ; by night, the unsurpassed luxury and the unsurpassable misery lie down side by side, separated only by the thickness of a Wick. It is this contrast which makes the starving man, who would earn his bread by honest labour, but can find none ; it is this contrast which makes him think there must be “ something rotten ” in the Institutions of a country, to permit such a state of things ; that he has political wrongs to be redressed,, political rights to be conceded ; and if not conceded, then wrenched from those above him, on whom he is brought to look as his oppressors ; vainly fancying that were those rights obtained, he would then have the power to remedy the social ills from which he suffers in his own hands ; vain indeed is the belief, but let him not be driven to make the trial ; all who have anything to lose are interested in preventing it ; for of the terrible crash and hideous ruin which that experiment must produce, the condition of France now warns the astonished world with the voice of ten thousand trumpets.

What though there may be no probability, and I believe there is no probability, of such an experiment being made in our time ; still it is to what this country is assuredly tending with every year's increase to her population which she cannot support ; and because *we* may not see the crisis, are we therefore to sit down in selfish security, and say, “ After us the deluge ; ” are we to bequeath to those who come after us, whose trustees we are, an inheritance of so much embarrassment and misery ?

No, let this generation confer a lasting benefit on its descendants by organizing an enlightened, widely extended system of emigration, and thus entitle itself to the blessings of a grateful posterity.

How is such a system to be originated and developed ? by private enterprise, or by public undertaking ? It is answered, by a combination of both ; but it is absolutely necessary that private enterprise should lead the way, and shew itself in earnest and *successful*, before Government will come forward ; otherwise, great as the importance of the measure is. Government will do nothing.

There is a company lately formed for promoting emigration in connection with New Zealand, which has undoubtedly seized on the only true theory for conducting a system of colonization ; *viz.* that of translating a whole society, containing all the *elements* of a society within itself ; such an expedition could not fail of success, provided common foresight were exercised in the selection of a settlement.

There are in the British Isles many hundreds of young men of energy and talent, the younger sons of gentlemen of landed property, with small capitals of from one to ten thousand pounds. Their patrimony yields them an average interest of 3 per cent, per annum ; and many of this class are passing their lives in idleness, exercising their abilities on no higher a theme than making up “ a book for the Derby,” or their energies in no more profitable an employment, than a season’s hunting at Leamington, or a wholesale slaughter of grouse on the moors of Scotland.

These are men whose fathers or brothers have a tenantry for the most part warmly attached to the family of their landlord and to its name. (In Great Britain, at least, this is the case.)

Suppose ten young men of the above description, with average capitals of £5,000. combine to induce as many tenants on their respective ancestral estates as would better themselves thereby, to enroll themselves under their banners, and proceed to a new world, on a more noble crusade than the spirit of chivalry ever originated ; *viz.* to spread civilization, to convert the wilderness into smiling abodes of industrious happy men, who were struggling against poverty at home ; to be their country’s pioneers in an undertaking that would remove the canker from its core ; a crusade against poverty, disease, and crime in their native land ; against the only agents which can bring a tarnish on British glory, or decay on the British name.

Such a combination is wanted ; it is emphatically *now* the example, the *beginning* that is wanted. Ten such men, with the energy of the British gentleman, and the hardihood of the British sportsman, each with a following of twenty families, and a proportion of artizans, proceeding to any of our colonies ; would they not convert, as by magic, the lonely forest into a flourishing city ? If successful, and they *must* succeed, would they not draw after them *thousands* encouraged by their example ?

Then will be the time for them to go to their Government and say. We have made this trial, it has succeeded ; the particulars and the proofs are here. And then will be the time for the Government of this country to consider and decide on what encouragement and assistance to hold out to plans of the same nature.

Three millions sterling annually would be a cheap expenditure for the enormous results that would flow from a maturely considered and *approved* plan of colonization. Surplus British capital, now the millstone of this country, would flow to the colonies, where it could be employed to advantage ; the profits of capital would increase at home ; there would be a yearly increasing demand for English manufactures ; every branch of commerce and trade would in consequence improve ; and increased stability would be given to our power in the colonies, the levers by which England has raised herself to her proud position in the world.

If such a grand beneficent system should be developed, England and her children will present, at no distant period, the most glorious family compact, mankind has ever seen ; strong in their union and mutual affection, engendered by benefits conferred and received,

they will govern the world by their influence and example ; such a confederation will defy time itself to weaken the links that bind it together, or sap the foundations of its structure ; and if it is destined, at some remote happy period, that the nations of this earth shall be united together by the bond of one common language, it is not unreasonable to suppose, nor presumptuous to predict, that that language will be English.

Before entering upon the details of any plan it is well to examine the three following questions—

1. Will emigration such as has been above advocated tend to diminish pauperism in England ?

2. Will it tend to diminish the colonial expenditure of this country ?

3. Will it tend to the increase of the Imperial revenue, and the diminution of taxation in general.

1st. Will emigration tend to diminish pauperism in England ?

Why is there such an amount of poverty and suffering and crime in this country ?

This is a question to which many different answers will be given ; but whatever may be the cause, the effect is too evident, that poverty and destitution do exist to a frightful extent ; or in other words, there are more people in this country than our present imperfect system of government enables us to support ; this excess is “ surplus population ;” this surplus population is increasing every year in a much faster ratio than the improvement in the science of government, and the above named evils must increase with it.

The question is, What is the simplest and quickest remedy for such evils ? It is answered. To send out of this country and to settle in our colonies under a system which insures their success, a number of persons yearly ; enough, if possible, to reduce the present excess of population ; or, if not, to keep it down to its present level.

At the first sight the simplest proceeding would seem to be to get rid of all the paupers by shipping them off to other countries, and to keep in Great Britain those who are enabled to support themselves ; but a mere influx of paupers into a colony would confer an injury, instead of a benefit, upon it ; and the relief to this country would only be momentary, for a system of pauper emigration could not be carried on with success ; it would fall to the ground ; and colonization, to be effective, must be continuous.

But when we consider what a continued upward pressure there is in every society (by which is meant the endeavours of those in a low station to raise themselves higher,) it is supposed that the departure of any number of our population from our shores, no matter in what rank or position they might be, would only make room for an equal number, who were beneath the first in the social scale, to rush up into their places. This is most evident in reference to the two lowest grades of society ; viz. those who earn poor wages for their labour, and those who can earn none. Remove 500,000 of the former, and 500,000 of the latter immediately step into the employment and wages the others have vacated. If this obtains as a general principle, then it is evident that the departure of any number of our population, under

a system that would ensure their success in the colonies, *would* tend to diminish pauperism in England.

2. Will emigration tend to diminish the colonial expenditure of the country ?

It should be the wish of a real *statesman* to see a colony attain to the condition of a great nation, able to support itself without the aid of the mother country ; the nearer it attains to that condition, the nearer it approaches to the perfection of a colony, and all colonial legislation should be directed to this point ; which, when reached, leaves the mother country and her colony in the relative position of a father with his son who has succeeded in the world ; with the same affection subsisting between them as before ; the same influence on the one side and deference on the other, although legal authority has ceased.

A system of colonization on a large scale, which insures the success of the new colonists in the land of their adoption, must evidently increase the prosperity of that land ; every year it must become richer, and more able to take a part of the expense of its support off the Imperial exchequer ; until at length it arrives at the condition above described.

Let us take as examples our North American Provinces and the Cape of Good Hope, being those which have each a long frontier to be fortified against a foreign nation, and requiring at present a large military establishment for that purpose. The North American Provinces have cost Great Britain £1,000,000. per annum on the average of the last ten years. The expense of the Cape must have been, including the Caffre wars, at least £400,000. per annum during the same period.

With respect to Canada, if we wish to retain it, true policy suggests that the enormously long frontier should be strengthened, not by forts, but by men ; and the struggle between the two races, which has kept that province in a constant state of agitation. should be ended at once by overwhelming the French population with a tide of English and Scotch settlers (Irish would be dangerous).

There are in Lower Canada about 500,000 French and 250,000 inhabitants of British origin. The French are an amiable and very ignorant race, easily contented and easily worked upon by men of superior knowledge ; they are destitute of all energy, perfectly deficient in knowledge of agriculture ; they possess some of the richest land in the worlds viz. the strip bordering on the St. Lawrence, and it is worse cultivated than any the author has ever seen ; they are a dead weight on the prosperity of the province, *ultra-conservative* ; opposing themselves to everything like improvement, much on the same principle as the benighted inhabitants of Grosvenor Square rejected with aristocratic contempt the levelling innovation of gas, and clung to their well beloved lamps of oil.

Give the British a numerical superiority in Lower Canada, which the immigration of 300,000 would effect, at the same time that it would strengthen the frontier ; you remove the danger of another Canadian rebellion, at the same time that by constitutional means you place the British party in power ; the prosperity of the province would be increased out of all proportion to the actual number of immigrants ; for British energy and enterprise, which has heretofore shewn to so little advantage by the side of the *go-a-head spirit* of our Yankee cousins, would then only begin to have a fair field, unhampered by French opposition.

Under a good Militia system, such as at present exists in our North American Colonies, the British Government ought to be enabled to withdraw 1000 soldiers for every 5000 new settlers capable of bearing arms.

Fifty thousand such settlers, then, should enable us to save the expense of 10,000 soldiers ; in fact, the only troops Great Britain would require to maintain in the North American Colonies would be the present Canadian Colonial Corps, augmented perhaps by a second battalion, and the three troops of Provincial Cavalry at present employed. I propose to shew hereafter that the expense to the British exchequer of sending emigrants to Canada would be £4. per head ; fifty thousand men would involve a gross number of 200,000 souls, including women and children, whose transport would cost this country £800,000. ; not only would this sum, so expended, cause a saving to Great Britain of a *yearly* sum about half as large ; but it is hoped to shew good reason to expect, that the money so advanced would easily be repaid by the emigrants themselves in a period of six years.

Before leaving this subject, there is a question now under consideration which, as long as Canada, New Brunswick, &c. are provinces of Great Britain, is of great importance to this country in a military point of view ; that question is as to the practicability of constructing a railroad to connect Halifax with Quebec. As, during winter, there is no approach to Quebec by sea ; that season would always be chosen by the United States for an invasion of Canada, in the event of a rupture with England being contemplated by them. A railroad from Halifax to Quebec would enable any number of troops to arrive at Quebec within fifteen days of their embarkation at Liverpool ; without such a means of communication, we should either be compelled to leave Canada to her own resources until the spring, or to peril the safety of our troops by a march through the forests of New Brunswick in the winter season. This feat was accomplished during the Canadian Rebellion by the 43rd and another regiment without loss ; but they arrived in Canada too late to be of service ; and marching in small detachments, they ran the risk of being cut off in detail, had the French population below Quebec been in insurrection, as they certainly would have been, if their countrymen had not been defeated by Colonel Wetherall at St. Charles.

The want of funds alone is the cause of the railroad between Halifax and Quebec not being immediately commenced.

A plan for overcoming this obstacle has been suggested, *viz.* that of settling along the proposed and already surveyed line of railway, a sufficient number of labourers to construct it, paying them partly in wild land ; this plan would also create a certain amount of traffic on the line.

The same reasoning, as regards the strengthening of the frontier and the consequent reduction of military force, applies to the Cape of Good Hope ; excepting that you may safely send Irish *ad libitum* to garrison that colony, as they could not make common cause with their Caffre neighbours against British dominion.

In the United States of North America, a large proportion of the population of those States bordering on the Canadas is Irish ; many of their towns boast a militia company calling itself “ The Emmet Volunteers,” “ The 98 Volunteers,” &c. in fact, hatred to England is transplanted from Ireland to a new soil, and perpetuated there ; witness the “ New York Irish Brigade,” the proposed “ Bermuda Expedition,” &c. Surely these would be inflammatory and dangerous neighbours for our frontier guard, if composed of their own countrymen transfer-

red to Canada in the present state of Irish feeling towards England ; particularly when we know by experience, that the Government of the United States has no power whatever to prevent any number of its enlightened citizens from forcibly supplying themselves with arms from the State magazines, and invading a neighbouring territory at peace with their own.

These are the grounds on which it is above supposed that an extensive Irish emigration to Canada might prove dangerous.

3. Will emigration tend to the increase of the Imperial revenue, and to the diminution of taxation in general ?

A system of emigration, receiving the systematic aid, and to a certain extent under the control of the Government, would very greatly increase the value of the unsold Crown lands throughout the colonies ; there would be a yearly increasing demand for those lands ; emigrants from other European countries than Great Britain and Ireland would flock to them, when it was known that there they would find a good field for the employment of energy, skill, and capital. [1]

It is not probably over estimating the revenue which Great Britain would derive from the sale of the Crown lands, under a system which would draw annually to our colonies large accessions of labour and capital, in putting it at £500,000. yearly, within five years of the commencement of such a system. The prosperity of a new country increases in a geometrical ratio to the population.

It is the almost unlimited competition of capital in the limited field for its employment, which bears down the profits of capital in Great Britain. A few years back a new field for its employment was discovered in this country, *viz.* Railroads. How immediately capital repaired to that field ! what unusual prosperity existed until that field became over-tenanted ! Wages were high ; the demand for labour fully equalled the supply ; the interest of money, or rather the profits of capital (for the first always depends on the last), rose universally.

Then came the crash, occasioned by over-speculation ; by the want of perception *when* the field of employment was effectively occupied ; but the abuse is no argument against the use. Throw open a new field in our colonies that will be inexhaustible ; British capital will flow to it ceaselessly, and the profits of capital will rise at home as competition in the home field is diminished. In short, the country will become more prosperous ; taxes will be more easily, and therefore more willingly, paid ; and the revenue will be a gainer.

The increased, and yearly increasing demand for home manufactures, consequent on a rapidly increasing colonial population ; and the augmented commercial intercourse between Great Britain and her colonies would further tend to the greater prosperity of this country, and on this head, also the revenue would be a gainer. [2]

Besides the above supposed causes of an increased revenue and reduced taxation, if emigration should diminish pauperism in this country, it would be relieved of a portion of taxation on that head also.

As an introduction to the details of a proposed system of emigration a few general rules and observations may not be misplaced here.

A single settler in the wilderness never can succeed in anything beyond providing himself and his family with a bare subsistence ; there is no market to which he can carry his surplus produce, nor roads by which to carry it ; his nearest neighbour is employed in producing exactly the same commodities as himself, and therefore there is no possibility of exchange or barter taking place between them.

Settlers should always go in flocks, the larger the better ; they are then a society within themselves, and can introduce co-operation and combination of labour, the first principles of political economy.

In our colonies there are millions of acres of good lands which may be bought to-day for 5s an acre, because it is wilderness ; but suppose it possible that to-morrow a flight of 200 families should light upon a tract of the above description, with sufficient provision for their support until they could make the teeming earth yield its first-fruits to their labour. The value of an acre of that land to-morrow, what would it be under such a change of circumstances ? Would it be measured by 5s ? Assuredly not ; it would be measured by the quantity of necessaries and comforts which it could be made to yield to the labour of the settler ; and by the power he might have of exchanging the surplus produce which he could not consume, for the surplus produce of the labour of others engaged in producing different commodities from himself.

It is clear that if each of the 200 families were engaged in agriculture, in producing the same commodities, it would be a mere waste of time and labour for each to produce more than that family could consume (that is of course supposing the 200 families to be isolated) ; but if instead of such a state of things, there were tailors, shoemakers, carpenters, smiths, wheelwrights, &c. in a proper proportion to the number engaged in agriculture, there would then be an inducement to every farmer to produce something more than his own family would require ; what that “ something more ” should be he would soon discover from the demand ; or in other words “ the demand would regulate the supply.”

The desideratum is, that there should be an effective demand for all the commodities which the labour of every member of the society can produce, over and above that portion which the labourer and his family can consume ; and it should be the care of those who promote any system of colonization, so to regulate the proportions which those engaged in different employment in the society bear to one another, that there shall be an effective demand for all the produce of the labour of that society.

It is indispensable to the success of any scheme of emigration, that every party of settlers should have a fixed destination in the country to which they go, previous to quitting England. It is the want of such a destination which is the cause of the disappointment and failure of the newly arrived settler ; his time is lost in seeking a *home*, his small stock of money fast disappears, he wanders from place to place, and from Canada usually ends in proceeding to the United States.

It is also of great importance that a certain provision should be made in anticipation of their arrival at any intended settlement ; that provision to consist in having the lots intended for the occupation of each family marked out, in providing for them some sort of rough shelter, and in having two acres on each family lot cleared and sown, so that the settler on his arrival should have a crop on the ground for his partial support in the ensuing winter, and should find a home instead of an inhospitable wilderness. [3]

At every settlement a Store should be built, and a tenant for the store found by advertisement in the colony, who would stock it on his own account with all the primary articles, such as dried provisions, slop clothing, hardware, tools, &c. &c., which would be in demand among the settlers. This store alone would, to a certain extent, provide a market for the produce of the society.

Let us now proceed to investigate the expenditure which would be necessary to transport an emigrant from this country to Canada, and settle him there with the above enumerated advantages.

Canada is chosen as being the nearest colony to Great Britain, and the most advanced in every way ; and therefore presenting fewer difficulties to be overcome.

1st. The cost of passage from this country to Quebec, including children above ten years of age, per head £5

2nd. A log house hastily constructed on each family lot, to be finished and made weather tight by the occupants after their arrival, would cost £5, which supposing each family to consist of five, would give an expense per head of . . . £1

3rd. Two acres cleared and cropped on each lot would cost £8. and would be per head £ 1 12

4th. A store large enough to supply the wants of 100 families or 500 souls, would cost £150. or per head . £0 6 0

Total . . £7 18

Say £8. per head.

It is proposed .that half of the above expense, *viz.* £4. per head, should be borne by Government, and the other half paid from other sources, either by the emigrants themselves if in good circumstances, or partly by the parish to which they belong, partly by the landlord, whose estate is relieved by their departure.

Government should take particularly under its control and supervision that portion of the expenditure to be applied to the preparations above recommended to be made, in anticipation of the arrival of parties of settlers. [4]

Let it be understood, that for every emigrant sent from England and settled in Canada, on the above-explained principle of association, £4. will be paid by the Government to those who have projected and borne the expense of the expedition, *after* the Government surveyor or superintendent, appoints for the purpose, shall have given a certificate that all the necessary preparations for the comfort of the new. settlers had been made.

Such an understanding would give a great impetus to private enterprise ; companies would be formed for the actual purpose of promoting colonization instead of only talking about it ; great numbers of emigrants, and of a superior description, would offer themselves annually ; particularly after the stone should once be set rolling, and the letters of the colonists should

have been received by their friends at home, with the information, that they had changed poverty for comfort and independence, and that others might do likewise by following their example.

Emigration from Ireland, as a general rule, would probably be that of paupers ; if so, Irish landlords would gladly pay £4. per head to relieve their estates of their present closely packed tenantry, provided a comfortable provision were made for them in another country, A gentleman, the agent of one of the largest estates in Ireland, told the author lately, that besides assisting in sending his poor tenants to Canada, he would give every family the sum of £10. on landing in that country, on condition that measures were taken to insure their comfort previous to their arrival. Although it has been endeavoured to shew that a very extensive Irish emigration to Canada would be a dangerous experiment, a *limited* one in conjunction with English and Scotch colonization, would be beneficial ; for the Irish, where they are industrious, are the hardest working men in the world, and are capable of bearing the greatest amount of fatigue.

In Great Britain, when paupers emigrate, or even such as are only partially and occasionally relieved, it should be made obligatory on the parish to which they belong to advance at least as great a sum per head towards the expense of settling them abroad, as they would annually cost the parish if they remained in it ; and as it is fair to conclude that, under the present state of things in this country, the condition of those who require occasional relief will rather deteriorate than improve ; the parish should advance the same sum for this class as for the actual paupers.

If the Government were to undertake, and carry out under its own superintendence, the formation of new settlements ; choosing the sites it might deem most advantageous, as well as causing all necessary provision to be made in anticipation of the arrival of each expedition ; it is reasonable to conclude that great numbers would annually repair at their own expense to the Government settlements.

Experience tells us that many thousand emigrants proceed to Canada every year, but that Province is not proportionally benefited by them ; not meeting there with a comfortable reception, two-thirds of the number wander to the United States, and finding it a more flourishing and enterprising country, there they remain.

As an example of what might be done, let us examine into the expense at which Government could colonize the surveyed line of railway between Halifax and Quebec.

It is supposed that of the whole length, 500 miles pass through a wild district.

Fifty Government stations should be formed at the distance of ten miles apart, on this wild part of the line. Let accommodation be prepared at the above estimated expense of £4. per head, or £20. per family, for 400 families at each station ; the cost of each station to the Government would be £8000. The whole expenses, then, of settling 20,000 families in the above manner would be £400,000. [5] This outlay, the settlers would be in a condition to repay without inconvenience in five years' time, as well as paying for the land they occupy. Out of the 20,000 families of 100,000 souls, we may calculate on 30,000 labouring men.

It is proposed that the labour performed on the railway should be paid one-half in land, the other half in money.

Each settler should be compelled to work four days a week on the railway, and be allowed to devote the remaining two days to his own land, until he had earned by his labour from the Government his twenty-five acres of land at 5s. an acre (the probable average price).

Being paid one half of his wages in money, and supposing the wages of labour to be 3s. per diem, he would earn a credit each day of 1s. 6d ; at which rate he would pay for his 25 acres of land in 83 days ; or, as he only works four days in the week, in little more than twenty weeks. [6]

It is not too sanguine to expect that such energetic measures would lead to the employment of British capital in the scheme under consideration.

The first settlements once made, they would receive every year, nay, every month, large accessions of labour, and it is to be hoped also of capital ; and the railroad would probably be constructed. in five years time.

Under such circumstances it is not too much to expect that the £400,000. would be repaid to the Government within that period ; the debt with which each family would be saddled being £20. and this sum being of course a mortgage on the land until its repayment.

Having considered in detail the facilities offered by New Brunswick for colonization under the immediate superintendence of Government, let us now turn to the Eastern Townships of Lower Canada, as presenting the most favourable field for private enterprise (still assisted by Government at £4. per head) at the present moment.

They present the most favourable field for the following reasons.

That district is already flourishing, possessing many thriving villages, and only requiring to become a *rich* country, markets and good communications. It lies on the south of the river St. Lawrence, comprised between the strip of the French Seignories on that river and the boundary of the United States, and is within a general radius of 130 miles from Montreal. [7]

A flourishing little town called Sherbrooke is the capital of the district now under consideration ; it is 100 miles distant from Montreal to the east ; it boasts a cotton factory, a woollen factory, grist mills, saw mills, &c. The cotton factory was established for the manufacture of the coarser fabrics of cotton, in which commodities the manufacturer of the United States has long undersold the English workman in the Canada market.

A railroad has been projected to connect Montreal with Portland on the sea-board of the State of Maine ; the line is already surveyed and determined upon ; it passes through Sherbrooke. A portion of the line is already constructed and open for traffic, *viz.* from Montreal to St. Hyacinthe, a length of thirty miles or thereabouts, and the work will be continued unless want of funds should bring it to a stop.

Land, that is, wild land, is still very cheap in this fertile and beautiful district. Good land in the neighbourhood of Sherbrooke is to be bought for 15s. an acre. The wild land along the surveyed line of railway would probably be purchased for the same sum, excepting that part of the line nearest to Montreal. [8]

In a political point of view, if England is desirous to strengthen her power in the North American provinces, she cannot take a more effectual step for that purpose than by fortifying the weakest frontier she possesses, and that is the frontier of the Eastern Townships, by pouring into that district a tide of British emigration ; which would, at the same time, give the British population a numerical superiority over the French in Lower Canada.

There is little doubt but that our enterprising cousins across the “ Canady lines,” as they call them, will be ready to flock into the Townships, as soon as their abundant resources shall be opened out by the railroad ; and though their presence would be welcome as tending very greatly to the *go-a-headedness* of that part of the country, it is at least desirable that, we should have, there, four Britons to one Yankee.

Let private enterprise, then, proceed to form settlements along the surveyed line of railway, between the township of *Upton* (the first wild land the line strikes in its progress from Montreal) and the town of Sherbrooke ; in the same manner as proposed for colonizing the line through New Brunswick.

Suppose, six gentlemen, with capitals of £5000. combine to establish one settlement, choosing as its site a tract of land of 12,000 acres, situated on or in the neighbourhood of the railroad line, and having a road passing through the heart of it. Such a tract might be bought within sixty miles of Montreal at the rate of £1. per acre, each member of the association contributing £2000. for the purpose. Its selection must of course depend on local circumstances... It is proposed, that if the road should cut the *breadth* of the lots [9] into which each township is divided, following their boundaries, as is the case in general ; 6000 acres should be selected on each side of the road, having on it a length of 240 acres frontage, and extending back from it twenty-five acres (the length of the township lots). It is proposed that 240 families should be settled on 6000 acres, giving twenty-five acres to each family, for which payment is to be exacted as will be shewn.

The provision to be made for their arrival, of which the details have been given, would cost £3. per head, or £15. per family, making in all £3600., to which each associate would contribute £600.

The frontage of each family lot on the road, or parallel to it, would be two acres, running back twelve and a half acres. . .

The lots [10] which touch on the road to be charged to the occupant 5s. per acre more than those which are retired.

.....a vacant lot of twenty-five acres between every two families is retained in the hands of the Association, or one half of the whole tract ; and the principal profit of the adventure will arise from the increased value conferred on the reserved lots by the occupation of the rest.

Although the tract selected may not be immediately on the surveyed line of railway, still, if it is not far from it, and no natural impediments of consequence intervene, there is no doubt but that the railroad engineers would make a small deviation from their original direction to establish a “ station” on a settlement which should give promise of contributing towards the traffic of the line.

Let us now consider what prospect the poor settler would have of being able to pay for the land which he occupies, as well as to repay the sum expended in preparing for his reception ; and it is well to state the circumstances which, it is expected, would enable the poorest emigrant, if industrious, to pay off his debt to the Association within a limited time.

Each gentleman would probably, by degrees, build a separate house for himself and clear a certain portion of land about it. This would either afford work to the settlers, for which they would obtain credit ; or other labourers would be employed, and their wages circulated in the little colony.

It has been supposed that out of the capital of £5000, each gentleman has devoted £2600 to the purchase of the land and preliminary arrangements ; £2400 remain to him, which, if invested in Bank Stock would give an income of £144 per annum ; to this must be added the interest of the £2600 at the same rate ; which it is proposed to shew, the settlers will be enabled to pay annually ; viz. £160 per annum : making in all an income of £300 a year to each member of the Association. Withdrawing £100 a year to be required probably elsewhere, each member would have £200 to circulate yearly in the settlement, and the aggregate circulation would be £1200 per annum, or at the rate of £5 for each of the 240 families.

Many elements must enter into the choice of a tract of land ; the possession of a good water power is one of the most essential : with a water-power the erection of saw-mills, grist-mills, &c. may be undertaken by the Association, or left to the enterprise of others ; they will always be established by some one, if the prosperous condition of the settlement should make it a good speculation.

In some of the villages which dot the surface of the Eastern Townships, mills have been established with machinery worked by water, for the purpose of making ornamental furniture out of the beautiful varieties of wood which abound in that district.

It is evident that every new work undertaken, which is to be paid for with money, adds to the circulation of the settlement, and to the ability of the emigrant to pay off his debt ... it is evident that if the bulk of the emigrants were of the upper class of farm labourers, as is anticipated, who had been able to bring with them £30 or £40 the question would be much simplified.

It must be remembered also, that no account is taken of the railroad ...if it pleased them, the emigrants might work on the line, and so be enabled to pay for their land ; and it is certain that as soon as there should be a railway communication between the settlement and Montreal, the latter place would afford a never-failing market for all the produce that could possibly be raised on it. Large and yearly increasing quantities of provisions will pass from the Eastern Townships to England when their resources shall have been thrown open by such a means of communication ; for if not destined to be the granary of Great Britain, they certainly seem intended by their position, extent and natural fertility., to supply that 4ioantry with a large proportion of the food yearly imported into it.

Instead of a gentleman farming his own land, the breeding of live stock is recommended. For this purpose the land requires at first very partial clearance ; the cattle range through the woods feeding by day, and return at night to their homes.

Horses of an excellent description for farming purposes may be purchased in the Eastern Townships for £10 ; a superior description well-bred for £15 ; and for £20 as good as would sell for £50 in England. Good milch cows cost about £5. sheep 15s. A great improvement in the breed ; of the above animals could be effected by men having a practical knowledge of the subject, and with the power of occasionally spending a little money for the purpose.

The price of hay per ton, is in the Eastern Townships, in average years, 30s. ; that of oats, per bushel. 1s. 6d.

It may be mentioned here, that sterling money is worth one-fifth more than the currency money of the North American Provinces ; 4s. 2d. sterling, being equal to the dollar, or 5s. currency ; and though all the money to be expended in Canada has been put down as sterling money, the real expenditure would be the same nominal sum in currency money ; but this has been done in order neither to overstate the advantages, nor underrate the necessary outlay.

In the foregoing pages it has been the endeavour to awake attention to the advantages of an enterprise such as is advocated,—without over estimating them. Probably all who take the trouble to read will suggest difficulties ; it is impossible but that difficulties will arise in practice which cannot be foreseen, and no man should join in such an undertaking who would not be fully prepared to encounter many obstacles ; the question is, are these insurmountable, or *likely* to prove so ? and is the end to be obtained of sufficient importance to induce enterprising men to embark in the adventure ; well aware that many will be the difficulties, many the disappointments, many the vexations; but all to be overcome, it is firmly believed, by stern spirits resolute to succeed.

In conclusion, the author casts this little pamphlet on the favour of the public, like “ bread upon the waters,” in the hope that he may “ find it after many days ;” and that if its suggestions are considered capable of being acted upon, it may be productive of something more than a barren acquiescence ; that it may induce a few of his countrymen, whose time and money are both unprofitably employed at home, to join in the endeavour he is determined to make (if left in the world a few years longer), *viz*, to demonstrate practically, that capital employed in colonization will obtain an ample remuneration, and confer incalculable benefits both on England and her colonies.

- [1] Even now there is a considerable yearly emigration from Holland and Germany to our North American Provinces.
- [2] Those manufactures, which under the present load of taxation, are unable to compete with the manufactures of other countries, must be discontinued in England ; there is no remedy for it where the colonists will buy in the cheapest market ; the suffering consequent on such a state would, however, be partially remedied by transferring those manufactures to our colonies, where they could successfully compete with any in the world, British capital, and energy directing them.
- [3] The term wilderness here signifies only “ wild land,” which is found in the immediate neighbourhood of flourishing settlements in all new countries. In Canada particularly there would be no difficulty in procuring the labour required to effect the necessary preparation ; for many thousand emigrants who land in Quebec yearly wander off to the United States ; which they would not do if the labour market of Canada could absorb them on their arrival.
- [4] Although the detailed expense of this preparation is only £3, per head—and it is believed that the whole cost of the passage of emigrants will be defrayed from private sources—the extra £1. per head may be found necessary to meet accidental claims, and to be occasionally given in assistance towards the cost of the voyage out.

[5] As these preparations appear formidable, the following details are given to shew how they may be practically effected.

Let it be determined to commence by forming twenty stations in the first year, beginning at each extremity of the line proposed to be colonised.

Let the sites of the different stations be chosen by the engineer officers who were employed in laying down the surveyed line. Two officers would be sufficient for this purpose, and each should have the direction of the works to be carried on at ten of the stations, which would extend over a distance of 100 miles.

At each station there are to be cleared 800 acres.. An expert backwoodsman is able to chop down an acre of wood in ten days ; allowing fifteen days, then—

One man can clear four acres in . . 60 days

To clear 800 acres in the same space of time would require 200 men ; let it be intended then to employ that number at each station.

Allow for building 400 log huts, by 200 men ; at the rate of two huts by ten men in one day . . 10 days

Allow for clearing the land of the felled timber, technically termed “ logging” . . .20 days

Preparing the ground for seed and sowing a crop ... 10 days

Total time occupied by 200 in the above works . 100 days ; or sixteen weeks and four days, allowing six working days to the week.

Supposing 200 workmen at each station the 20 stations would absorb 4,000 men. These might be obtained by giving instructions to the emigrant agents at the different ports, to engage emigrants for the purpose, as they arrive from England in the spring ; exercising a certain discretion in their selection, and choosing them for physical as well as moral qualifications. There need be no anxiety as to the means of subsistence of these 4000 men ; none of the stations would be more than 10 miles from some small settlement ; and experience tells us that in a new country, wherever labourers are employed and wages paid them, there a store is immediately established to supply them with provisions, in exchange for their money. The erection of a good building however to serve as a store, at each station, would still be advisable ; and a tenant found for it without difficulty.

By the above detailed means, accommodation would be provided for 400 families at each of the 20 stations ; in all for 8000 families, or 40,000 souls. There would be no difficulty in procuring that number of families to embark every year for our North American colonies, if assured of a home on their arrival. Ireland alone could furnish the number annually, and Irish landlords as a body would gladly pay £200,000 annually for the purpose of settling their superabundant tenantry in comfort in another land.

Government having taken measures for making known to the labouring classes its intentions in detail, should direct all volunteers to register their names, ages, occupations, and general character (which every applicant should bring, signed by his landlord, clergyman, or priest), with the emigrant agent of the port nearest to their dwellings. Thus, Government would be in possession of the numbers desirous to avail themselves of its assistance in the autumn, and preparation made accordingly against the ensuing spring.

All the volunteers are supposed to be landed in New Brunswick, without expense to the country. It is believed that upwards of 100,000 souls were so landed in Canada, in 1847, but no arrangements having been made for them, great numbers perished miserably, weakened as they were by starvation, and struck down by fever; and most of the survivors went to the United States.

The service of forwarding the emigrants to their destinations on arriving in New Brunswick, necessarily involves considerable detail, which will not be entered into here farther than to suggest that the river St. John's, intersecting the Province from south to north ; and the rivers Restigouche, Mirimachi, Richibucto, on the eastern coast, might be the points of disembarkation of the different ships and the means of forwarding their passengers to their respective stations.

[6] Three shillings sterling are equal to 3s. 9d. of the current money of the province ; and 3s..9d. currency will purchase at least double the quantity of. provisions in New Brunswick that 3s. 9d. sterling will purchase in England.

- [7] That is, the portion of the Eastern Townships most eligible for present settlement ; for a large district, still being the Eastern Townships, stretches away to the east and north-east a distance of 200 miles, having a mean breadth of 190 miles, with very few settlers, and much of it still unexplored, or at least still unsurveyed.
- [8] The first wild land which the railroad strikes, in proceeding from Montreal, is the township of *Upton*, about forty-five miles from that city ; and the value of land in that locality is, of course, considerably greater than about Sherbrooke. Probably £2, per acre is the average price of land in *Upton*.
- [9] Each township lot consists of 200 acres, twenty-five in length by eight in breadth generally ; which proportion gives each acre a frontage on the road of forty yards, and a back hearing of 121 yards.
- [10] The frontage of each acre on the road would be forty yards, its extension back from the road 121 yards. Thus each family lot would have a frontage of eighty yards on the road and, would extend back a distance of 1512½ yards.

THE END.

Emigration, Its Advantages to Great Britain and Her Colonies : Together with ... (1848)

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