

A House Prepared

*Emigration From Ireland ;  
Being The  
Second Report of The Committee  
“ Mr. Tuke’s Fund.”  
Together With  
Statements By  
Mr. Tuke, Mr. Sydney Buxton, Mahor Gaskell,  
And Captain Rutledge-Fair.*

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

IN concluding their first Report, more than a year ago, the Executive Committee of the above Fund expressed a hope that the Government might see their way to grant a sum of money to assist in carrying on the work of Emigration from the congested districts in the West of Ireland ; the Committee being “ convinced that a vast amount of such work remained to be done, but that the necessary outlay would be beyond the means of any private society.”

This hope was fortunately realised by the insertion in the Arrears Act of 1882, of a clause whereby a grant of £100,000 was made to the Irish Executive for Emigration purposes. On the passing of that Act, the Committee were requested by the Lord Lieutenant to undertake

the charge of certain districts in the West of Ireland ; and more than a quarter of the whole grant was placed at their disposal.

The accompanying Reports of Messrs. Tuke and Buxton give the necessary information respecting the locality, area, and population of these districts, which need not therefore, be here repeated ; they also show what steps were taken at the beginning of the present year to obtain information and details as to the number of families desirous of emigrating,—subsequently, how the selection was made, — and more recently what care and trouble were taken to ensure success in all branches of the work.

It will therefore suffice here to summarise the principles of action, namely : —

1. That the Emigration should be “ family” as distinct from “ individual” emigration.
2. That no pressure of any sort should be put on the people to induce them to emigrate.
3. That where they could afford it, the emigrants should be asked to contribute something towards the cost. [1]
4. That those only should be sent to the States who could produce recent letters from friends willing and anxious to receive them out there.
5. That the rest—where suitable—should be sent to Canada, either to the Government agents, or to the friends with whom the Committee were in communication ; and who had most kindly undertaken to receive some of the emigrants.
6. That each family should be booked through to their destination ; should receive a sum for landing money on arrival at the port ; and should be supplied with proper clothing and outfit.

The emigrants were nearly all sent by the steamers of the Glasgow “ Allan” Line ; those from Oughterard and Clifden were embarked at Galway, and the Mayo emigrants at Blacksod Bay, near Belmullet,—and were landed at Boston or Quebec.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that, as far as can yet be ascertained, the emigrants sent out under the auspices of the Fund have done well both in the States and Canada. Very good accounts have been received from many of the American emigrants, especially from those sent to the Western States ; while the reports from the Dominion and Ontario Governments, as well as from private sources, seem to show that the Canadian emigrants were easily placed, are generally doing well, and have every chance of prosperity before them.

One thing is certain, that neither in the States nor in Canada, have any of the emigrants sent out by the Committee gone to swell the ranks of the “ pauper invasion” of which so much has been lately heard.

Several of the shipments were minutely examined, on arrival at Boston—with intent adversely to criticise,—but no cause of complaint of any kind was discovered ; nor, in fact, when it is considered that all the emigrants were landed well clothed, with money in their pockets and fare paid to a fixed destination, was this likely to be the case.

So much as regards those who have gone ; and it will be seen from the annexed Reports—especially from that of Capt. Ruttledge-Fair—that the condition of those who remain has

been considerably improved by reason of the satisfactory consolidation of holdings which has ensued. Returns so far received from the Galway districts show that there, as in Mayo, it is rare that a holding vacated has been filled up by a new Tenant.

In conclusion the Committee heartily endorse the hope expressed in the subjoined Reports, that the work of State-aided Emigration will not be allowed to lapse, but will be continued for some years longer, in order that the population desirous of leaving these overcrowded districts, may be enabled to do so, and the condition of the people who remain be thereby improved. Any further assistance the Committee can give in the work of Emigration will be willingly rendered.

The Committee desire to give their best thanks to those, whether in Canada or the United States, who have so kindly rendered them assistance. They desire also to acknowledge the hearty co-operation which they have received both from the Dominion and the Ontario Governments, and their agents ; and especially to thank, amongst others, Mr. Stafford, the agent of the Dominion Government at Quebec, and Mr. Spence of the Provincial Government at Toronto, for the great care and attention they have bestowed on receiving and placing the emigrants.

The annexed returns of shipments and accounts will explain the particulars of Emigration, and will show that over 5,300 emigrants have been assisted ; at a total cost, as far as yet ascertained, of £34,950, of which £26,445 has been received from the Government grant.

If the Government ask for a further grant for Emigration purposes, it may be needful to appeal to the Public for renewed support to enable them to continue the work.

SYDNEY C. BUXTON,  
HOWARD HODGKIN,

*July*, 1883.

#### D.RECEIPTS.

The Committee have to acknowledge with many thanks subscriptions to the amount of £8443 4s. 2d., received since the issue of their last Report, together with £3000 12s. 7d., the balance of the Duchess of Marlborough's Fund, making a total of £12,049 10s. 9d.

#### MR. TUKE'S REPORT.

No. 1.

*March* 10, 1883.

It will be remembered that a proposal was received from the Irish Government last November requesting the Committee to undertake the charge and oversight of the emigration from certain Unions (or parts of Unions) in the west of Ireland which were considered too poor to raise any portion of the amount required in addition to the Government grant of £5 per head.

These were the Unions of Belmullet and the western half of Newport, including Achill, in the county of Mayo, and portions of the Unions of Clifden and Oughterard, in Galway. The population of these districts amounted to nearly 46,000.

Early in January of this year a circular was distributed by the Committee intimating that the relieving officers in the various districts were ready to receive applications from any suitable families who might wish to emigrate, such applications to be made not later than the 31st of January. It was very quickly ascertained that large numbers would avail themselves of the proffered boon, the success of those who had been assisted to emigrate last year by the Committee no doubt influencing many of the applicants.

The actual numbers were : —

Belmullet . . . . .	2,420	out of population of 15,700
Newport West . . . . .	740	„ „ 8,900
Clifden (parts of) . . . . .	1,700	„ „ 14,000
Oughterard (South) . . . . .	1,560	„ „ 7,300
Total ..	6,420	„ „ 45,900

Subsequently a much larger number have requested to be assisted both in Oughterard and Newport, and from the non-scheduled electoral divisions in Clifden, who have not been entered on our lists.

It was at once evident that with so large a number of persons, scattered over districts varying from 50 to 150 miles apart, which could only be reached by cars, it was absolutely needful for several persons to be employed in the work of selection from the lists at the same time. Mr. Sydney Buxton most kindly offered to take one district, whilst I took another, leaving Major Gaskell on his return from America, then daily expected, to take a third.

As it was found to be of extreme importance to make these selections at an early date, in order to avoid any pretext for the non-cultivation of the holdings, it was decided that a meeting should take place at Westport (Co. Mayo) on the 13th of February, to confer with Mr. H. A. Robinson, the Local Government Inspector of the districts, and generally to organise the work and to arrange the system of selection of families.

Previously to leaving home we had the advantage, in the absence of the Committee, of conferring on many points with the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. W. H. Smith, and also in passing through Dublin we had interviews with the Lord Lieutenant, Mr. Hamilton, and Mr. H. Robinson, the Vice-President of the Local Government Board.

On meeting as arranged at Westport, we had also the benefit of Major Gaskell's presence. One of the local agents was present with the lists of applicants in his district, showing ages, &c., &c., of the families.

Previous experience and the information furnished from abroad as to the vital importance of not sending out large families without a fair proportion of breadwinners, made it evident that a large number of the applicants on these lists who had several children under twelve or fourteen years of age, although eligible in other respects, would at once have to be rejected.

After much consideration it was arranged that Mr. Sydney Buxton should undertake the Northern portions of Mayo (Belmullet and Newport), assisted by Captain Rutledge-Fair, and that Major Gaskell should undertake (by permission of the Local Government Board) the

Oughterard Union, whilst I proceeded to Clifden. Questions affecting the clothing of the emigrants, transport to sea coast and shipment, varying in each locality, had all to be carefully considered and discussed. For the Northern districts arrangements had to be made for the shipment of the emigrants by steamers from Blacksod Bay with the assistance of a gunboat—the first emigrant steamer probably which will have sailed from that splendid roadstead. For the Galway districts, arrangements had also to be made for a weekly service of boats, alternating between the States and Canada. This will chiefly be done by Messrs. Allan and Co., of Glasgow, at moderate rates, Leaving Mr. Buxton to give his own report, I may briefly say that it required a fortnight's hard work to complete the investigation of the Clifden lists, and the personal inspection and visitation of the applicants at many points of the Clifden Union, which extends over an area the size of Middlesex.

As regards the emigrants who had applied to be sent to the United States, satisfactory letters or information have been supplied in each case, showing that their friends will be prepared to receive or have promised to obtain work for them. These letters were of very recent date, January or February of this year, and usually sent in response to inquiries made by those who had friends in America immediately after our circular was distributed in January. The letters were from many parts of the Northern States, and one or two from Kentucky. A great number come from St. Paul, Minnesota, especially in the Carua district, from whence in 1880 a few families were selected by Father Nugent. Some of the letters are from sons or daughters to their parents, promising them in most affectionate terms a home and all that may be needed. Others in glowing language depict the superiority of the country, and one son in writing to his parents, says :—" If you can come on the emigration, if you had fields of wheat, and the ears falling off it, don't delay one day if you get the chance. This is the best place from Heaven to have money and supply. If your name is in, you will write to us, and me and my sister will have house prepared before you. It is not starving with the hunger you will be here ; the best meal we had in the old country, the worst here is better than it."

In the case of the families selected for Canada, some will go direct to situations promised for them to Mr. Hodgkin, during his very useful visit last autumn. A few will proceed to Winnipeg where a committee has been formed for their reception by Archbishop Taché, and all others are consigned to the care of the Emigration Agents of the Canadian Government at Toronto, to be forwarded as required.

This is done with the full concurrence of the High Commissioner, Sir A. Gralt, and the assurance that the number on our lists can be absorbed in various portions of the Dominion.

Of the 1,700 applicants in the Clifden Union, a number had to be rejected owing to considerations affecting the families, which made it appear undesirable for them to run the risks of emigration.

Thus when families with four or five children under eight or ten years of age came before us, or others with a larger number under twelve or thirteen, it was not deemed prudent to allow them to proceed. This was often a very painful duty, as the anxiety of the people to leave cannot be exaggerated. " Send us anywhere, yer honour, to get us out of our misery. What will we do then in our poverty ?" And even many of those who were selected when told that a month or more must elapse before they could be sent out, said they had nothing to live upon, as all their resources had gone. The destitution of numbers of these people, living, as one man said, on " two dry potatoes a day," is indeed fearful, and in the Clifden Union much aggravated by the number of evicted families—many of whom will now happily have the opportunity in another land of gaining work and good wages where work is plentiful. There

is, except about Kylemore, no employment to be had in the Clifden Union unless for a few who may be employed by the rather better off farmers to get in the crops at this moment.

It will be evident from what has been said that emigration is not the only remedial measure required. It is an unspeakable boon for those whose circumstances allow them to accept it. It is more than “ a palliative” as it is often called ; it is *a remedy* but not the only one needed, and I should not feel that I was discharging my duty without strongly saying that some means other than the workhouse or outdoor relief, ought, in my opinion, at once to be carefully considered for the relief of the small holders of land in these Western Unions. The question of how this is to be effected is far too serious to enter upon in this report in detail, but I cannot help again advocating as I have previously done in various ways, the importance from every point of view of piercing these districts, now forty, fifty, or sixty miles distant from the railway, with light narrow gauge railways or steam tramways. The immediate employment of hundreds of idle men and the subsequent opening out of these remote districts could not fail to be productive of benefit and materially assist, with any well devised continuous system of free or partially free emigration, in relieving the most pressing wants of the West of Ireland.

JAMES H. TUKE.

MR. TUKE'S REPORT.

No. 2.

CLIFDEN UNION.

July 1883.

The minute reports of the condition of this Union given to the Committee last year when our Emigration work was commenced, render it unnecessary to enter upon this point again, and it will only be needful to repeat that the Clifden Union contained a population of 25,000 persons, spread over a very wide area, living on 4,000 holdings, of which 3,200 were rated under £4 per annum, whilst the average of arable land did not exceed 2½ or 3 acres per family. It will also be remembered that last year 1,200 persons were assisted to emigrate by the Committee from this Union (see Report 1882).

The general success of last year's emigrants doubtless stimulated the desire to emigrate on the part of those at home who had received letters from their friends : and from first to last applications representing a total of more than 2,000 persons were received. Of these the number selected and who have been assisted to emigrate amounts to 241 families, 300 single persons, or parts of families, together 1,589 persons. Of these 980 went to the United States, and 609 to Canada.

The all important duty of selecting from the lists, and inspecting the applicants, commenced on the 15th of February, and owing to numerous changes and fresh applications continued at intervals during the whole period of the shipments.

The first party of emigrants, 130 in number, left Galway on the 23rd of March, and was followed by batches each week until the 23rd of June—in all eighteen shipments were made. The . . . list of destinations, seventy-four in number, will be interesting as showing the very great variety of places in the United States to which the emigrants were sent, usually owing to the letters of invitation received from their friends. Those who went to Canada were pro-

vided with employment, chiefly in Ontario, by the Government agents. Some families also proceeded to Winnipeg. In connection with this point it is satisfactory to know that the success of a number of emigrants who went to Canada in 1882, induced a considerable number to apply this year to be sent to that colony. Last year no one *asked* to be sent to Canada, though willing to go there rather than remain behind in their poverty. In addition to the satisfaction of hearing in many quarters of the undoubted well-doing of a number of emigrants who had left in 1882, the indirect benefit was also apparent in lessening the number of those who were competing for the very limited employment offered even in the spring, and also in the tendency to a consolidation of holdings. But it was deeply painful to witness the disappointment of numbers of those families who were deemed too weak to leave, and who had no satisfactory letters from their friends. To many of these the only ray of hope seemed to be that there was a probability of the assistance being offered them another year.

No words can too strongly depict the deep-seated poverty and privation endured by a number of families in certain portions of this Union, which a residence of more than three months within its compass brought to our knowledge. Not only were a number of these people unable to procure seed potatoes to crop their small holdings but were even dependent on private funds for the mouthful of meal on which they subsisted. There is indeed a total cessation of paid labour throughout the Union, although 1s. to 1s. 6d. per day would be willingly accepted and the bulk of the male population is without employment. Owing to various causes very few migratory labourers proceed from this Union to England, and those who might be inclined to go are without the funds needed to undertake the journey this year.

The amount of detail in connection with the Emigration work can hardly be estimated, and caused a strain and perpetual tension of mind and body only made possible by the sense of the benefit which was conferred on these poor people, and which they so evidently felt and constantly acknowledged. I was assisted for many weeks by Mr. H. Hodgkin, whose devotion to the work was only equalled by the ability which he brought to bear upon it. During the latter portion of the time I had also the assistance of Mr. H. Higgins. The impossibility of procuring suitable clothing for the emigrants in the district necessitated the arrangement of clothing depots. At each local centre of the work, Letterfrack, Clifden, Carna, and Galway, a clothing store was established from which the emigrant was furnished with a suitable outfit—clothing, rugs, &c. The clothing was very satisfactorily supplied at moderate prices by Messrs. Pim, of Dublin, and, to the remarkable success which has attended this portion of the work we are chiefly indebted to the untiring energy and capacity of Mr. C. T. Kelly, who worked night and day in carrying out this onerous task.

For one party of the emigrants, who were proceeding to Minnesota and Winnipeg, we were fortunate enough to secure the services of the Rev. M. Mahoney, C.C., of Preston, to accompany them on their long journey. Arrangements were also made to retain his services for a time in Minnesota, for the purpose of receiving and caring for other parties of our people. He has rendered most valuable service to the Committee, not only in the oversight and placing of this year's emigrants, but also in supplying much information and opening the way for the reception of a large number of families if the work is continued another year. I may also add, as showing the demand for emigrants of the class lately sent there. Father Mahoney has recently forwarded applications for more than 30 additional families for Minnesota. This is the more gratifying as the feeling at St. Paul on his arrival was strongly set against the assisted emigration, the cry which then was (as Father Mahoney says), "send us no more Connemaras," having been exchanged for one of approval and keen satisfaction with the families assisted by the Committee. The following extract from a recent letter shows the high wages at once obtainable by both men and women.

It is dated St. Paul, June 14th. "As to employment," Father Mahoney writes, "the males all had it, or would have it, within a day or two,—indeed, it was said a man could hardly miss work unless he expressly tried to shirk it. The worst pay, 1.25dols. 1.50dols. was common, and on the railways 1.75dols. and 2dols. per day was obtained. The females, whether married or single, were, if possible, better off than the men—they were wanted everywhere for work the most ignorant could easily and satisfactorily do ; they get regular pay of not less than 1dol, a day. For girls even as young as thirteen an incredibly brisk demand (existed), and no less was thought of than 5dols. a week with board. It astonished me to see how even slow dull girls were hired for 10dols. a month and board."

The demand for the class of emigrants selected this year was not confined to Minnesota ; in other parts of the Union the applications for families have been more numerous than we could satisfy. It seems especially important to note this circumstance after the very loud opposition which has been raised against State-aided Emigration by certain parties in America. It is due to the Committee to state that notwithstanding the rigorous examination of emigrants on landing none of our emigrants have been found unable to support themselves, or in consequence returned.

In conclusion, I venture to add that it would be regarded by numbers of families who are now looking forward to a continuation of the work of the Committee in Ireland as a most serious calamity if from any cause the plan of assisted emigration was not continued. To many it has seemed as the only possible escape from the galling bondage of poverty, and a very serious responsibility must rest at the door of those who misrepresent the feeling and desires of the people, and speak of the free emigration as a cruel and enforced expatriation. Already during the past few weeks numerous letters have come from those whom we have had the happiness to assist, speaking in the most grateful terms of the kindness that has been done them and of the sense of emancipation from the grinding despair in which they had been living ; telling also of the good land of plenty to which they had come as "one flowing with milk and honey." To those who have so generously and freely enabled me to carry out a small portion of this work I desire to hand on the grateful thanks and prayers of these poor people,

JAMES H. TUKE.

PS.—The following extract from a letter just received from Father Mahoney dated St. Paul, July 1st, is highly satisfactory :—

"I may mention these facts : 1st, that labour is in the briskest demand in St. Paul, and increasingly so. The demand has been for some weeks, and is now quite ahead of the supply. New railroads and quite extensive operations in street improvement are two great causes. 2nd, Father Nealis, the priest, in whose district very many of the West of Ireland 'greenhorns' live, told me yesterday that all along this spring and summer he has met no case of begging or destitution. Bishop Ireland, too, frequently referred to how wonderfully he has all along been spared any appeal, and even any unfavourable account or mention of this year's emigrants ; so he infers quite jubilantly, and has asked me expressly to report to Mr. Tuke, that 'all the emigrants of this year are doing all right and first rate.' I have noticed that in the case of the late batches the youngsters of former arrivals, having got meantime masters of the geography of the situation, were readily found to hand to give information and guidance, and put the greenhorns at home.



## CAPT. RUTTLEDGE-FAIRS REPORT

It is, I feel sure, a fact much to be regretted, that the short time at our disposal prevented our visiting more families in their homes, as in many outlying districts persons would be found, by whom emigration would have been regarded as an inestimable boon, who had never been apprised of the project till it was too late to avail themselves of it.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in selecting the families for each shipment.

It was necessary to allow as far as possible the poorest to go first, for such was the poverty of the district at the time our labours commenced, that if we had not given early assistance many would have been obliged to enter the workhouse.

It was also thought desirable to send only a limited number of families by any one steamer to the same destination, lest employment for all might not be immediately forthcoming.

It was, moreover, considered expedient to take one or two families for each shipment from each Electoral Division, in order to counteract as far as possible the opposition raised by those whose interest it was to keep the people in the country ; and also in consequence of the fact that much distrust and impatience with the movement was evinced by the people in remote districts, on account of the delays which unfortunately were unavoidable.

A fortnight previous to the arrival of each steamer the families were carefully selected ; their names were then sent to the relieving officers, whose duty it was to warn those so selected of the place and date of embarkation, and also of the day on which they were to receive the clothing with which the Committee had promised to supply them.

It was necessary in most cases, to bring the families coming from a distance by cart to Belmullet, where food and lodgings were provided.

The embarkations took place from the shores of Elly Bay—an inlet of Blacksod Bay—at which place the “Allan” Line had arranged for their steamers to call weekly, en route to Galway. The embarkation of the emigrants was naturally a cause for much anxiety, inasmuch as, although Blacksod Bay affords perhaps one of the finest anchorages in the West of Ireland—the Channel Squadron having lain there some few years since—still the shores of Elly Bay cannot be approached even at half-tide ; added to which there is no pier, or in fact any accommodation for embarking the people. After due consultation with Staff-Captain Sutton, of H.M.S. “Seahorse,” and Lieut. Beddoes, commanding the Coast-Guard, it was found that there was no alternative, except to arrange that the emigrants should be ready to embark on each occasion at high-water : the boats of the “Seahorse” and Coast-Guard taking them from the shore to the gunboat which then ran alongside the “Allan” steamer.

Having on many previous occasions witnessed the departure of emigrants, and the painful scenes with relatives left behind, I apprehended our operations would be considerably retarded, not only in getting the people to the beach in time for the tide, but also in keeping the boats clear of the many friends, who attended to bid them farewell ; but in both cases I was agreeably surprised to find that the emigrants, in their eagerness to leave, thought little of being at the beach at 6 a.m., and the usual impressive leave-taking was comparatively *nil*.

On the 27th April, the embarkation of 232 emigrants was witnessed by His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, who travelled from Dublin on the previous day, in order to be present at the

departure of the people, and personally to inspect the arrangements made for their comfort and convenience. The morning of his visit was unfortunately a most unpropitious one ; heavyrain, accompaniod by a cold wind and fog, lent a general appearance of wretchedness and discomfort to the whole proceedings, a state of affairs which was happily not noticeable on any of the previous or subsequent occasions.

His Excellency was present during the whole shipment, and visited the “ Allan ” steamer, “ Phœnician.” he was pleased to express his high approval, at all the arrangements made for the embarkation and comfort of the emigrants. His Excellency’s visit to the district had a most reassuring effect, the satisfactory and encouraging character of which, it would be impossible too strongly to represent.

With reference to the question of embarkation, I feel I should fail in my duty if I did not state that much of the success of this part of the undertaking was due to the assistance rendered us by Staff-Captain Sutton and Lieut. Beddoes, R.N.

Staff-Captain Sutton had a most difficult duty to perform, not only in Elly Bay, but in the navigation of his vessel to the Narrows of Achill, where the tide runs with such tremendous force, that the greatest skill was necessary, not only in handling the vessel, but also in getting the people on board, and with such judgment was this difficulty overcome, that in the embarkation of 2,436 people, not a single mishap occurred.

To Lieut. Beddoes, commanding officer of Coast-Guard, especial thanks are also due, and I have confidence in stating, it was greatly owing to his valuable assistance, that our contingents were so successfully and speedily embarked, and at once made comfortable on board the steamers.

It may be somewhat interesting to follow the fortunes of some of these emigrants and see by their own handwriting how they fared on reaching their destinations ; with this object in view, I beg to quote extracts from letters received from various localities—

From Patrick Barrett (late of Elly, B’atown South), Winnipeg, Manitoba.

To William Gilbert, Belmullet.

I rent a liouse in the town for £2a month, Pat and Michael are working together under the same man, they are getting seven shillings a day. I am working myself about three miles from the town... Catherine would get 15 dollars a month but I could not spare her. Anastatia is getting 10 dollars a month. Bridget is getting six dollars a month minding two small children. They see me every evening. I took good care of Bridget M’Grath and got her 15 dollars a month and got her to service. She says she will soon remember you. I had a letter from William McGorman, and we are very glad to hear he is coming here... Provision is not to say too dear here, 14 stone of flour is only £1, Beef, 7d. a pound ; butter, 35 cents. ; eggs, 25 per doz. ; but clothes are very dear I hope I will see you in Ireland yet, or in Winnipeg. The next letter I send will not be empty. If you were here you would make 4 dollars a day on wild duck... All that sailed on 5th May arrived here.

From Simeon McNeila, (late of Tallagh), Lansing, Mohair Co., Minnesota.

To John Nolan, Belmullet.

.....So now I am at liberty to let you know all I possibly can. This is a country place and a

great place for farmers. The farmers gives (sic) from £4 to £5 per month together with board and lodgings, those that are working on the railroad are getting Gs. 3d. per day. I mean working on the repairs, there is not any now roads started as yet about this place till the 1st of June, we had engineers out here last week, and the (sic) blocked out 100 miles of a new road, when that starts the wages will be from 8s. to 10s. per day. Young men would do well in this country, but weak families can't do so well. But it is far better for them to come to this country weak or strong, or (sic) to try to live in misery as long as the (sic) live I have got a house cheap and a good plot of land. Pat Cawley and myself is renting one house, we live out in the country six miles from the nearest town, we live quite (sic) content and very happy that we came out. May the Lord bless those that relieved us in taking us out of poverty. We work together on the repairs of the railway and our wages per day is 6s. 3d.

These letters are a fair sample of many others ; they require no comment, they speak for themselves ; and the Committee will learn with satisfaction how fully their own anticipations as to the probability of the success of the people have been realized.

With regard to the disposal of the holdings which have been vacated by the emigrants—a question of vital and paramount importance to those who remain, and one upon which the permanent success of the movement depends—great pains have been taken to ascertain what has become of the vacant holdings ; and I accordingly beg to refer the Committee to the returns appended to this report, which furnish definite particulars as to every holding from which families were assisted to emigrate from Belmullet and Newport districts.

It will be observed that of 293 holdings vacated, 149 have passed to neighbouring Tenants ; 106 have reverted to the Landlord, either by eviction or by possession being voluntarily surrendered by the outgoing Tenant ; 18 holdings are “ waste,” the emigrants not having given up possession, and the Landlord not having yet taken the necessary legal steps to obtain the same ; while only 20 have been purchased by new Tenants.

It is probable that the majority of the “ waste” holdings and those surrendered to or acquired by the Landlord, will eventually be amalgamated with the holdings of adjoining well-to-do Tenants. It may thus be assumed that in 273 out of 293 cases, the emigration of “ families” has led to a consolidation of the holdings. These figures conclusively prove the absolute falsity of the statements which have been made to the effect that the Emigration Committees were “ digging fresh graves for the people.”

Although the work of emigration has been carried out as far as time would permit, it must be remembered, that there are very many other districts in the West of Ireland which have as yet derived little benefit from State-assisted emigration.

In conclusion I have to acknowledge the assistance I received from Mr. Richards, Mr. Oram, and a very efficient staff, while I am much indebted to Mr. H. A. Robinson, L.G.I., for the kind advice and assistance he was always ready to afford me.

I have the honour to be,  
Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT RUTTLEDGE-FAIR.

Belmullet, Co. Mayo,

27th June, 1883.

To the Committee of Mr. Tuke's Fund.

State-aided emigration to be a success and to be of real benefit to these poverty-stricken districts, should be spread over several years, and be confined to "families," with due arrangements for consolidation of holdings ; the Government grant per head being meanwhile somewhat increased. Even if the grant were in some measure to stay the flow of American money into these districts—though I doubt if it would—the amount sent over is not large, and in no way diminishes but rather increases the evils from which these districts are suffering. While on the one hand it takes away a few of the able-bodied (doubtless greatly to their benefit), on the other, by subsidising those who remain, it tends to keep families struggling on the land in a state bordering on destitution, and assists them to pay rent which could not be raised from the land itself. If, however, by degrees, a large number of entire families were removed, the over-crowding would be relieved and the holdings increased in size.

The very difficult and arduous work of providing for the shipment of these large numbers of emigrants has still to be undertaken. The first shipment for the States will be from Galway on the 23rd inst., the next on the 30th from Blacksod Bay ; the first for Canada, on the 20th April, from Blacksod Bay, and so on, in a continuous weekly stream, one week to Boston, the next to Quebec, with a few special steamers interspersed.

Sydney Buxton.

July 17th, 1883.

[1] Owing to the poverty of the people this was found almost impossible, and only about £320 was received from the Mayo, and about £50 from the Galway emigrants.

Emigration from Ireland; being the second report of the committee of "Mr. Tuke's Fund" : together with statements by Mr. Tuke, Mr. Sydney Buxton, Major Gaskell, and Captain Rutledge-Fair (1883)

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