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OF

INFORMATION FOR EMIGRANTS

TO

NEW - BRUNSWICK.

BY

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GENERAL INFORMATION FOR EMIGRANTS.

Emigrants to New Brunswick are especially cautioned against taking passage to Quebec, as there are no regular means of conveyance from that port to any of the Lower Provinces. The only route is by railway to Portland, in

Maine, and thence by steamer to St. John, which is expensive.

Passage tickets should always be carefully retained by emigrants, so that if they are not treated according to law, or are landed at a different place from that named in the ticket, they may obtain redress. Emigrants are warned that they have no claim of right on the emigrant fund, and should provide themselves with sufficient means of their own, for their subsistence and conveyance into the interior from the port where they land. Sick emigrants only are provided at the public expense. Agricultural labourers need not bring out implements of husbandry, as these can easily be procured in the Province; but artisans are recommended to bring such tools as they possess, if not too bulky. Those who intend to become settlers, should bring a stock of comfortable warm clothing, with blankets and strong boots and shoes for their families. There is no duty on the household effects of emigrants.

The best period to arrive in New Brunswick is early in May, so as to be in time to take advantage of the spring and summer work, and get comfortably settled before the winter sets in. The average length of passages to New Brunswick from great Britain and Ireland, is 36 days, but the Passengers' Act requires provisions and water to be laid in for 70 days. Passengers are entitled by law to be maintained on board the ship, the same as during the voyage, for 48 hours after arrival in port. The tax on each passenger is 2s. 6d. currency, (2s. 1d. sterling) which is paid by the master of the ship; and security must be given by bond in the penalty of £75 currency, that any lunatic, idiot, maimed, blind, or infirm person not belonging to an emigrant family, shall not become chargeable to the funds of the Province for three years. This bond may however be dispensed with, or cancelled by order of the Lieut. Governor in Council, on payment of such reasonable sum as shall be deemed just and proper under the circumstances.

Until emigrants become acquainted with the labour of the country, their services are of comparatively small value to their employers. They should therefore be careful not to

fall into the common error of refusing reasonable wages on their first arrival.

DEMAND FOR LABOUR.—The progress of agriculture in New Brunswick causes a steady demand for labour in the rural districts, and, for the last two years, farmers have suffered more than any other class, from an inadequate supply of agricultural labourers and female domestics. In the towns there has also been great scarcity of female servants, and a supply of these is greatly needed. Boys from 12 to 18 years of age are greatly in demand throughout the Province by farmers and mechanics. Unskilled labourers are generally sure of employment, from 2s. 6d. to 4s. sterling per day, according to their ability and the length of time for which they are engaged. Masons, bricklayers, carpenters, and joiners are in request at good wages; and there is no scarcity of employment for millwrights, smiths, foundrymen, and workers in iron generally, painters, tailors, and shoemakers.

THE CLEARING OF WILD LAND is to be understood as cutting down and burning the trees, fencing, and leaving the land ready for crop, the stumps and roots alone remaining to impede the operations of the farmer. The expense varies greatly according to circumstances, but may be stated at £2 to £4 sterling per acre. A comfortable log house, 16 by 24 feet, two floors, and shingled roof, costs £12 to £15 sterling, but much less when the work is chiefly performed by the emigrant himself. When properly built, this description of house is extremely warm and comfortable. No emigrant should undertake to clear land and make a farm, unless he has the means of supporting his family for 12 months. It is better that the emigrant should engage himself to a farmer for the first year or two after his arrival, by which he will obtain experience as to the work of the country and the mode of conducting a farm, while laying up his wages wherewith to make a beginning in the forest.

If the emigrant is possessed of some capital, he should by no means expend it in endeavouring to make a farm in the wilderness, as he will be almost certain thereby to waste his means. He should buy and partially cleared, either in crop

or ready for crop ; he will always find persons ready to sell their land, with house and clearing, stock, and implements of husbandry suitable to the country, at a much less price than he could procure them for himself.

By adopting this course, an emigrant that arrives in New Brunswick with £100 sterling, will in a few years find himself in easy and independent circumstances, and the greater number he has in family, the better off he will be.

THE DIRECT TAXES payable by a settler, are for poor rates, county expenses, and occasional assessments for public buildings ; in the case of a small farmer, these altogether seldom amount to £1 per annum. The settler is also liable to perform statute labour on the roads, streets, and bridges, in his county, but not the first year after his arrival in the country. He may perform this labour either in person or by sufficient substitute, eight hours of actual labour being considered a day's work ; or he may commute the same, at the rate of one shilling and threepence currency for each day's labour. The scale of annual assessment for statute labour is as follows :—Persons between 18 and 21 years of age, 2 days ; above 21 years, 4 days ; and one day in addition for every £100 in value of his real and personal estate, or one day for every £25 of his annual income, up to 60 days' labour, beyond which no person can be assessed. Every rate-payer is liable to serve the following offices in his parish ; constable, pound keeper, fence viewer, parish clerk, overseer of the poor, clerk of the market, assessor or collector of rates, road commissioner, surveyor of highways, trustee of schools, and some other offices peculiar to certain counties, such as surveyors of dams, overseers of fisheries, boom masters, and timber drivers, for all which, however, (except as trustee of schools) small fees or perquisites are allowed. All persons between 16 and 60 years of age, are liable to serve in the militia in case of necessity.

ORDINARY DISEASES.—As yet, no regular bills of mortality are made up in the province ; and with respect to the ordinary diseases of the country, their type and prevalence, reference can only be had to the reports of the medical officers in charge of the troops in the colony, which are

prepared with great minuteness and precision. In the report submitted to Parliament in 1853, it is stated that common continued fever constitutes about two-thirds of the fevers in this command; but is much less frequent than even among the most favoured class of troops in the United Kingdom, and much less severe in its character. The proportion of typhus is also smaller than in the United Kingdom, although its intensity is much the same; eruptive fevers have been so rare as scarcely to require notice. In a former report, attention was called to the fact, that notwithstanding the greater severity of the climate, and the sudden alternations of temperature to which the troops are exposed, the proportion both of admissions into hospital, and deaths by diseases of the lungs, was lower than among an equal number of infantry in the United Kingdom; and the same was observable during the ten years included in the report of 1853. Diseases of the liver are stated to be rare in this command, more so than among the same class of troops in the United Kingdom. Other classes of diseases, although a source of considerable inefficiency, are stated not to add much to the mortality; most of these are produced by habitual drunkenness, arising from the low price and facility of procuring ardent spirits. On the whole, there is much less sickness and mortality both among officers and men, than in any part of the United Kingdom.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

All the fruits generally found in England, are grown in New-Brunswick, especially apples, pears, plums, currants, gooseberries, strawberries, and cherries. Of the wild fruits, there are strawberries, cranberries, gooseberries, raspberries, blackberries, great whortleberries, blue whortleberries, wild cherries, and some others. Butter nuts, hazel nuts, and beech nuts are plentiful in many places.

The potatoes of New-Brunswick are most excellent; those grown in newly cleared land are often drier than others, and of superior flavour. All the varieties of peas and beans, turnips, beets, carrots, parsnips, cabbages, cauliflowers, celery, cucumbers, and squashes, with all other common culinary vegetables of the United Kingdom, are cultivated with success.

WILD BEASTS AND GAME.

Occasionally, wolves annoy the farmer to a small extent; in the more settled districts, sheep are usually protected by a fold. The farmer may sometimes lose a stray hog by the bears; but there are many farmers who have lived all their lives in the Province, without seeing either wolf or bear. As in other countries, foxes and smaller animals are destructive to poultry that is not looked after carefully.

Game is mentioned as forming one of the natural resources of the country. The animals hunted are, the elk, or moose deer; the cariboo, a species of reindeer; and the Virginian red deer. Of the smaller animals which are taken either by hunting or trapping, there are—the beaver, otter, mink, musk-rat, marten, (a species of sable,) fox, fisher, (or pine marten,) lynx, raccoon, porcupine, woodchuck, ermine, and northern hare. Of birds, there are wild geese, wild ducks in great variety, and wood grouse, usually called partridges. Snipe and woodcock afford some fine shooting in their season. There are several sorts of curlew, some very large, and an infinite variety of the plover tribe. The passenger pigeon sometimes visits the Province in great numbers.

As has been already stated, all the rivers, lakes, and streams of New-Brunswick abound with fish, in considerable variety; and if a man thinks proper, in the words of Izaak Walton, "to be pleasant and eat a trout," he can gratify his taste almost anywhere in the Province.