

IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT.

It is generally felt that one of the most important questions of the day as well for the prosperity of the Dominion as the mother country is that of the stream of population flowing from the latter to the former.

By the British North American Act the Dominion and the local governments are given concurrent jurisdiction in respect to immigration, and in the session of 1869, after the conference of delegates from the local govts., a measure was passed by the Dominion Parliament entitled "An Act respecting Immigration and Immigrants." (See *Year-Book* of 1870 for this Act.)

We take the following statement from the Report of the Hon. C. Dunkin, Minister of Agriculture and Statistics for 1869, which has been recently printed in a Blue Book. It shows the total immigration which has entered Canada, for the last four years, by the ports of Quebec, Halifax, St. John, N. B., Miramichi, the Suspension Bridge, and Inland Agencies, namely:—

	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.
Via the St. Lawrence	28,648	30,757	34,300	43,114
“ the Suspension Bridge and other Inland Ports of Ontario and Quebec	23,147	26,631	36,511	30,326
“ Halifax		781	366	448
“ St. John, N. B.		409	271	456
“ Miramichi				21
Total	51,795	57,578	71,448	74,365

These immigrants divide themselves into two classes: those who stay in Canada, and those who simply pass through to settle principally in the Western States. They may be thus tabulated:—

	Those who stay in Canada.	Those who pass to U. States.
1866	10,091	41,704
1867	14,666	47,212
1868	12,765	58,683
1869	18,630	57,202

These figures showing a large disproportion between these who stay in Canada and those who simply pass through, should also furnish a conclusive answer to those who have argued that Canada ought to assist immigrants by paying their passages. It could not do so without assisting the United States.

Out of the 18,630 who came into the Dominion in 1869, 17,202 settled in the Province of Ontario; 503 in the Province of Quebec; 477 in New Brunswick; and 448 in Nova Scotia. These figures are taken from the report of the Minister of Agriculture, who states that in some instances they may be modified, arising from the immigrants moving after their arrival at any given locality. But they are approximately correct.

The nationalities, trades, and callings of those who enter at the inland ports can not be determined, but the following is a classification of 43,114 immigrants at the port of Quebec:—English, 14,691; Irish, 3,339; Scotch, 2,774; German, 1,950; Scandinavia, 20,120; and other origins, 222.

The trades and callings of 19,469 male adults, steerage passengers, attended to by the agency at Quebec, are thus stated:—Farmers, 5,520; labourers, 8,710; mechanics, 5,115; clerks, &c., 112; and professional men, 12.

Poor immigrants, to the number of 6,200, received aid from the Dominion Government in 1869, in the form of inland passages to their first destination. The total sum granted and paid in favour of poor immigrants, by the Dominion Government, amounted to \$15,432. The local governments also gave aid. The way in which aid has been given is this: The Dominion Government pays the passage of the destitute from the port of disembarkation to the place of primary destination, when they are in charge of the Province in which such agency is situate. Any further aid in food or subsequent transport is defrayed by the local government, through its agent; but the local agent may again apply to the Dominion agent for the purpose of forwarding immigrants to their first destination.

The total expenses of the Dominion Immigration Service in 1869 amounted to \$59,775.84. Of this sum \$29,357.28 were expended for Provincial agencies; \$13,211.25 for European agencies; and \$17,207 for expenses of quarantine. Part of the expenses of the Dominion Government are defrayed by the capitation tax, amounting to \$41,069.