

J. E. TETU
Dominion Government Immigration Agent
No. 25 - ANNUAL REPORT OF THE Saint John, N. B. -
IMMIGRATION AGENT Major SAMUEL Gaunsus
31st December, 1888

Sir:—I have the honour to submit my annual report of the working of this agency for the year ending 31st December, 1888.

That while the past year shows a decrease of immigrants passing through St. John and repassing at this agency, it nevertheless shows a healthy increase into the Province through other inlets.

The number of immigrants reported at this office Halifax, St. Lawrence and United States, other than reported at the Customs Department, are 231, viz., English, 145; Irish, 8 ; Scotch, 65 ; Danes, 12; Russian Jew 1 ; of these were mechanics, 10; clerks, 2; farmers, 8; farm labourers, 107; domestic servants, 65; children, 39. Of these 230 settled in New Brunswick, 1 only in Quebec.

As a general thing the farm labourers went into the different counties in the Province, and either hired with the farmers or took up free grant lands, or purchased quit claims of partly cleared farms, all from whom I have heard express much satisfaction with their present position and future prospects.

The domestic servants are principally placed in the country districts, a small portion in the city, for the latter there is great demand, in fact most of our farmers I find want a boy and girl, especially those that are well-to-do, and here let me say a large majority of them are in that happy condition. Many of the farm labourers and domestic servants have been able to make remittances to their friends to enable them to follow.

I am asked from all parts of Europe, and I may say by every mail, for full description of the Province, its railway facilities, quality of soil, climate, &c., how free grant lands are obtainable, where situated, & how many stating their means limited, and would prefer New Brunswick, being less expensive to reach and would not require so much an outlay to begin farming as at the Great North West; and what description of farms could be bought for say from £1.00 sterling up to £ 1,000. To all which you may be sure I gave as full particulars as I could, first by letter and then by pamphlets, on New Brunswick exclusively.

My supply of these is very limited, being only one, by the Local Government from the Crown Land Office, this simply showing how free grants are obtainable, &c., referring them to I. L. Fellows, 50' Holborn Viaduct, London, G. B., be being general agent for the Province of New Brunswick, and who informed me he had a supply of the Hand Book by H. Bugrin exclusively on the Province, and issued by the Local Government. Some two years since, they kindly gave me 500 copies, but that was simply a moiety compared to the demand. The pamphlets furnished by the Dominion Government of Canada take in the whole Dominion, and rightly so, and where in these New Brunswick has its part, I turn down the leaves.

I am also asked for all and every information I can give respecting every part of the Dominion, and in many instances of the United States, thinking that broad America can be definitely

answered by any one living in it, having no conception of its extent. The immigrants passing through this office brought, in cash and other values, 1,013,127.5; cash, 83,465; other values, \$3,610, a falling off from last year fully one.

Total settlers in the Province by all inlets other than Halifax and Quebec, as far as ascertained and estimated by correspondents up to the present, are 1,452, exclusive of 231 at this office, making a total of 1,784. Of the number above there were Canadians returning from the United States, 1,277; Europeans, 123; United States citizens. 5-: ; bringing with them in cash, \$169,205; other values, \$94,747, a total of \$263,952, and as last year my correspondents write they are fully satisfied, many more came into the Province and settled but could not get at anything from which they could find even an approximate, and these of course must have brought more or less cash and other values.

The travel by the International Line of Steamers plying between Saint John and Boston shows a decrease from last year, not on account of want of confidence in this splendid line, but perhaps quick railway facilities during summer, and in these days, speed with many is everything, or our wet season and Presidential election agitation, had something to do with this falling off. Inns 19,582, outs 12,905, total 32,487; total, 11:87, 35,908.

By observation on the general travel, and as last year stated, especially by International Line of Steamers, I have again to report a greater increase of our hardy agriculturists returning, and this has been so the whole range of summer and fall travel, feeling satisfied after the usual test, that after all, New Brunswick suits them best, and now content to return and remain, which I think, the entries at the St. John Custom House etc., will sustain.

The number of immigrants entered into the Province so far heard from by other inlets, are as follows: Charlotte County - 180, Carleton County - 267, Northumberland 85 Restigouche 21, Victoria - 170, York County, including McAdam Junction - 368, Westmorland - 361.

Again my correspondents write a number of young men are taking up free grants, making homes for themselves. Others buying partially improved farms, especially in the upper part of the Province, stimulated by the opening up of railways, as some of the following reports from my correspondents will prove.

The year 1888 as in 1887, for all branches of industry, was a very prosperous one, especially the lumbering and shipping interests, every manufacturing establishment fully employed, and running extra time, and with large orders to fill, and paying ones. It is estimated that the shipping interest alone will, in freight, bring into the Province fully two and a half million dollars for the year.

As for the agricultural industry, the crops are nearly a fair average on the whole, notwithstanding the early frosts, which very much injured the buckwheat crop, an important one especially among the new settlers; yet the increased prices for every description of crops will amply repay for all the shortage consequent upon frost and wet weather during harvesting.

To answer the many enquiries as to New Brunswick for a home for say every class of industry, more especially the agriculturists, I wrote to many in order to get reliable information on which to report. The following are the answers from some heard from.

From Victoria County:

"The firm of Hiram Stevens & Co., Fort Fairfield, Maine, have purchased a mill privilege at Four Falls, about one mile from Aroostook Junction, and have erected a fine grist mill, with a capacity for grinding 700 bushels a day. They have also purchased mills at Salmon River, Victoria County. They will have six shingle machines and one rotary saw in operation this winter. The firm have invested about \$12,000 in both mills. The mills will be an immense benefit to the farmers, and be the means of saving thousands of dollars that formerly went across the line into the States.

"The crops are short in this county on account of the early frosts and the continuance of wet weather in harvesting, but farm produce of all kinds is bringing good prices and will make up for the short crops. I think the Tobique Valley Railway, which is under good progress for the first fourteen miles, when completed, will give an impetus to settling the fine lands on the Tobique.

From Grand Falls:

" In answer to yours 11th December, a large number of French Canadians have come in from Lower Canada and have taken farms in the settlement of Ineshowen, three or four miles from Grand Falls, and are all doing well. As regards our section of the county for intending immigrants, I consider there is none better. Anyone who is willing to work can come in here at any time and make a good living, our farming land is as good as can be found in the Province, and if our farmers worked as hard at home as they are obliged to when they go to other countries they would, in a few years, be independent.

An example of what may be accomplished by steady industry can be seen here by a visit to the Danish settlement. Fifteen years ago this place was in a dense wilderness; a few Danes came in from Denmark, cleared away the forests and prepared to make new homes for themselves, they were soon followed by other Danes, who kept coming year after year and settling the country, where there are now over 120 families settled, the majority of whom are well off, with nice houses, linogardens, and good stock of cattle. They have a handsome church, two or three schools, and first class postal accommodation.

From South Tilley :

"Yours with hand bills received, for which I am much obliged. I shall send one to all the post offices near here and I think I shall be able to make up a list of farms for sale, with description and prices, which I shall forward you. I think it will be a step in the right direction.

"I intend writing the Surveyor General soon about doing something toward settling this place. It seems some strange that the tide of immigration is all toward the North-West. My idea is that a poor man can commence a new farm in New Brunswick even if he has nothing but an axe and hoe, with a bite to eat, whereas in the North-West a man requires a team, and a good one at that, plough and other tools, before he can do anything. Then follows a list of those who took up free grants and those who bought improved farms, of twenty-one with their families, numbering 71 souls, bringing with them \$9,150, which was paid for the farms.

“Tobique Valley Railway is within one mile and a half of this settlement, on the south-west, with Tobique River between the railway and settlement, and on the north-west we have the New Brunswick Railway, which is now open to Riviere du Loup, making a great increase of traffic on this line. The New Brunswick line is one and a-half miles from the northwest line of this settlement on the northwest side of the River St. John. We have two good sawmills, one on each side of the settlement, where lumber of all kinds can be bought for building purposes, and there is one grist mill in the settlement, and another about three miles from the settlement, a first-class one, having all modern improvements for wheat grinding. We have two schools and two post offices and there are two mills in course of construction.

From Red Rapids :

“Yours of the 1st received and only came to hand to-day, and contents noted. In reply I would say our settlement has had no settlers during 1888, although our land is good and roads quite passable. A number of new houses and barns have been put up, and other improvements made in the place. As the Temiscouata Railway is completed and the Tobique Valley Railway under construction, it is hoped that there will be some reduction in the tariff on the New Brunswick Railway to enable the settlers to get their produce to market.

From Three Brooks :

“There were only three Canadians settled on free grant lands this year, all single men, brought with them \$50 each. One married man, wife and two children, Canadians, with value 8100, and in parish of Gordon one Englishman, wife and one son, bought a farm and brought 81,000; one Canadian, wife and two children, bought a farm and had 8500; one Canadian, wife and two children, purchased a farm and had \$200; and one Canadian, single, brought with him 8200 and bought a farm.”

From Upper Kintore :

“ I received yours yesterday, and in answer to it I have little to report. There have not been any settlers come in during the year. My opinion is that New Brunswick is a good field for immigrants of the agricultural class if they are willing to work pretty hard for a year or two. The Tobique Valley Railway will further the interest of the farmer very much.”