

to Government, and under its direction and control, should, I conceive, in the very first instance, be charged with a full, critical and scientific examination of, and to report fully as may be required, or periodically, to the Governor, on the present state, condition, &c. &c., with a complete description of the present and prospective limits of the Port and City of Saint John, with such suggestions for improving them, as to them may seem proper; and to report specifically on the deterioration and changes which the Harbour may now be subject, and to propose plans and methods for its conservation and improvement; to report by what species of tenure, and by whom, the property adjoining the shores are now held; what persons are now specifically charged with the conservation of the Port, and responsible for it, and what funds are now or may be made available for that purpose, &c. &c.

This Commission to be a permanent or standing Commission, in continuous operation, under the immediate direction of the Governor in Council, and to embrace all the purposes of that similar Commission in England lately emanating from that on the Tidal Harbours, to acquire a complete and critical knowledge of the Rivers, Ports, Harbours, &c. on the whole coast, &c. &c.

The Commissioners should be paid regular salaries, as their labours will be unremitting and important.

Its duties should embrace all those now required from the Commissioners of Light Houses, and of Buoys and Beacons, and may be provided for from the Funds now appropriated for those purposes, and may be established and authorized by amending the Acts by which those Commissioners are now constituted.

The Commissioners of Light Houses, and those of Buoys and Beacons, would thus be liberated by Legislative enactment from all further charge or responsibility, by "The Nautical Commission," which (I think) should consist of a President and three others, being all nautical men, of experience and science, and also one Secretary.

If Your Excellency should require from me any further information or suggestion on these very important subjects, I shall be proud to receive your commands, and I have the honor to remain

Your Excellency's

Most humble and obedient servant,

(Signed) W. F. W. OWEN, *Captain, R. N.*
To His Excellency the Lieut. Governor of New Brunswick.

Wednesday, 3d March, 1847.

The Honorable Mr. Johnstor, a Member of Her Majesty's Executive Council, by direction of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, lays before the House the following Documents:—

(Copy) GOVERNMENT EMIGRATION OFFICE,

Saint John, 23d February, 1847.

SIR,—I had the honor of addressing you on the 12th instant, relative to the Buildings for the accommodation of Emigrants on Partridge Island, to which I have not been favored with a reply.

I have now the honor to state, for the information of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, that Letters have been received at this Office from some of the Emigration Agents in Ireland, stating that a very large Emigration to America will take place from that Kingdom the coming season. The Agent at Cork states that the Emigrants will consist principally of small Farmers, and their families, as the mere laborer will not be able to raise the requisite funds, unless the Poor Law Guardians or the Government render assistance.

I have also received Letters from persons intending to emigrate to New Brunswick, which state that an unusually large number of Emigrants may be expected at this Port, and that they will sail from Ireland at a much earlier period this Spring than usual.

There can be very little doubt that many thousands will land upon our shores within the next four months, a large proportion of whom will be in a very destitute condition, and suffering from the usual fever in such cases.

I have therefore most earnestly to press upon the Executive the necessity of taking immediate steps for putting the buildings at Partridge Island in repair, and for erecting such other buildings as will be absolutely required. At the same time I would most respectfully request that such alterations may be made by law in the disposal of the Emigrant Fund as will secure its application to the relief of the sick, the aged, and the destitute, for whose benefit it was originally created.

I have the honor, &c.

(Signed)

M. H. PERLEY, *G. E. A.*

The Hon. John S. Saunders, &c. &c. &c.

(Copy)

Saint John, 24th February, 1847.

SIR,—At a Special Sessions of the Peace held yesterday, I was requested by the Magistrates to inform you, that they feel a good deal of anxiety upon the subject of the large body of Emigrants which may reasonably be expected to arrive at this Port in a few months, while at same time they decline to make any demonstration on the subject through the Legislature, fearing that a special grant for the aid of those unfortunate persons would be looked to, and relied upon beyond reason, and this increases the evil.

Aware that it is a subject towards which His Excellency has devoted much thought, the Magistrates decline to urge any public measure, satisfied that His Excellency and Council will guard against difficulties, (if any shall unfortunately arise during the year) provided the Emigrant Fund is not so tied up as to make it difficult to make any appropriation from it save through the Legislature; while at same time Magistrates cannot allow the destitute to suffer, and County funds to any material extent could not be applied towards their relief. Will you be pleased to lay this before His Excellency, and believe me, &c.

(Signed)

L. DONALDSON, *Mayor, &c.*

Hon. J. S. Saunders, *Prov. Sec.*

House of Assembly, 2d March, 1847.

The Honorable Mr. Baillie, a Member of Her Majesty's Executive Council, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, laid before the House, a Communication from the Province Treasurer, accompanied by "A Schedule of an Establishment proposed for collecting the Revenues of New Brunswick, independently of any assistance from the Customs, in case of the Discriminating Duties imposed by the Act of the Imperial Parliament being repealed."

The Communication aforementioned, being handed in at the Clerk's Table, was there read, and is as follows:—

Treasury, Saint John, 27th February, 1847.

SIR,—In compliance with the directions of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, as contained in your letters of the 18th, 22d, and 23d instant, I have the honor to submit a Schedule of an establishment for collecting and protecting the Revenues, in case of the repeal of the Discriminating Duties at present collected by the Customs, and for disbursing the same by the Provincial Treasurer, with the following observations.

As suggested by His Excellency, I have assumed that the Treasurer is to be stationed at Fredericton, where his duties will be to superintend the collecting and warehousing department throughout the Province, receive and embody the Accounts of all the Deputies into general Returns and Abstracts for the information of the Government, and receive, disburse and account for all Revenues; this I propose to undertake with one efficient Clerk, and an Office Keeper or Messenger, the latter to be capable of doing some plain writing occasionally.

The duties of the Deputy at Saint John, will, under