

# **Report of the Special Sanitary Committee of Montreal upon cholera and emigration, for the year 1834.**

## **Contributors**

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Royal College of Surgeons of England

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8

# REPORT

OF THE

SPECIAL SANITARY COMMITTEE OF MONTREAL

UPON

CHOLERA AND EMIGRATION,

FOR THE YEAR 1834.

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MONTREAL:

PRINTED BY JAMES AND THOMAS A. STARKE,

108, NOTRE DAME STREET.

1835.

6

REPORT  
OF THE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE  
GENERAL SANITARY COMMITTEE OF  
MONTREAL  
AT a Meeting of the GENERAL SANITARY COMMITTEE OF  
MONTREAL, held at the Court House, December 15, 1834,  
the Special Committee appointed July 18, 1834, made a  
Report of its proceedings.

The Report of the Special Committee having been submitted, was unanimously approved.

“ ORDERED,

That the Special Committee shall cause to be printed such a number of copies of the Report as they shall deem necessary, with liberty to add to it any other document relative to the same.

CHARLES MONDELET,

HON. SECRETARY M. S. C.”

## REPORT, &c.

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*To the General Sanitary Committee of Montreal, the Special Committee of Five Members appointed on the 16th day of July last, Report—\**

THAT at the time of the nomination of your Committee, the Asiatic Cholera was making sudden and fearful ravages in this city, and was spreading into the neighbouring parishes.

That there was neither an appropriation of public money, nor regulations of Quarantine for the District of Montreal, nor Board of Health legally established.

That his Excellency the Governor in Chief had refused not only to extend the law of Quarantine to the District of Montreal, notwithstanding the early solicitation of the Sanitary Committee, and the application of the City Corporation, upon the first appearance of Cholera; but had also refused to make any advance of money whatever from the public funds, alledging that in so doing he incurred too heavy a responsibility.

That the Corporation of the City either did not, or conceived it did not possess authority to employ the city revenues for sanitary purposes of such a nature as the circumstances of the moment demanded.

That the Emigrant Society was possessed of no funds; and that there was in the Sheds, near the Cholera Hospital, a number of emigrants destined for Upper Canada, who were unable to proceed for the want of pecuniary means; and as this number was daily increasing by arrivals from Quebec, the forwarding of Emigrants became

\* At a meeting of the General Sanitary Committee of Montreal, held at the Court House, July 16, 1834,

*It was Resolved,*

That a Special Committee of five Members, namely, Messrs. FELIX SOULIGNY, TOUSSAINT PELTIER, T. S. BROWN, J. D. GIBB, and FRANÇOIS DESAUTELS, be appointed, vested with all the powers belonging to the Sanitary Committee of Montreal, with authority to do all necessary acts in its name, and to correspond with all other Societies and individuals.

a sanitary measure of the first importance, not only to the Province at large, but to the Emigrants themselves, who by accumulating in a destitute condition in the midst of an epidemic, gave new strength to its violence, and became themselves the victims. A meeting was therefore called by the Emigrant Society, at which your Committee was requested to attend; and as that Society was in possession of no funds, they acceded to an offer made by your Committee, who took upon themselves, but entirely as a sanitary measure, the charge of forwarding poor Emigrants. From that day to the close of the season, 4,152 poor Emigrants have been relieved by your Committee, of whom 3,783 have been forwarded towards their places of destination, and furnished with provisions for their journey, at its expense and under its control.

In the midst of circumstances so appalling, so unforeseen, and so totally unprovided for, which then spread desolation and death through the District of Montreal, did the individuals composing your Committee, though clothed with no legal power, and though furnished with no funds, feel the responsibility imposed upon them, and enter with promptitude upon the discharge of their obligations, for which preparations should of right have been previously made.

The acquisition of monies for carrying into effect the momentous objects of your Committee, with the celerity demanded by their imperative consequence, was the first thing to be considered; and in order that no interruption should at such a moment delay measures whose greatest, if not only advantage, depended upon their immediate execution, your Committee procured these monies by a loan upon the personal responsibility of its members.

The three Sheds at the St. Anne's Common were placed under the control of your Committee by the Corporation, who had taken possession of them. One was already occupied as a Cholera Hospital, under the superintendence of Doctors Beaubien and Monro, Physicians appointed by the Corporation, and the other two were occupied by Emigrants; but as the number of sick augmented it became necessary to convert another of these Sheds into a Convalescent Hospital, for the reception of those who were recovering from the violence of the disease. Beds, bedding,\* and every thing that was required or deemed necessary by the Physicians to place these two Hospitals upon a footing as respectable and commodious as their temporary intention could demand, was furnished by your Committee, who considered the maintenance of these Establish-

\* The bedding and other effects belonging to the Hospitals have been carefully cleansed and stored away, to be in readiness for service, should they again be required.

ments in an efficient condition to be of vital importance to the city generally.

Your Committee having been in almost hourly attendance at the Hospital, must bear testimony, that it is to the zeal, the humanity and the unwearied attention of the Physicians, and to the regular conduct, kindness and constant assiduity of the students of medicine employed under them, as well as to the judicious choice made by these Gentlemen of nurses of both sexes, that the Hospitals have been conducted in a manner to merit the approbation of the public, and that the sick have received all the consolation that religion or humanity could provide.\*

After every inquiry your Committee believes that the first cases of Asiatic Cholera that appeared in Montreal this season were those that were reported on the 11th, 12th and 13th of July, among passengers by the following vessels:—

Brig John,.....	200 tons, arrived at Quebec July 6, 49 days from Dublin,	216 passengers.
Bark Hawksbury, 410 tons, arrived at Quebec July 7, 46 days from Belfast,	417	do.
— Victory,.....	414 tons, arrived at Quebec July 9, 50 days from Hull,	227 do.
	<hr/> 1024 tons.	<hr/> 860 passengers.

The John appears to have been detained at Grosse Isle two days, and the Hawksbury and Victory one day. At Quebec the passengers by the three vessels became intermixed, and embarked together in the same steamboats for Montreal. There is no evidence of sickness on board of the Hawksbury or the Victory, but there were five deaths on board the John; and the first case admitted into the Cholera Hospital, namely, that on the 11th of July, was Anne Connor, a passenger by this brig, from the County of Meath, where the Cholera existed at the time of her departure.

The following is the complete return from the Registers of the Hospitals:—

Persons admitted into the Cholera Hospital during the season,	210
Dead, .....	132
Discharged to the Convalescent Hospital, .....	69
Discharged and sent to the Montreal General Hospital, .....	9
Natives of Ireland, .....	155
Do. of Scotland, .....	19
Do. of England, .....	17
Do. of Canada, .....	15
Do. of the United States, .....	3
Indians, .....	1
Males, .....	107
Females, .....	103
Catholics, .....	135
Protestants, .....	75

\* The attention of the Reverend Gentlemen of the Seminary to the sick was above all praise.

Of the persons not of Canadian origin, a majority were Emigrants of the present season, of whom the greatest number were admitted into the Hospital shortly after their being landed in the city. It is also to be noticed that most of these cases, whether from the steamboats or from the city, were of a grave character, many of them being admitted in a dying state.

It is worthy of remark that the arrival of a steamboat from Quebec much encumbered with passengers always occasioned a number of new cases, although a proportion were from among persons already resident in the city, and these cases nearly always proved the most grave in their first approaches, and most fatal in their result. A law which should hereafter limit the number of passengers by steamboats during the hot season, would be, in the opinion of your Committee, an advantageous enactment.

Your Committee has not confined its operations to the City of Montreal. It considered it important that Sanitary Committees should be established along the principal line of emigration; in consequence of which it established sub-sanitary committees at the Cascades, the Cedres and at Coteau-du-Lac, or rather one sub-sanitary committee for these three places; and it has also kept itself in communication with the sanitary committee of Lachine. The disbursements of these committees have been paid by your Committee, with the exception of a small sum raised by the inhabitants of Lachine.—*See Appendix.*

By combining two departments that may at first sight appear distinct, but which by peculiar circumstances were found to be intimately connected, your Committee has had occasion to inquire into and to collect much valuable information relative to the emigration from the mother country, particularly with reference to its connection with a pestilence that has twice ravaged the Canadas, and to become intimately acquainted with the real condition and resources of thousands of suffering human beings.

Common avarice, and the desire of gain prevailing over every other consideration, has led many captains, owners, and agents of worthless old vessels, more particularly in the seaport towns of Ireland, into a most horrible traffic in human life, that should be immediately arrested by the urgent voice of humanity and the strong hand of power. In the endeavour to make a profitable voyage, by the embarkation of the greatest number of passengers, no expedient for deception appears to them too shameful—and the old hulk is announced to sail on a certain day, with a penalty of loss of passage to such as have paid, and are not in readiness, by an advertisement

which transforms her into a fine fast sailing first class ship of double her real register measurement.\*

The poor, who in many parts of Ireland possibly find little in their present condition or future prospects, to bind them to the place of their nativity, and who frequently know little of the nature of a sea voyage, seize upon these opportunities of cheap conveyance and promise of extensive accommodations, to expatriate themselves and join the friends, who report informs them, have risen to a superior station in the land of their adoption. They are assured that it is only necessary to provide the price of a passage and six weeks' provisions, because the vessel never made a longer voyage, and that when once landed in Quebec, if other means fail, there are societies for the express purpose of forwarding them to their places of destination. The day fixed for the vessel's departure arrives, and the unfortunate emigrant comes with his family from the interior, to be in readiness to embark; but the number of passengers engaged is perhaps not sufficient to satisfy the cupidity of the agent of the vessel, or others concerned. Her departure is sometimes delayed for weeks, during all which time the poor emigrant is obliged to subsist upon his sea-stores, happy if the temptations to extravagance and expense so common in sea-port towns, do not lead him to dissipate the little pecuniary means that are still left to him.

At last the vessel sails. The passage by these ill-found slow sailers, is frequently seven, eight, nine, or even more weeks; and the unlucky emigrant, who finds himself out of provisions, is forced to buy at a high price from the captain; but too often his means are so limited, that he can only procure for himself and his family what is absolutely necessary to prevent their dying of hunger.† They then become feeble from exhaustion, and being forced to remain in a place crowded with passengers, and encumbered by berths, in an atmosphere poisonous and corrupted, they are inevitably rendered liable to contract, to propagate, and to be sacrificed to any prevailing malady, whether indigenous to the country, or brought to it by themselves.‡

\* Brigs of about 200 tons are constantly advertised in large placards publicly posted as vessels of 500 tons, and ships of about 400 tons as vessels of from 800 to 1000 tons. Many of these leaky old ships make several feet of water on the passage, by which the provisions of the passengers have been in part destroyed.

† Complaints about the quality of water were very general. It was often bad, blue and unserviceable, owing probably to having been inconsiderately filled into foul casks. A deficiency of quantity on board often compelled the people to use the river water where it was brackish and unwholesome. The allowance to children is far too small. Mothers were frequently seen going from berth to berth occupied by grown people to beg a little to stop the cries of their families.

‡ A great number of deaths occur on board of Emigrant vessels on their pas-

Without entering into the detail of stating the precise number that may have been crowded in any one particular vessel, it is a constant occurrence that the number of passengers exceeds much that which should be allowed to the vessel, according to her register, or to a regard to the health, the convenience, or the comfort of these passengers.\*

Fifteen years ago, when imperative circumstances compelled the United States to take this subject into consideration, a law was passed limiting the number of passengers by each vessel to two for every five tons, and providing also for their sustenance.† The effect of this simple law has been such that we never hear of suffering or misery among the emigrants who disembark at the American ports, while the emaciated condition of thousands who land upon our shores, especially the women and children, must, to all who are acquainted with the robust constitution of the natives of the British Isles, be daily evidence of the hardships to which they have been subjected.

So great is the amount of tonnage now employed in the Canada trade, that though the number of passengers was even limited to one for every six tons, there would still be sufficient to transport a greater number of emigrants than have arrived at Quebec in either of the two past years.

If we consider that the present unrestrained system of emigration will have the effect of turning from the route of the St. Lawrence every emigrant in easy circumstances, who will carry to a neighbouring country the capital and the enterprise that would make

sage; but they are principally old people and children, who are least capable of enduring the sufferings to which all are subjected. A dialogue like the following occurred daily at the Emigrant Office:—"Was there sickness on board of your vessel?" "None."—"Any deaths?" "No, none."—"No DEATHS!" "Oh *only* two old people and some little children."

\* The *Thomas Gelstone*, from Londonderry, and *Stirling Castle*, from Islay, are specimens; the former a ship of 440 tons, and nearly 500 passengers; the latter of 340 tons and 368 passengers. Both these vessels had berths down the centre, with a passage between of only two or three feet. Whole families of eight or ten souls were lodged in a berth, where they were obliged to eat, having no room elsewhere. The stench and foul air were described as intolerable. A great number of deaths occurred among the passengers by these vessels before they reached Upper Canada. Like passengers from a crowded steamboat they seldom survived an attack of cholera.

† By the American Law the ship is compelled under heavy penalties to have on board, over and above what may be provided by the passengers, one hundred pounds of salted provisions, one hundred pounds of ship bread, sixty gallons of water, and one gallon of vinegar for each and every passenger. The number of passengers is also restricted under heavy penalties to two for every five tons of measurement.

even his transit through the province a source of profit to ourselves : If we consider that this route is the most direct from the British Isles to the centre of the American Continent ; that it is annually becoming more economical and more expeditious by means of improvements in internal navigation ; and that it must continue to be advantageous so long as the forests and the fields of Canada continue to furnish valuable return cargoes to an immense quantity of British Shipping, it becomes an object of high importance to secure to ourselves the advantages that can be derived from emigration, without exposing ourselves to its disastrous abuses.

In the opinion of your Committee, a simple law for regulating the number of passengers that each vessel should be allowed to bring, and for compelling the ship to provide a full allowance of provisions, would produce the desired effect ; and this law rigorously enforced, might also determine a point at present much controverted in this country, namely, whether Emigration is or is not the first cause and promoter of an Epidemic that has in the years 1832 and 1834, (1833 having been the only season during which the Emigrant Tax was in full operation,)\* carried off nearly one-tenth of the population of this province ; that has impeded, and in a measure, destroyed our internal trade ; that has depreciated the value of all fixed property ;--and that would, by its recurrence, prove the total ruin of commercial transactions ; or at least so impair the necessary confidence between merchant and merchant, that men of capital or prudence would scarcely venture to embark in extensive operations.

Leaving aside, then, all questions respecting the communicability of Cholera, and all disputes between conflicting writers, who, without knowledge of general facts, endeavour to build up theories upon the evidence of isolated individual cases that may by chance have come under their observation, the single well established fact, that it has in both its visitations to this part of the Continent, attended every line of emigration, while all places to which Emigration has not been directed, have been comparatively free from its attacks, proves the urgent importance of restrictive regulations.

The advantages of an Emigration which brings capital, enterprise and industry to a new country abounding in vacant land, and deficient in labourers, has been too generally admitted to be any where questioned ; but your Committee must nevertheless remark, that

\* The Emigrant Tax of five shillings a head was generally paid this year by the Emigrants to the agents of the vessels, and but very few got any thing back again, although they discovered, on landing in Canada, that it was not demanded of the Captain.

the ill-directed Emigration to Lower Canada is not always of this advantageous character. There is too much reason for believing that the affluent,\* to rid themselves of needy dependants, and parishes to rid themselves of superabundant paupers,† have, with an unfeeling indifference exceedingly to be deprecated, sent paupers, widows and even orphans, to be landed destitute upon our shores, whereby they have iniquitously, or at least inconsiderately, thrown upon the sympathy of his Majesty's subjects in Lower Canada, a charge that the law of nature and the laws of their own country compelled them to support. Of 153,000 Emigrants who have landed in Quebec since 1831, more than 30,000, or one-fifth of the whole, have applied for assistance out of public funds at the Emigrant Office in this city alone, while a more direct tax, most enormous in amount, is daily levied by the constant demands upon private charity.

Every institution in this country, however praiseworthy may be the motive, that tends directly or indirectly to induce this last description of emigration, should, for the general benefit of the province, cease its operations; and your Committee, without hesitation, strongly recommend, that except in unforeseen cases, our citizens should be prevailed upon hereafter neither to form such societies, or to contribute to them, from a certainty that they have thus far proved an enticement to beggary from abroad, and an encouragement for it here.

The appointment of Emigrant Agents both in the United Kingdom and in this Province, appears to have been productive of little benefit, either from the want of authority, the want of industry, or the want of capacity of the persons so appointed, while their salaries might have been devoted to better purposes.

While your Committee were occupied in forwarding the greatest number of indigent emigrants—when the epidemic was raging with its utmost fury—they only learned in the public papers of the arrival in this city of him who styles himself “His Majesty's Chief

\* To instance a case. Kearny Fitzpatrick, with his wife, seven children, his nephew, and his niece, eleven in all, just landed from the steamboat, were sitting on a log near the Canal, not knowing what to do with themselves, when they were recognized by a Gentleman who had just arrived in the Kelsic Wood, from Liverpool. This Gentleman had seen the whole family sitting by the road side in Queen's County, Ireland, about three months previous, in an equally hopeless condition, and corroborated their story. Fitzpatrick had been turned out of his land by Lady Ossory and her agent, to be relieved from the charge of such a large family, sent them to Dublin, and paid twelve pounds for their passage to Quebec, assuring them that they would find immediate support on landing.

† Instances came to the knowledge of the Committee of pauper lads coming out with families that applied for relief, the head of the family having received from three to five pounds each from the parish for bringing them.

Agent for Emigrants;" but they have never had the honour of seeing him at the Emigrant Office, nor have they had the advantage of knowing, or of hearing, what services he may have rendered to distressed Emigrants.

The Quarantine Station at Grosse Isle is another subject to which your Committee is desirous of directing your attention. Without wishing to attribute or to attach blame to any person in particular, your Committee considers it a duty to express their conviction that this Establishment has been in reality not a safeguard against the epidemic, but on the contrary its fosterer and propagator. Whether the law is defective or too imperative, or whether its execution has been confided to inefficient hands, are questions upon which your Committee do not decide; but they must observe, upon authentic information, that too many of the vessels arriving at the Island in perfect health, lost a number of passengers by the prevailing epidemic during the time of their detention.\* The sheds erected there do not in size or structure appear to have been intended for the protection of human beings. Indeed, the Emigrant possessed of self-respect, often preferred remaining on the bare rock, exposed to the inclemency of the weather, rather than sleep among the congregated hundreds under the sheds, lest he should thereby hasten the approach of a disease, that was hurrying, on every side, his fellow-passengers to eternity.

The detention of passengers for several weeks, when sickness has appeared among them, may have been prudent and commendable; but the prices of provisions at the Island appear to have exceeded the usual price in our markets to a degree that should not have been permitted; inasmuch as the detention of individuals was a forcible detention adopted with a view to preventing the introduction of disease into the country, and therefore the Station should not have been converted into a field of monopoly and unwarrantable speculation.

Your Committee are compelled to remark, that they have been under the necessity of assisting many families, who, but for their

\* As examples, the William, Herdsman, with 300 or more passengers, was several days at Quarantine before sickness appeared among them. She was then detained about a month, during which time 40 or 50 died. From the Conference, ordered back after leaving the Island, 19 died. The passengers of the Aurelia, about 350 in number, were also ordered back, after having been discharged from Quarantine and confined in a shed, imprisoned by the river on one side and by bayonets on the other. From this BLACK HOLE a daily draft was made for the Hospital, until from 70 to 100 had disappeared. Scarce one entire family appears to have escaped. Several families presented themselves at the Emigrant Office who had lost four or five of their members. The Ant detained by accident. To use the language of a passenger: "*They were sent convenient to the Hospital to see if any of them would take the sickness.*"

long detention at Grosse Isle, and consequent expenditure of means, would have required no relief in passing through the province.\*

Preparations at Grosse Isle appear to have been made only for the detention of the ordinary crews of merchant vessels. It should have been remembered at the opening of the navigation that the St. Lawrence is the great thoroughfare of Emigration, and a consequent knowledge of the thousands that would, of a certainty, land in the months of June and July, should have caused the preparation of extensive accommodations, and of an abundance of cheap provisions, that would have protected the healthy from exposure, and the indigent from starvation, especially as the detained were to pass perhaps several hundred miles through the country after their release, and would carry the effects of confinement, privation and ill treatment through the whole country.

Whether the Quarantine Act now in force has been properly executed or not, your Committee is of opinion that it should be revised, and that an investigation should be instituted upon its execution at Grosse Isle during the present season. This revision and investigation would give the Legislature of this Province an opportunity of basing a Quarantine Law upon practical experience.

A new Quarantine Act, with a law fixing the number of passengers in vessels from beyond sea, in the manner already recommended, would prove measures of great advantage to the province and adjacent countries. The provisions of this law should extend to the whole province. The establishment of a *dépôt* below Quebec, where steamboats could go and take passengers; and the establishment of another *dépôt* among the islands below this city, that your Committee have visited and made the subject of mature deliberation, where Emigrants who do not intend remaining in Lower Canada might debark and re-embark in boats direct for Upper Canada, without landing in Montreal, or accumulating in low taverns, adding to the dangers of contagion during the heat of summer, would be, in the opinion of your Committee, not only advantageous to the cities and province, but to the Emigrants themselves. The fatal effects that have frequently occurred from crowding the boats and barges employed in the navigation to Upper Canada, may require some regulations for limiting the number of passengers.

In an incorporated city, the existence of a Sanitary Committee without authority is a complete anomaly. If this Committee does

\* Some were compelled to sell their clothes, even to coat and shoes, to enable them to purchase provisions. The clothes of many were seized by the Captains of the Steamboats for the fare from Quebec; but they were generally delivered back when it was discovered that the people were really penniless. Whole families, for want of money, walked from Quebec, at a time when competition had reduced the fare by steamboat to two shillings and sixpence.

nothing it is useless. If it is active, this very activity tends to render the Corporation less respected, if not ridiculous. A Corporation, to exist at all, should be invested with all the powers relative to sanitary measures that are usually intrusted to city corporations, in order that the responsibility, in times of emergency like that of the past season, may fall upon constituted authorities, and not upon five individuals, hastily appointed.

Your Committee, before closing their Report, would fail in duty if they did not acknowledge their polite reception by the Hon. P. M'GILL, President of the Bank of Montreal, who before your Committee procured the funds that have been at its disposal, made answer to their personal application, that the Bank would readily advance the amount required. Your Committee also acknowledge the receipt of £130 4 11, from the Bank of Montreal, being the balance of a sum generously voted by the Bank for charitable purposes in 1832.

Your Committee having in the discharge of their various duties been obliged to put themselves in frequent communication with the local authorities, acknowledge with pleasure the alacrity and efficiency with which assistance has been rendered by these authorities whenever it has been required.

The whole, nevertheless, submitted.

F. SOULIGNY,  
T. S. BROWN,  
TOUSSAINT PELTIER,  
FRANCOIS DESAUTELS,  
JAMES DUNCAN GIBB.

MONTREAL, December 15th, 1834.



## APPENDIX.

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The following Correspondence resulted from a Memorandum detailing the condition of the City of Montreal, and of the Emigrants then arriving, which was handed to the Hon. P. M'GILL, by the Special Sanitary Committee at the moment of commencing their operations :—

MONTREAL, 18th *July*, 1834.

SIR,

Considering it of great importance that the Government of Upper Canada should be made acquainted with the true state of things here, as regards the public health, I beg to enclose a hasty but well founded Memorandum for his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor's information. I have further to add, that the City Corporation, and other Public Bodies, are subscribing and borrowing money for the purpose of forwarding all the destitute Emigrants on to your Province, and I regret to say that the number of such this season is very considerable. If means of transport and some provisions are not afforded them on their arrival at Prescott, their sufferings will be great and disease may be extended.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your very obedient,

(Signed) PETER M'GILL.

Lt. Col. Rowan, Toronto, U. C.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

TORONTO, 23d *July*, 1834.

SIR,

I have the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, and to transmit to you a copy of a communication which has been made to the Agent for Emigrants at Prescott, by which you will perceive that preparations have been authorized for the reception of Emigrants that may arrive at that Port.

I have also to acquaint you, by the desire of the Lieutenant Governor, that with reference to these arrangements for the reception of Emigrants, and for directing them to the Districts where they may find employment, you may continue to encourage any number of Emigrants arriving at Montreal during the season to pursue their journey to the Upper Province.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) WILLIAM ROWAN.

To Hon. P. M'Gill, Montreal.

(COPY.)

EMIGRANT OFFICE,

TORONTO, 23d July, 1834.

SIR,

I am directed by the Lieutenant Governor to acquaint you, that in consequence of the great number of Emigrants that will probably arrive at Prescott during this week, every exertion must be used on your part in providing for the accommodation of Emigrants in cases of sickness, and for their removal to the Emigrant Hospital, and also in making arrangements for the immediate departure of all indigent Emigrants, who cannot find employment in your neighbourhood. You were, in my letter of yesterday, informed of the mode which is to be followed in regulating the Emigrant Hospital at Brockville, and that a stated daily allowance will be authorised for each patient admitted into the Hospital.

You will make a similar communication to the Board of Health at both Brockville and Prescott, that his Excellency will authorize the payment of any reasonable expense which may be incurred in supplying the Emigrant Hospitals with such articles as the Board of Health may recommend. In all cases where Emigrants are forwarded at the expense of the Government, you will grant an order for their conveyance similar in form to those which I sent you on the 21st instant, and send me a weekly list of the names of the parties forwarded by you, and also their destination.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. B. HAWKE.

John Patton, Esquire, Prescott.

EMIGRANT OFFICE,

TORONTO, 9th September, 1834.

SIR,

Mr. PATTON having sent to me a copy of your Letter addressed to him on the 27th ultimo, and also of his answer to the same on the 30th following, I thought it my duty to submit both for the information of the Lieutenant Governor, and I am directed by his Excellency to address a few observations for the consideration of the Committee relative to the Correspondence in question.

It appears that your Letter to Mr. PATTON was written in consequence of a communication from "Mr. J. C. BUCHANAN, addressed to the Secretary of the Emigrant Charitable Society," of Montreal, complaining of the misapplication of their funds, and of the sufferings which he witnessed among the Emigrants, during his recent journey down the St. Lawrence, and more particularly at Brockville; and you express your surprise "that after the letter received from Lieut. Colonel ROWAN, any Emigrants have been allowed to be in distress, either in Brockville or Prescott, as you conceive the instructions transmitted applied to both places."

In order to shew that the Government of Upper Canada have done all in their power when apprised of the existence of distress amongst the Emigrants to afford prompt relief, I beg to state, that on the first intimation that the Cholera had made its appearance, tickets for free passages were sent from this Office to Mr. PATTON, to be given to those Emigrants who stood most in need of them; and that on the 22d July, Mr. PATTON was ordered to proceed to Brockville for the purpose of making such arrangements for the preservation of the health of the Emigrants as circumstances required. Full authority was given to provide medi-

cal assistance and comforts for the sick, and to forward the indigent to Toronto, where they would be provided with work.

On the 23d, the day following, Mr. PATTON was apprised that a great number of Emigrants would probably arrive at Prescott during that week from Montreal, and he was again required to afford every assistance to the sick, and to make arrangements for the immediate departure of all indigent Emigrants who could not find employment in his neighbourhood.

On referring to Mr. PATTON's Letters, I do not find a single complaint as to the existence of any distress occasioned by the want of means for its relief. On the 25th July, Mr. PATTON applied for, and obtained authority to purchase a small quantity of provisions for the use of Emigrants who expected to obtain employment in a few days on the St. Lawrence; and on the 27th of the same month, he stated his intention of hiring a building for the use of the Emigrants at Brockville, in a more convenient and healthy situation, which was also immediately sanctioned by his Excellency.

The Committee will perceive that these instructions were sent to Mr. PATTON between the 19th and 23d July; and it appears Mr. BUCHANAN visited Prescott the latter part of August, consequently, if distress existed in either Brockville or Prescott, at the period of his visit, it cannot be attributed to any want of attention on the part of the Government of this Province.

It will, I am confident, give the Committee much pleasure to learn, that notwithstanding the prevalence of the Asiatic Cholera, the emigrant population of this season who required employment and assistance, have so far succeeded in obtaining both; and that although this Province has already received an addition to its population of nearly 30,000 settlers, they have been so completely absorbed, that a stranger travelling through the country would scarcely be sensible of an increase.

I am also desired by his Excellency to convey the expression of his thanks to the Sanitary Committee for their benevolent exertions in behalf of the Emigrants during the present trying season, and for having sent so many valuable labourers to this Province; and to assure the Committee, that he will continue to urge the Agents stationed at all the Ports where Emigrants are necessarily detained, to give them every assistance to enable them to reach their respective destinations with as little delay and exposure as circumstances will admit of.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

A. B. HAWKE.

T. S. BROWN, Esq. Honorary Secretary,  
Sanitary Committee, Montreal.

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The following is the reply of the Corresponding Secretary of the Emigrant Society to a Note requesting information upon the nature of Mr. BUCHANAN's appointment as "His Majesty's Chief Agent for Emigrants."

MONTREAL, 1st September, 1834.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Communication of Saturday last, and beg to say in reply, that I am not informed of the nature of the

appointment of Mr. BUCHANAN, as "H. M. Chief Agent," nor am I aware that the Montreal Emigrant Society have ever received any advice or assistance from him, beyond what may be contained in the enclosed communication,\* which I must beg the favour of you to return to me.

I have the honour to be Sir, your obedient Servant,

JOHN BETHUNE,  
Cor. Sec. M. E. S.

T. S. BROWN, Esq. Hon. Sec. M. S. C. &c. &c. &c.

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MONTREAL EMIGRANT SOCIETY'S OFFICE,

18th September, 1834.

SIR,

I am desired by the Emigrant Society to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 12th instant, enclosing a resolution of the Special Committee of the Montreal Sanitary Committee, expressive of its determination to discontinue the forwarding of destitute Emigrants from that period.

I am further desired by the Emigrant Society to communicate to you the following Resolve passed at a meeting held this day :—

"Resolved—That as the Emigrant Society is wholly destitute of funds, and as an appeal to the public at this time, when there are such great and pressing demands upon its charity for the maintenance of widows and orphans, must be nearly hopeless; and as there are still cases of Cholera of almost daily occurrence in town; and as from the past experience of this Society, more Emigrants may be expected to arrive in the course of the end of this, and the beginning of the next month, whose immediate removal may be considered essential to the preservation of the public health—the Sanitary Committee be solicited (with our warmest thanks for their past exertions) to have the kindness to continue to forward destitute Emigrants until the close of this season of navigation."

I have the honour to be Sir, your most obedient Servant,

JOHN BETHUNE,  
Cor. Sec. M. E. S.

T. Peltier, Esq. Sec. Special Committee M. S. C. &c. &c. &c.

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SANITARY COMMITTEE, }  
AUGUST 23, 1834. }

The undersigned Committee appointed on the 13th instant "to call upon the Agents of the different Steamboats to endeavour to make some arrangement regarding the number of passengers to be brought up by each according to the size or tonnage of the Boats, and to report their answer at the next meeting of this Committee"—Report as follows :

\* A Letter informing that he *could not* obtain a return of the Emigrant Tax from two vessels therein mentioned.

That from the complaints made by the citizens in consequence of the Steamboats from Quebec being often over-crowded with emigrant passengers, occasioning sickness on board, and endangering the health of the city on their arrival here, your Committee endeavoured to ascertain what would be a fair proportion of passengers according to the size of the Boats; but the sizes were so various that they could not come to a conclusion satisfactory to the owners.

They were, therefore, led to the principle of tonnage, and drew two Schedules, the one for four passengers for every six tons, and the other four passengers for every five tons; the latter being considered by your Committee as a sufficient limitation to the number of passengers by each trip, was submitted to the Agents of the Steamboats, and agreed to by some of them as follows:—

TONNAGE OF STEAMBOATS NAVIGATING BETWEEN QUEBEC AND MONTREAL

NAMES.	Tonnage, not including machinery.	4 Passengers to every 6 tons.	4 passengers to every 5 tons.
John Bull,.....	734 tons,.....	489 passengers.....	587 passengers.
Canada,.....	604 — .....	402 — .....	482 —
St. George .....	506 — .....	337 — .....	404 —
British America,.....	480 — .....	320 — .....	384 —
Voyageur .....	344 — .....	229 — .....	275 —
Canadian Eagle,.....	311 — .....	207 — .....	248 —
Hercules,.....	278 — .....	185 — .....	219 —
St. Lawrence, .....	246 — .....	164 — .....	196 —
John Molson,.....	234 — .....	156 — .....	187 —
Canadian Patriot,.....	197 — .....	131 — .....	157 —
Lady of the Lake,....	93 — .....	62 — .....	74 —

(COPY.)

“ We, the undersigned, Owners and Agents of Steamboats, having taken into consideration the proposal of the Sanitary Committee for an arrangement respecting the number of passengers to be brought up at each trip from Quebec to Montreal, do hereby promise to limit them for the remainder of the season by the Boats under our management respectively to the proportion of four passengers for every five tons register measurement.”

Montreal, 22d August, 1834.

(Signed) JNO. MOLSON & SONS,  
*Agents for the St. Lawrence Steamboat Company.*

(Signed) JOHN TORRANCE & CO.  
*Agents for the Montreal Tow Boat Company.*

(Signed) WILLIAM SPIERS,  
*Agent for the Canadian Eagle and Lady of the Lake.*

Mr. PHILLIPS on behalf of the Canadian Patriot, declined acceding to the arrangement—giving his reasons thus:—

“ The Patriot will allow as many superficial feet on deck for each passenger as the Eagle, to take passengers in that proportion, the tonnage not being in fair proportion as regards the Patriot, none of her upper deck being devoted to cabin passengers. Or, The Patriot will be willing to limit her number of passengers to the same as the Eagle has agreed to.”

Your Committee again met the Agents who had signed the Agreement. They declared themselves willing to enter into any arrangement as to the number of passengers to be regulated by tonnage, which your Committee would recommend as being requisite for the public health, provided it would be acted upon by all the Boats; but they would not agree to give any particular Boat an advantage beyond the others.

In adverting to Mr. Phillips' reply, your Committee are informed that the accommodation for emigrant passengers on board the Patriot are not so extensive as those of the Eagle, although the former has no cabin on deck; that the Eagle has the advantage of about fifty large berths, each four feet wide, in the forecabin, which will accommodate 150 persons, and the forecabin is spacious; while the Patriot has only a small steerage nearly similar to that of the Lady of the Lake, scarcely more than requisite for her firewood, and so hot from the boilers being below as to be very unhealthy to the passengers. These two boats not being in port, your Committee can make no reference in their report on the comparative advantages which Mr. Phillips stated the Patriot to possess.

Your Committee regret to state that as all the Agents of Boats have not agreed to the proposed arrangement, the agreement signed by some of them is, according to previous understanding, to be considered void.

Montreal, 23d August, 1834.

JAMES CARSUELL,  
JAMES DUNCAN GIBB.

Felix Souigny, Esquire,  
Chairman of the Special Sanitary Committee, }  
Montreal.

The following Affidavit is published from the circumstance of its having been known in Montreal long before the arrival of the Sisters, that an unseaworthy vessel of that name had been laid on for passengers at Londonderry:--

DISTRICT OF MONTREAL, ss.

Personally appeared before me, Adam L. Macnider, Esq., one of his Majesty's Justices appointed to keep the Peace for the District of Montreal, DOMINICK M'DEVOY, of the Parish of Kilmacrennan, County of Donegall, Ireland, who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, deposeth and saith, That the Deponent and his two brothers paid to Mr. Cook, Ship Agent of Londonderry, the sum of forty shillings each for their passage by the brig Sisters, Captain Dryden, bound from that port to Quebec.

That the brig sailed from Londonderry about the 11th of June with about ninety passengers, and that after being five days at sea, she sprung a leak of such a dangerous nature, that notwithstanding every exertion there remained about four feet of water in the hold. The passengers, both men and women, were compelled to assist the crew in keeping the vessel clear. Upon this the crew refused to work unless the Captain put the ship about, and some of them were crying on account of the danger.

The crew also counselled the passengers to tie the Captain, saying that they would then take the vessel back to Ireland. After this the Captain was compelled to put about, and she arrived in Londonderry after being about nine days out, when she was put upon the stocks for repairs. The brig then remained in port

until the 30th of June, when she sailed with twenty-two passengers, the remainder being afraid to re-embark, although they forfeited their passage money. The passengers were also afraid of the Captain on account of his quarrelsome disposition. One family took passage for Philadelphia. All the crew of the Sisters left her, except the mate, the cook, and one apprentice.

(Signed) DOMINICK M'DEVOT.

Sworn before me,  
this 1st day of September, 1834. }  
ADAM L. MACNIDER, J. P.

### SANITARY COMMITTEE,

SOULANGES, 25th August, 1834.

SIR

On behalf of the Sanitary Committee of Soulanges, I have the honour of transmitting the Return of Cholera Cases to this date; also an account of expenses incurred for attendance, &c.

It has been observed with respect to the resident population here that the disease has been principally confined to persons in indigent circumstances; and that almost in every case the cause has been traced to some previous indiscretion or imprudence on the part of the individual; and that, therefore, this part of the country, considering that the bulk of the population is of the labouring class, has, happily, been very healthy, especially during the season of field labour.

With respect to the Emigrants, the ascertained causes are chiefly owing to the fatigue undergone by those in impaired health, or of weakly constitutions, being allowed to walk from the Cascades in a state of exhaustion, and the crowded state of some of the boats, and consequent want of accommodation at night, which obliges the Emigrant to sleep in the open air, and, usually on the bare ground, particularly since the barns are filled with the harvest.

The Committee cannot pass over in silence the indefatigable exertions, at all seasons, of the Medical Attendant, Doctor M'NABB, and they have to bear equal testimony to the repetition of that zeal and assiduity of the Reverend Mr. Blanchet, which he so conspicuously evinced on a former melancholy occasion. Mr. Lowthian deserves also much praise for the readiness with which he gave up his farm-house at Pointe-a-Biron, (a very eligible situation) for the purposes of an Hospital, as also for his having freely permitted that those who died there might be interred on his adjoining premises.

The Committee trusts that the accounts of the various expenses attending the treatment of the sick, thus far, considering the number of cases, will not be received as unreasonable; at all events, I have to offer the assurances of the Committee that the injunction of economy has been strictly adhered to.

The Report has been made up to this date, from the circumstance that the disease has been materially arrested, and in the hope that the subsequent cases may not be more numerous than can be met by individual subscriptions; but if otherwise, (which may Providence avert!) they trust to their obtaining an extension of that pecuniary assistance which the Sanitary Committee of Montreal has already so generously held out to them.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) ETNE. ROY, PRESIDENT.

To F. Souigny, Esquire, Chairman of the  
Special Sanitary Committee, Montreal.

*Return of the number of Cholera Cases at Soulanges, from the 17th July (the first case) to 24th August, 1834.*

Cases of Cholera, .....	27
Deaths,.....	14
Recovered and Convalescent, .....	13

Ten of these were Emigrants put on shore at the Cedars on the 6th and 11th of August, from two boats in a very crowded state, on their voyage upwards.

Soulanges, August 24, 1834.

(Signed) JOHN M'NABB,  
MEDICAL ATTENDANT.

At a Meeting held at Lachine, on Monday evening the 27th October, 1834,

- 1—Resolved, That in consequence of verbal intimation from the Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. HAYES, of a desire expressed by the Sanitary Committee in Montreal, to defray the expenses incurred this season by the Emigrant and Sanitary Society of Lachine—That the Secretary and Treasurer be authorised and requested to prepare a detailed Statement of those expenses, and to transmit the same or Balance thereof unpaid to the Sanitary Committee in Montreal.
- 2—Resolved, That Doctor Anderson, having at the special desire of the Society, attended professionally during a period of two months, commencing on the 14th July last, on indigent Emigrants at the Shed and Hospital, &c. he is entitled to liberal compensation for said services.
- 3—Resolved, That his case be respectfully recommended to the favourable consideration of the Sanitary Committee in Montreal.
- 4—Resolved, That the Secretary and Treasurer be instructed to transmit a copy of the foregoing Resolutions to the Sanitary Committee in Montreal, accompanied by a request that said Committee will be pleased to take early communication on the subject, and to favour this Society with their decision thereon.
- 5—Resolved, That this Meeting do adjourn.

Signed by order.

JOHN HAYES,  
SECRETARY AND TREASURER.

*Return of the Cholera Hospital, Lachine, from July 14 to September 18, 1834.*

Number of Cholera Patients admitted into the Hospital,.....	34
Died,.....	22
Recovered and discharged,.....	12

Lachine, 27th October, 1834.

JNO. ANDERSON,  
ATTENDING PHYSICIAN.

*Return of the total number of Interments at the Catholic and Protestant Burying Grounds, and at the Common, from the 12th of July, (the day on which the first death from Cholera took place) to the 29th of August, being a period of seven weeks, showing the total of each week, and distinguishing between Children and Adults, and between deaths from Cholera and from other diseases.*

1834.	Children.	Adults.	Tot.	Chol.	Other Dis.	1834.	Children.	Adults.	Tot.	Chol.	other Dis.
FIRST WEEK.						FIFTH WEEK.					
July 12...	0	1	1	1	0	August 9...	8	21	29	24	5
13...	0	2	2	1	1	10...	10	19	29	21	8
14...	6	13	19	0	10	11...	23	27	40	30	10
15...	6	7	13	6	7	12...	13	21	34	23	11
16...	7	16	23	17	6	13...	6	16	22	17	5
17...	7	14	21	13	8	14...	10	23	33	24	9
18...	11	11	22	13	9	15...	8	11	19	11	8
Total	37	64	101	60	41	Total	68	138	206	150	56
SECOND WEEK.						SIXTH WEEK.					
July 19...	11	16	27	19	8	August 16...	6	19	25	18	7
20...	6	11	17	14	3	17...	11	6	17	10	7
21...	10	15	25	17	8	18...	7	7	14	6	8
22...	13	23	36	19	17	19...	9	10	19	7	12
23...	13	19	29	17	12	20...	9	4	13	3	10
24...	6	13	19	17	2	21...	8	4	12	2	10
25...	13	11	24	15	9	22...	3	7	10	5	5
Total	72	105	177	118	59	Total	53	57	110	51	59
THIRD WEEK.						SEVENTH WEEK.					
July 26...	27	29	56	49	7	August 23...	9	10	19	9	10
27...	13	37	50	42	8	24...	1	1	2	1	1*
28...	20	33	53	42	6	25...	8	10	18	8	10
29...	24	24	48	35	13	26...	2	6	8	5	3†
30...	15	27	42	30	12	27...	6	6	12	5	7
31...	20	30	50	33	17	28...	5	8	13	5	8
August 1...	21	25	46	22	24	29...	3	2	5	0	5‡
Total	140	205	345	258	87	Total	34	43	77	32	44
FOURTH WEEK.						Grand Total for 7 weeks or 49 days.					
August 2...	15	43	58	38	20	513 814 1327 882 445					
3...	13	24	37	26	11						
4...	17	19	36	19	17						
5...	24	25	49	29	20						
6...	13	22	35	25	10						
7...	18	36	54	40	14						
8...	9	33	42	35	7						
Total	109	202	311	212	99						

\* No burials at the Catholic Ground.  
† No burials at the Protestant Ground.  
‡ No CHOLERA CASES!

The above Table has been carefully revised and corrected.

Common Council Hall, Montreal, August 29, 1834.

J. VIGER, MAYOR.

The above Table shows a mortality of 1327 persons in seven weeks, in the city of Montreal, containing a population of about 30,000 inhabitants.

# Emigrants Forwarded from Montreal by the Sanitary Committee in the Year 1834.

FROM JULY 18th TO THE CLOSE OF NAVIGATION.

WHERE SENT.	NUMBER OF SOULS.						NUMBER OF PASSENGERS.									
	Over 20 years.	Over 14 years.	Under 14 years.	Under 7 years.	Infants.	TOTAL.	Brockville and Prescott.	Cornwall and Glengary.	Chateauguay and Cedres.	Lachine.	Bytown and Lochaber.	Point Fortune & St. Andrews.	Laprairie.	TOTAL.		
Up the River St. Lawrence...	1506	522	383	736	299	3446	2161	294	4½	3	142	7	82	2464	149	82
— — — Ottawa,....	80	30	37	64	19	230	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
— to Laprairie,.....	44	28	7	23	5	107										
	1630	580	427	823	323	3783	2161	294	4½	3	142	7	82	2697	149	82

The above Passengers are estimated according to the British Passenger Act, viz:—

- 2 between 7 and 14 years of age equal to 1 passenger.
- 3 under 7 years,..... equal to 1 passenger.
- Infants,.....gratis.

THE END.



