

1832 Emigrants Handbook For Arrivals at Quebec

*Information Published by His Majesty's Chief Agent
For the Superintendence of Settlers and Emigrants in Upper and Lower Canada.
For The Use of Emigrants. (Gratis) Quebec:
Printed by Thomas Cary & Co.
Freemason's Hall, Buade Street
1832*

Information for Emigrants

There is nothing of more importance to Emigrants on arrival at Quebec, than correct information on the leading points, connected with their future pursuits. Many have suffered much by a want of caution, and by listening to the opinions of interested designing characters, who frequently offer their advice unsolicited, and who are met generally about wharves and landing places frequented by strangers. To guard Emigrants from falling into such errors--they should immediately on arrival at Quebec, proceed to the Office of the Chief Agent for Emigrants, in Sault-au-Matlot street, Lower Town, where every information requisite for their future guidance in either getting settlement on lands, or obtaining employment in Upper or Lower Canada, will be obtained (gratis.)

The following directions are of importance to the Emigrant arriving in Canada, and are addressed to him in the simplest language:--

Previous to disembarkation arrange your baggage in a small compass, the fewer packages the better, but have them well secured--old dirty clothing, large boxes, and other useless articles, are not worth the carriage. If you have any provisions left, such as oatmeal, potatoes, &c. You can sell them at Quebec at a profit, and avoid the expense of transport, and you can purchase baker's bread, butter, tea, sugar, and other necessaries more suited for your journey. All sorts of provisions, may be bought cheaper, and generally of a better quality, in Montreal and Upper Canada, than at Quebec.

Dress yourself in light clean clothing. Females frequently bring on sickness by being too warmly clothed. Cut your hair short, and wash daily and thoroughly. Avoid drinking ardent spirits of any kind, and when heated do not drink cold water. Eat moderately of light food. Avoid night dews. By attending to the preceding directions sickness will be prevented, with other serious inconveniences. When everything is ready for disembarkation, and, if the ship is lying at anchor in the river--take care in passing from the ship to the boat; avoid all haste, and see that your baggage is in the same conveyance with yourself, or left under the charge of some friend, with your name on it. If the ship hauls to the wharf to disembark, do not be in a hurry, but await the proper time of tide when the ship's deck will be on a line with the quay or wharf. Passengers are entitled by law to the privilege of remaining on board ship 48 hours after arrival; and it is unlawful for the Captain to deprive his Passengers of any of their usual accommodations for cooking or otherwise: you may therefore avoid the expense of lodgings, and make all your arrangements for prosecuting your journey, previous to disembarkation.

Should sickness overtake you, proceed immediately, or be removed to the Emigrant Hospital, in St. John's Suburbs, where you will be well taken care of, and provided with every thing needful until restored to health. Medicine and medical advice can also be had at the Dispensary attached to the Quebec Charitable Emigrant Society. This Society will grant relief to all destitute Emigrants. In Montreal there is a similar institution for the relief of Emigrants. It is particularly recommended to Emigrants not to loiter their valuable time at the port of landing; but to proceed to obtain settlement or employment. Many have regretted when too late that they did not pursue this course, and take advantage of the frequent opportunities that presented themselves for settlement in convenient situations[sic] in Upper or Lower Canada, instead of squandering their means and valuable time to looking after an imaginary Paradise in the aguish swamps of Illinois and Missouri, or other distant regions of the Western States. There is no portion of the American continent more congenial to the constitution or habits of Emigrants from the United Kingdom, or that offer a wider field, or surer reward for industry and good conduct, than the fertile districts of Upper Canada or Lower Canada.

Many Emigrants will find employment in the city of Quebec and its vicinity, as also in and about Montreal. Single men in particular are advised to embrace the offer; but Emigrants with large families had better proceed without delay, to Upper Canada, as hereafter directed--or, to situations in Lower Canada, particularly the Eastern Townships--and if they have sons and daughters grown up, they will find a sure demand for their services. Artificers, and Mechanics of all denominations, and farming Labourers, if sober and industrious, may be sure of doing well. Blacksmiths, particularly those acquainted with steam engine work, also good Mill-wrights, Masons and Sawyers, by machinery, are much wanted in the Canadas.

A great number of Labourers are employed on board ships, and about timber yards, during the summer months at Quebec and Montreal, who get from 3s. to 4s. 6d. a day, and generally found. The extravagant habits engendered in such occupations, are decidedly in favour of the labouring Emigrant proceeding immediately to the country.

Emigrants with families, and who are possessed of from £20 to £25, are advised to push immediately into the woods, in the vicinity of old settlements, where they can obtain provisions for their spare labour. (The difficulties, although great at first, soon subside, and much experience is the result; the cost of clearing wild lands, and making it ready for crop, is from 50s. to 70s. per acre, in Upper Canada and the Townships of Lower Canada.) To these I should say--select a favourable spot for your log house near a spring of water, or running stream, and where a cellar to keep your potatoes in winter can be dug under the house. (Carefully clear the timber and brush to a distance from your dwelling and out buildings, or in the event of fire in the woods, great risk is incurred of their being destroyed.) If you proceed to build houses and clear lands on a large scale on first arrival, it rarely succeeds so well, for the price of labour is so high, and the difficulty of getting persons to work, added to the great expense of providing food for increased numbers, until produced from your own land, ought in every instance to induce the strange Emigrant and family to proceed cautiously in laying out their money; but a crop of potatoes and fodder for a cow, is the first object, and this may be accomplished the first year, if you arrive early. The second you will be enabled to feed your family with the common necessaries of life, and the third year you may find yourself possessed of a yoke of oxen, a cow or two, and a year old calf, a couple of pigs, poultry, &c. Abundance of provisions for your family, and fodder for your cattle.

The Irish and Scotch peasantry know well how to value the economy of a milch cow; every new settler ought to strive to obtain one as soon as possible, taking care to provide a sufficiency of

fodder, for the long winter. Cattle require a little salt in the Canadas. It is not considered necessary to go farther into the details of the first settlement, as on all these points you will be guided by your own observation on the spot, and the advice you will get from the Local Agents and superintendents.

Great caution is necessary in all your transactions. When you stand in need of advice apply to the Government Agents, or other respectable sources. You will find many plans and schemes offered to your consideration, on your route from Quebec to your destination in Upper Canada; but turn away from them--unless you are well satisfied of the purity of the statements.

Should you require to change your English money, go to the Banks or some well known respectable person. The currency in the Canadas is at the rate of 5s. to the dollar, and is called *Halifax Currency*. The value of English gold, or silver, is regulated by the rate of Exchange on England, which fluctuates. At present the gold sovereign is worth 23s. 6d. to 24s. currency. In New York 8s. is calculated for the dollar; hence many are deceived when hearing of the rates of labour, &c.--5s. in Canada, is equal to 8s. in New York; thus, 8s. New York currency is equivalent to 5s. Halifax.

In Upper Canada, and in the Townships of Lower Canada, the tenure of Lands is "Free and Common Soccage," as in England. In the Seigneurial or French parts of Lower Canada, the feudal or French tenure is the custom. In the Canadas you live under the British laws, and constitution, and are less incumbered with taxes or local imposts, than in any other country, on the face of the globe. You ought, previous to leaving Quebec, to apply at the Post Office; should you expect any letters; and if you are writing to your friends in the United Kingdom by Post, you must pay the Postage; so also, when writing to the United States. Letters from one part of the Canadas, to the other, do not require to be Post paid. Emigrants may forward letters, to the United Kingdom, from Quebec, by taking them to the Keeper of the Merchant's Exchange, and paying one penny for each.

Having arranged all your business at Quebec, you will proceed without loss of time to Montreal, by steam-boat, on your route to Upper Canada. Two steam-boats ply daily to Montreal, 180 miles up the St. Lawrence, which is performed in 24 to 30 hours. The fare for deck passengers, is 7s. 6d. for adults,--children from 3-12 years pay half price, and under 3 free. These steam-boats belong to private individuals. Government is in no manner connected with them. Having arranged all your business at Quebec, you will proceed without loss of time to Montreal, by steam-boat, on your route to Upper Canada. Two steam-boats ply daily to Montreal, 180 miles up the St. Lawrence, which is performed in 24 to 30 hours. The fare for deck passengers, is 7s. 6d. for adults,--children from 3-12 years pay half price, and under 3 free. These steam-boats belong to private individuals. Government is in no manner connected with them. At Cornwall, Prescott and By-Town you will find Government Agents who will advise you should you require it.

Routes, by the St. Lawrence and Lakes, to the principal places in Upper Canada, are as follow:

Quebec to Montreal, by steam-boats.....7s. 6d.
Montreal to Prescott, by Durham boats..6s. 3d.
Prescott to Kingston, by steam.....5s. 0d.
Ditto to Coburgh, or Port Hope.....7s. 6d.
Prescott to York, Capital of Upper Canada, Hamilton and Niagara.....10s.

From Niagara, you proceed by land to Fort Erie, opposite Buffalo on Lake Erie, where steam-boats, or sailing schooners will convey those destined to Port Talbot, or other parts of the London District, or vicinity of Lake St. Clair. Persons going to settle on the Lands of the Canada Company, will proceed to York or Burlington Bay, head of *Lake Ontario*.

At most of the preceding Towns and landing places you will find Government Agents. If you are bound to Perth, or New Lanark, or the vicinity, disembark at Prescott; or you may go by way of By-Town on the Ottawa. If for the thriving settlements in the Newcastle District, disembark at Coburgh or Port Hope, on Lake Ontario. Those going to the Township of Seymour may proceed from Kingston, by the beautiful Bay of Quinte to the mouth of the Trent River, from whence a road, distance 18 miles, brings you to Seymour. If proceeding to the Home or Western Districts, disembark at York, the Capital of Upper Canada.--Emigrants going any where beyond York, will in general find it their interest to make it their route. If for the London District, proceed by the Niagara frontier, to Lake Erie, and the Talbot Settlement. If for By-Town, Grenville, Hull, Horton, or other situations, on the Ottawa River; proceed from Montreal, and Lachine, by the usual conveyances.

Crown Lands, of the most fertile quality, are prepared for the reception of Emigrants in many parts of Upper Canada, and will be sold payable by instalments. The following Offices, have been opened by the Commissioner of Crown Lands in Upper Canada for the convenience of Emigrants:

Mr. McNaughton, at By-Town, will superintend the Location of Emigrants in the Bathurst and Ottawa Districts.

Major Campbell, of the Township of Seymour, will superintend settlements in that township and its vicinity in the Midland District.

Mr. McDouall, of Peterboro, for the Townships of Dummer, Belmont, Burleigh, Hervey, Verulam, Ops, Douro and Fenelon in the District of Newcastle.

Mr. McPherson, at Napanee, for the Townships of Tyendenoga, Richmond and the Townships on the Bay of Quinte.

Mr. Ritchie at Medonto, for that Township, Sunnidale, Oro and Orelia, in the Home district.

Mr. Mount, at Carradoc and between that Township and St. Clair in the Western District.

Emigrants may obtain employment, for two or three months, on the roads in the Johnston, Newcastle, Western and Home Districts of Upper Canada.

Emigrants arriving at Quebec from the United Kingdom, and who are desirous of settling in Upper Canada, or Lower Canada, or of obtaining employment, are informed that all necessary information for their guidance may be obtained (*gratis*) on application at this Office, between the hours of 10 and 3 o'clock daily, Sundays excepted.

The principal situations in Upper Canada where arrangements are made for Locating Emigrants are in the Bathurst, Newcastle, Home and Western Districts. Indigent Emigrants, on condition of actual settlement, may obtain a Location on the following terms, viz: Fifty acres of land will be allotted to each head of a family, upon condition of paying at the rate of 5s. currency, per acre. The first payment of three pounds two shillings and sixpence is to be made at the expiration of three years, the remainder by annual instalments of an equal sum, with interest, commencing from the expiration of three years.

The Government will incur the expense of building a small Log House for the temporary accommodation of settlers on their respective Locations, and will afford some assistance towards

opening roads to the lands proposed to be settled, but will make no advances in provisions or utensils, and the settlers must depend entirely upon their own resources for bringing their lands into cultivation.

Settlers with means will have opportunities of purchasing Crown lands in several parts of the Province at the public sales, due notice of which may be obtained on application at the Commissioner of Crown Lands Office *York*, or the following Government Agents:

Ottawa and Bathurst Districts--Mr. McNaughton, By-Town.

Newcastle District--Mr. McDouall, Peterboro.

Home District--Mr. Ritchie, Township of Medonto.

Western District--Mr. Mount, Carradoc and St. Clair.

A.C. Buchanan, Chief Agent