

**EMIGRATION, ITS
ADVANTAGES TO
GREAT BRITAIN
AND HER COLONIES**

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Emigration, Its Advantages to Great Britain and Her Colonies by P. L. MacDougall

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P. L. MACDOUGALL

**EMIGRATION, ITS
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ÉMIGRATION;

ITS ADVANTAGES TO
GREAT BRITAIN AND HER COLONIES.

TOGETHER

WITH A DETAILED PLAN

FOR THE

FORMATION OF THE PROPOSED RAILWAY
BETWEEN HALIFAX AND QUEBEC,

BY MEANS OF

COLONIZATION.

BY

P. L. MACDOUGALL,

CAPT. ROYAL CANADIAN INFANTRY.



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EMIGRATION.

It is now beginning to be admitted on all hands, that Emigration is the great question of the day, the only effectual remedy for the social ills which afflict this country.

England has no political grievances ; at least none such as would create any political discontent among the lower classes, if their labour could procure for them a comfortable support : grievances indeed there are, but not of a political character, and unfortunately no Government is able to reach them by direct legislation.

The contrasts of this great country, as has very often been remarked, are startling—they are appalling ; Dives and Lazarus elbow each other in our crowded thoroughfares by day ; by night, the unsurpassed luxury and the unsurpassable misery lie down side by side, separated only by the thickness of a brick. It is this contrast which makes the starving man, who would earn his bread by honest labour, but can find none ; it is this contrast which makes him think there must be “ something rotten ” in the Institutions of a country, to permit such a state of things ; that he has political wrongs to be redressed, political rights to be conceded ; and if not conceded, then wrenched from those above him, on whom he is brought to look as his oppressors ; vainly

fancying that were those rights obtained, he would then have the power to remedy the social ills from which he suffers in his own hands; vain indeed is the belief, but let him not be driven to make the trial; all who have anything to lose are interested in preventing it; for of the terrible crash and hideous ruin which that experiment must produce, the condition of France now warns the astonished world with the voice of ten thousand trumpets.

What though there may be no probability, and I believe there is no probability, of such an experiment being made in our time; still it is to what this country is assuredly tending with every year's increase to her population which she cannot support; and because we may not see the crisis, are we therefore to sit down in selfish security, and say, "After us the deluge;" are we to bequeath to those who come after us, whose trustees we are, an inheritance of so much embarrassment and misery?

No, let this generation confer a lasting benefit on its descendants by organizing an enlightened, widely extended system of emigration, and thus entitle itself to the blessings of a grateful posterity.

How is such a system to be originated and developed? by private enterprise, or by public undertaking? It is answered, by a combination of both; but it is absolutely necessary that private enterprise should lead the way, and shew itself in earnest and *successful*, before Government will come forward; otherwise, great as the importance of the measure is, Government will do nothing.

There is a company lately formed for promoting emigration in connection with New Zealand, which has undoubtedly seized on the only true theory for conducting a system of colonization; viz. that of

translating a whole society, containing all the *elements* of a society within itself; such an expedition could not fail of success, provided common foresight were exercised in the selection of a settlement.

There are in the British Isles many hundreds of young men of energy and talent, the younger sons of gentlemen of landed property, with small capitals of from one to ten thousand pounds. Their patrimony yields them an average interest of 3 per cent. per annum; and many of this class are passing their lives in idleness, exercising their abilities on no higher a theme than making up "a book for the Derby," or their energies in no more profitable an employment, than a season's hunting at Leamington, or a wholesale slaughter of grouse on the moors of Scotland.

These are men whose fathers or brothers have a tenantry for the most part warmly attached to the family of their landlord and to its name. (In Great Britain, at least, this is the case.)

Suppose ten young men of the above description, with average capitals of £5,000. combine to induce as many tenants on their respective ancestral estates as would better themselves thereby, to enroll themselves under their banners, and proceed to a new world, on a more noble crusade than the spirit of chivalry ever originated; *viz.* to spread civilization, to convert the wilderness into smiling abodes of industrious happy men, who were struggling against poverty at home; to be their country's pioneers in an undertaking that would remove the canker from its core; a crusade against poverty, disease, and crime in their native land; against the only agents which can bring a tarnish on British glory, or decay on the British name.

Such a combination is wanted ; it is emphatically *now* the example, the *beginning* that is wanted. Ten such men, with the energy of the British gentleman, and the hardihood of the British sportsman, each with a following of twenty families, and a proportion of artizans, proceeding to any of our colonies ; would they not convert, as by magic, the lonely forest into a flourishing city ? If successful, and they *must* succeed, would they not draw after them *thousands* encouraged by their example ?

Then will be the time for them to go to their Government and say, We have made this trial, it has succeeded ; the particulars and the proofs are here. And then will be the time for the Government of this country to consider and decide on what encouragement and assistance to hold out to plans of the same nature.

Three millions sterling annually would be a cheap expenditure for the enormous results that would flow from a maturely considered and *approved* plan of colonization. Surplus British capital, now the millstone of this country, would flow to the colonies, where it could be employed to advantage ; the profits of capital would increase at home ; there would be a yearly increasing demand for English manufactures ; every branch of commerce and trade would in consequence improve ; and increased stability would be given to our power in the colonies, the levers by which England has raised herself to her proud position in the world.

If such a grand beneficent system should be developed, England and her children will present, at no distant period, the most glorious family compact, mankind has ever seen ; strong in their union and mutual affection, engendered by benefits con-

ferred and received, they will govern the world by their influence and example; such a confederation will defy time itself to weaken the links that bind it together, or sap the foundations of its structure; and if it is destined, at some remote happy period, that the nations of this earth shall be united together by the bond of one common language, it is not unreasonable to suppose, nor presumptuous to predict, that that language will be English.

Before entering upon the details of any plan it is well to examine the three following questions—

1. Will emigration such as has been above advocated tend to diminish pauperism in England?
2. Will it tend to diminish the colonial expenditure of this country?
3. Will it tend to the increase of the Imperial revenue, and the diminution of taxation in general.

1st. Will emigration tend to diminish pauperism in England?

Why is there such an amount of poverty and suffering and crime in this country?

This is a question to which many different answers will be given; but whatever may be the cause, the effect is too evident, that poverty and destitution do exist to a frightful extent; or in other words, there are more people in this country than our present imperfect system of government enables us to support; this excess is "surplus population;" this surplus population is increasing every year in a much faster ratio than the improvement in the science of government, and the above named evils must increase with it.

The question is, What is the simplest and quickest remedy for such evils? It is answered, To send out of this country and to settle in our colonies

under a system which insures their success, a number of persons yearly ; enough, if possible, to reduce the present excess of population ; or, if not, to keep it down to its present level.

At the first sight the simplest proceeding would seem to be to get rid of all the paupers by shipping them off to other countries, and to keep in Great Britain those who are enabled to support themselves ; but a mere influx of paupers into a colony would confer an injury, instead of a benefit, upon it ; and the relief to this country would only be momentary, for a system of pauper emigration could not be carried on with success ; it would fall to the ground ; and colonization, to be effective, must be continuous.

But when we consider what a continued upward pressure there is in every society (by which is meant the endeavours of those in a low station to raise themselves higher,) it is supposed that the departure of any number of our population from our shores, no matter in what rank or position they might be, would only make room for an equal number, who were beneath the first in the social scale, to rush up into their places. This is most evident in reference to the two lowest grades of society ; viz. those who earn poor wages for their labour, and those who can earn none. Remove 500,000 of the former, and 500,000 of the latter immediately step into the employment and wages the others have vacated. If this obtains as a general principle, then it is evident that the departure of any number of our population, under a system that would ensure their success in the colonies, *would* tend to diminish pauperism in England.

2. Will emigration tend to diminish the colonial expenditure of the country ?