

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF
EMIGRATION OF THE STATE OF
NEW YORK, FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1863**

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Annual Report of the Commissioners of Emigration of the State of New York, for the Year
Ending December 31, 1863 by Various

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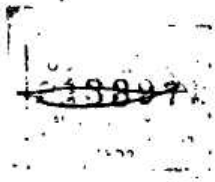
STATE OF NEW YORK :

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1863.

NEW YORK:

JOHN F. TROW, PRINTER, 50 GREENE STREET.

1864. *67*



REPORT

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

*The Commissioners of Emigration respectfully present their
ANNUAL REPORT, for the year ending 31st Dec., 1863.*

THE year 1863, being the seventeenth of the operation of the system under the charge of this Commission, was marked by a large increase of the emigration to this Port, being more than double that of 1862, which had shown an increase over that of 1861. It was also marked by the same general improvement in the health and condition of the emigrants, as compared with the experience of the earlier years of this Commission, which the Commissioners have had the satisfaction to report for the last three years. There was consequently a diminished number, in proportion to the whole number who arrived, who required medical or other immediate relief upon or soon after their arrival.

The chief exceptions to the ordinary good state of the health and condition of the emigrants arise from diseases contracted on shipboard, which are in no way to be attributed to the condition of the passengers on their embarkation.

The whole number of emigrants at this port was 80,538 more than in the year preceding.

The number in the hospitals, and of those otherwise receiving support or pecuniary assistance from this Board, was larger than during the past few years of decreased emigration, but neverthe-

less smaller in proportion to the whole number who paid commutation than in preceding years. As in the year 1862, though the income of the Commission was far lower than was usual in its earlier years, yet the improved system and economy of their establishments, together with diminished county claims, enabled them to meet the current expenditure of the year, and to extinguish all debts, with the exceptions of those secured by mortgage on their real estate, and contracted principally in the purchase or improvement of lands and erection of buildings. There are no other outstanding debts or claims, except certain claims disputed and in litigation.

The improvements year after year introduced by the experience of the Commissioners and their officers, have placed all the establishments under their immediate charge in a state of great order and efficiency, and thus the cares and labors of the Commissioners have been materially diminished.

Their duties and responsibilities have also been lessened by the operation of the late law in relation to the removal of the Quarantine.

The whole number of passengers landed at this port during the year 1863, was 194,377. Of these, 37,533 were citizens, or persons not subject to bonds or commutation; and 156,844 were aliens for whom commutation was paid, or bonds executed, showing an increase in alien emigrants of 80,538 over 1862, 91,315 over 1861, 51,682 over 1860, 77,522 over 1859, 78,255 over 1858, and 26,929 less than in 1857; whilst the proportion to the average of former years, since 1847, is 8,665 less.

Of these emigrants, 92,157 were from Ireland, 35,002 from Germany, 18,757 from England, and 10,928 from other countries.

In the Report of 1861, it was stated that the Board had restored the office of General Agent, as it existed in the first years of this Commission, united with the office of Secretary; and that the long experience and tried ability of the Secretary, Bernard Casserly, seemed, in the judgment of the Commissioners, to qualify him eminently for this position. His administration of the numerous and important duties of the station since his appointment, has fully justified the confident expectations of the Board.

The details of the various operations of the Commission and their officers, during the year 1863, present the following results :

Number in State Emigrant Refuge and Hospital, Ward's Island, Jan. 1st, 1863.....	655	
" admitted during the year.....	4,025	
" born there " "	281	
Total number cared for and treated.....	—	4,911
Number of lunatic emigrants in State Asylum, Ward's Island, Jan. 1st, 1863.....	66	
" admitted during the year.....	57	
	—	123
Of which there left the Asylum :		
Number discharged.....	34	
" transferred to Blackwell's Island, their term of five years having expired.....	11	
" transferred to other wards of Institution in an improved condition.....	9	
" died	6	
	—	60
Remaining in Asylum, December 31st, 1863.....	63	
	—	
Number of cases of small-pox chargeable to the Commission in Small-Pox Hospital, Blackwell's Island, Jan. 1st, 1863.....	12	
Number admitted during the year.....	78	
Total number of cases of small-pox chargeable to the Commission treated in Small-Pox Hospital, Blackwell's Island, during the year.....	—	90
Number discharged cured.....	79	
" died.....	7	
Total number discharged.....	86	
" remaining on 1st January, 1864.....	4	
Number of sick sent from Office to the New York Hospital during the year 1863.....	29	
" of do. to St. Vincent's Hospital.....	19	
Total cases sent to both hospitals.....	—	48
Number of persons sent back to Europe at their own request	65	
" of do. and at expense of consignees of vessels.....	46	
Total number forwarded to Europe.....	—	111

Number of persons forwarded to various places inland from Castle Garden at expense of the Commission....	23	
“ forwarded to various places inland by agent at Buffalo	211	
“ do. by agent at Albany.....	20	
Total number forwarded inland and to Canada by this Commission.....	—	254
“ temporarily supplied with board and lodging in the city.....	1,269	
“ temporarily supplied with food in Castle Garden....	3,019	
“ temporarily supplied with board and lodging by agent at Buffalo.....	1,869	
“ do. by agent at Albany.....	403	
“ do. “ “ Rochester.....	100	
Total number so relieved.....	—	6,660
Number of out-door poor in the city buried at the expense of the Commission.....	100	
“ of interments from Institutions on Ward’s Island in City Cemetery at the expense of the Commission,	374	
Total number buried.....	—	474
Number of males provided with situations at the Intelligence Office and Labor Exchange, Castle Garden.....	3,228	
“ of females.....	8,594	
“ of both sexes provided with situations by agent at Buffalo.....	861	
“ do. by agent at Albany.....	650	
“ do. “ “ Rochester,.....	97	
Total number provided with employment....	—	13,425
Whole number relieved and forwarded in and from the several counties of the State chargeable to the Commission.....		4,583
Grand total of destitute alien emigrants landed at the port of New York during the past five years, who were relieved, forwarded, and provided with employment, &c., by this Commission in the State and city of New York during the year 1863,.....		— 30,556
Number of days spent in State Emigrant Hospital, W. Island.	158,112	
“ “ “ “ “ Refuge, “	94,100	
Total number of days in both.....	—	252,212
Amount of moneys received in reply to letters written from the Emigrant Landing Dépot, for recently-arrived emigrants, and applied to their forwarding.....	\$19,168	99
“ of moneys received at Emigrant Landing-Depot in anticipation of arrival of emigrants.....	26,978	92

Amount of moneys received at Office for, and applied to, the aid and forwarding of emigrants chargeable to this Commission.....	918 52
“ of moneys received at office of the Irish Emigrant Society from friends of recently-arrived emigrants, and applied to the forwarding of such emigrants chargeable to this Commission.....	21,088 10
“ of moneys received at office of agent at Albany for, and applied to, the same purpose.....	269 30

State Emigrant Refuge and Hospital, Ward's Island.

The Commissioners, as is stated more at large in former Reports, hold in fee one hundred and six acres on Ward's Island, together with appurtenant water-rights and marsh. These lands were purchased either from the annual income or from funds obtained on mortgage, with which debt the property, greatly increased in value in itself, as well as by the buildings and other improvements, is still encumbered. The tract, except twenty acres on the southeast side, lies in one body, surrounded in great part by water, and contains nearly one half of the island. The land is good, and the tract in all respects salubrious and convenient. As the number of occupants has at times exceeded 3,000, though of late much less, this extent of ground is not more than is needed for the comfort, exercise, and occupation of the inmates, the proper distance and space required for the various branches of the establishments—as hospitals, the Insane Asylum, school, and nurseries, as well as for the government, control, and police of the whole population, and keeping at a distance bad or troublesome neighbors.

The tract has been extended, by filling in, and building a stone sea-wall along the shore, which was performed chiefly by labor of the inmates. The wooden drains, which had been laid in former years, have been replaced by an effective and permanent sewerage of 1,600 feet of brick drains.

The whole product of the land under cultivation (about fifty acres), including milk, vegetables, etc., is consumed by the inmates, and it is estimated that if purchased, it would cost about \$9,719 19. The buildings and grounds are amply supplied with Croton water, brought by a pipe under the waters of the Sound,