

A LETTER FROM CANADA.

Mr. A. Spencer Jones, late of Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire, schoolmaster, who went to Canada under the care of the Peterborough Agricultural Labourers' Union, writes as follows to Mr. B. Taylor, the president:—

“ Emigration Office,

“ Toronto, April 27, 1875.

“ Dear Sir,—On Monday and Friday last by the kind permission of Mr. Donaldson, Toronto emigration agent of the Dominion Government, I witnessed the reception and distribution among the farmers of over 400 emigrants, chiefly English farm labourers, who had just arrived by the Hibernian and Sarmatian. Of these the Hibernian brought 320, who reached Toronto the previous evening. Large numbers of written applications for men, boys, and female servants had been received at the office from almost every town and village in Western Canada, and by 10:30 on Monday morning 150 persons were disposed of. Throughout the day farmers and others who preferred seeing the emigrants and making their own bargains were continually arriving and departing. The prevailing rates for single men were \$15, or £3 2s. 6d., a month, with board, &c.; married men hired for the year, without board, reached \$250, including house, garden, and a quarter of an acre of land rent free, together with firewood and pasture for a cow. A farmer will in most cases sell his labourer a good milch cow for \$25 or \$30, about £6, and deduct the amount from his wages at the end of the year. As provisions in the rural districts of this country do not cost, taking one thing with another, half as much as in England, labourers, if frugal and temperate, can both live well and save money here. If married, and his wife has any time to spare from her own domestic duties, she can always find ample employment as a charwoman at half-a-dollar (2s. 10d.) a day, and board. In fact, the demand for women of this class in the villages and rural portions of Ontario is greatly ahead of the supply. In some settlements charwomen have had daily engagements for several weeks in advance. I wish that some of the badly paid needlewomen of the large cities of England could share in the well-paid-for work to be obtained here. Female servants are also greatly needed. The country girls who came out in the Hibernian and Sarmatian had no need to leave Toronto in quest of service. They were eagerly engaged at double the wages girls of their description are getting in England. By two p.m. the day following their arrival none remained disengaged, and many applicants for female servants for Toronto, as well as other places, had to go away disappointed. The wages obtained at the emigration depot in Toronto are much the same as those I find paid in the counties of Carleton, Frontenac, Peterborough, Bryant, and York, through the rural portions of which I have lately taken a somewhat leisurely tour, stopping in small villages and quietly making inquiries. My conclusions are that the labourers Canada mostly requires at present are agricultural workmen and navvies; for the latter there is now ample employment in the public works, their wives and daughters can be employed at high wages and in far larger numbers than are at all likely to come for a long time. The late hard times in the States have supplied the Canadian workshops with American mechanics, and the hard Canadian winter is a drawback in many trades, as the cessation from work it enforces eats up the profits made in the summer. As to the treatment of the emigrants during the voyage and at the emigrant depot, I questioned a great many, and all expressed themselves fully satisfied with the food and accommodation on the Allan steamers, and the treatment at the Toronto depot leaves nothing to be desired. Sleeping room and plenty of good plain food is provided for emigrants, free of cost, for forty-eight hours, and in special cases where necessary for even a longer period. The sleeping apartments will accommodate 1,500, the wash-houses, baths, &c., are also in proportion, and the sick have regular medical attendance. The depot has its own railway platform, whence emigrants can be sent to all parts of the country, free of charge, without coming in contact with any persons but their future employers and officials. The whole establishment is efficiently presided over by Mr. J. Donaldson, who is in every way qualified for the important post he occupies.”