

# Letter from S. Walcott, Secretary, Colonial Land & Emigration Office, Westminster, to Sir R. Gore Booth [sic]

**PRONI Reference: D/4131/H/8**

## Transcript:

Colonial Land & Emigration Office  
9 Park Street  
Westminster  
20th November 1847

Sir,

With respect to the enclosed extracts of the Government Emigration Agent at Saint Johns New Brunswick relative to the condition & class of emigrants stated to have been sent out from your estate in the course of the past season, - The commissioners of Colonial Lands and Emigration have thought that you would very probably desire to see these statements, & I am therefore directed to forward them to you, & to say that should you wish to offer any remarks upon them, the Commissioners will be very happy to receive them. - I have the honor to be Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

S. Walcott [query]  
Secretary

Extracts of reports from the Govt. Emigration Agent at St.John's, New Brunswick

1. About one-third of those who have arrived have re-emigrated to the United States. A large number of those who remain have become a public charge, from their inability to work, and utter destitution. Among those at present chargeable are many of the emigrants by the AEolus, from Sligo. The passengers by this vessel, 500 in number, state that they were 'exported' by their landlord, Sir Robert Gore Booth, who paid their passage-money in order to disencumber his estate. Several of these people will, in all probability become a permanent charge on the public funds; and this shovelling of helpless paupers, without any provision for them here, if continued, will inflict very serious injury on a this colony. This case of the passengers by the AEolus is mentioned, as it will necessarily come under consideration hereafter, and should, without delay, be noticed and condemned.
2. I have to report the arrival of the barque Yeoman from Sligo, 514 passengers, and brig Alice from Galway, 125 passengers, and enclose ship returns, to which I refer. The whole of the passengers by the Yeoman were tenants on

the estate of Sir Robert Gore Booth, Bart., at Lissidell, near Sligo, and are sent out at his individual expense, they having yielded up their several holdings on his estate as a consideration for their passage and expenses. They were amply provided with provisions of the best description, in every variety for the voyage, and no pains have been spared to render them comfortable. They are to receive a weeks allowance of provisions on landing, after which they must shift for themselves. These passengers appear somewhat superior to those which came from the same estate by the AEolus , a large proportion of whom are now a public charge. I examined the passengers by the Yeoman very strictly, and informed them that all those who could not or would not provide for themselves, would in all probability be sent back again to Sligo. The master of the Yeoman informs me that the ship Lady Sale, may be expected in a few days from Sligo, with another 500 from Sir Robert Gore Booth's estate; and I therefore reserve certain observations I am desirous of making until after the arrival of the Lady Sale.

3. In the Lady Sale three deaths occurred on the voyage, and 15 persons are sick on board. The passengers by the Lady Sale are from the estate of Robert Gore Boothe [sic], Bart., and are reported to be of a worse class than those which have arrived by the AEolus and Yeoman from the same estate. Many of them will become a public burthen from the moment of their landing.
4. The passengers by the ship Lady Sale are tenantry from the estate of Sir Robert Gore Boothe [sic], and sent out at his expense. No less than 176 adult females embarked in the Lady Sale, of whom nine are widows, with 57 children. Judging from the samples of Sir Robert Gore Boothe's [sic] tenantry which have already arrived here, another infliction of paupers may be expected in this instance, with a large proportion of widows and orphans.

signed M.H. Perlay,

The Hon. John S. Saunders, Provl. Secretary

