

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Public Documents of Maine:

BEING THE

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE VARIOUS

PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INSTITUTIONS

FOR THE YEAR

1874.

VOLUME II.

AUGUSTA:

SPRAGUE, OWEN & NASH, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1874.

REPORTS

OF THE

BOARD AND COMMISSIONER

OF

IMMIGRATION.

1873.



AUGUSTA.

SPRAGUE, OWEN & NASH, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1874.



REPORT OF THE BOARD.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

The Board of Immigration transmit herewith the report of the Commissioner of Immigration for the year 1873. The report presents an interesting review of the origin, progress and results of the effort to secure for Maine a portion of the immigration from Sweden to this country. It is so full in details that but little need be said by the Board.

It appears, by the report, that about fifteen hundred Swedes have made their homes in Maine, under the auspices of this enterprise, six hundred of whom are settled in New Sweden. These immigrants have brought with them one hundred thousand dollars in cash. They are intelligent, temperate, and industrious, and will be a valuable acquisition to our population. And it is confidently believed that their settlement here will be advantageous, both to themselves and the State. The Commissioner is confident that, without any further expenditure of money by the State, Swedish immigration will continue to flow into Maine, and that the colony will rapidly advance towards a successful future.

All State aid has ceased, and the colony is now self-supporting.

We concur with the Commissioner in recommending that the charge of the public buildings, and property belonging to the State, in the colony, be transferred to the Land Office, and that the amount due in road labor from the colonists, be expended under the direction of the Land Agent.

It is proper that we here acknowledge our obligations to the Commissioner, for the energy, efficiency and devotion, that he has brought to the discharge of his duties.

SIDNEY PERHAM, } *Commissioners*
P. P. BURLEIGH, } *of*
GEO. G. STACY. } *Immigration.*

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER.

*To the Honorable Governor and Board of
Immigration of the State of Maine:*

I have the honor to submit the following report :

Immigration is one of the chief sources of wealth to our country.

In 1820 there arrived in the United States 8,385 aliens. Since then the yearly number landing on our shores has, with some fluctuations, rapidly increased.

In 1830, there were 23,322 alien arrivals; 84,066 in 1840; 310,004 in 1850, and in 1857, 427,833, the largest number prior to 1872. During the war, the stream of immigration dwindled to 91,920 in 1861, and 91,987 in 1862; but quickly recovered its volume on the suppression of the rebellion, 318,494 aliens arriving in 1866; 378,796 in 1870, and 449,483 in 1872, the largest number ever attained in a single year.

Prior to 1820 no account of the passengers arriving in our country was kept. It is estimated, however, that between 1776 and 1820, 250,000 arrived. Adding this number to the total for each year from 1820 to 1872, we have the grand total of 8,621,137 aliens landing in the United States between the Declaration of Independence and the close of 1872; a number equal to nearly three times the population of our country when it became a nation.

Of the aliens arriving it has been ascertained that about one and two-thirds per cent. do not remain; so in order to determine the net immigration, this percentage must be subtracted from the figures given above. It is only since 1860 that the immigration tables contain a separate enumeration of aliens "intending to remain in the United States."

These immigrants are of every age and condition, and almost every nationality. About sixty per cent. are in the prime of life, being between fifteen and forty years of age; and of this number the men out-number the women, nearly two to one.

Laborers largely predominate over any other class, forming about one-fourth of the entire immigration; and farmers and skilled workmen stand next in number.

About one-half our immigrants come from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Germany is second among the nations who have furnished us our population; and the little kingdoms of Scandinavia, for the last eight years, have ranked third. Every nation in Europe contributes its quota, as well as Asia, Africa, and the Isles of the Sea.

What is the value of this immigration to the United States? That it has a social, moral, and intellectual value is unquestioned. But this is difficult of computation. Who, for instance, can estimate the intellectual value of the immigrant Swede, Ericksson, whose genius has given us the coloric engine, the steam fire engine, the propeller, and the Monitor.

But this immigration has an actual cash value as a producing force, and this is susceptible of computation. It is evident that whatever is produced a year by the labor of an individual, over and above the cost of maintaining him, is the net yearly product of the individual, and consequently a net yearly gain to the country; and further, that the cash value to the State, of any person, apart from his possessions, is equal to a sum, the yearly interest of which at a fair rate, say six per cent., shall be equivalent to the yearly net product of such person.

Now the producing power of our immigrants differs vastly with the age, sex, nationality, and personal characteristics of each. Indeed, the very old, the very young, and the sick, produce nothing, but simply consume the fruits of others' labor. Still, making due allowance for all these differences and drawbacks, it is computed that on the average, the net annual product of each immigrant, is equal to \$60; that is, his labor during the year, adds the equivalent of \$60 to the accumulated wealth of the country, and consequently that the average immigrant is worth to the United States that sum of which \$60 is the annual interest at six per cent., viz: \$1,000.

Looking at this question from a purely material stand-point, we see the outside world making and equipping 400,000 working

machines annually, worth \$1,000 each, and presenting them as a gift to the United States.

Four hundred millions of dollars will thus represent the yearly tribute paid by the Monarchies of the Old World to the Republic of the New.

Estimating the immigration for 1873 to be equal to that for 1872, it will be found that the net immigration from 1865 to 1873, inclusive, amounts to 3,121,741 persons, worth, according to the estimate presented above, \$3,121,741,000; a sum, larger than the maximum of our national debt. The value of immigration since the close of the war will, therefore, more than pay the debt incurred by the national government in putting down the greatest of rebellions.

The immigration since 1868 has averaged nearly 400,000 a year. What a grand army of labor, four hundred thousand strong,—more than a regiment a day—which every year sails over the ocean to our shores, to help subdue our forests, reclaim our wild lands, open our mines, build our cities and railroads, and in every way develop the great resources of our own broad land.

The value of immigration has for a long time attracted the attention of thinking men in Maine, all the more perhaps because Maine was receiving none of it.

Our good State possesses as fertile soil as can be found in New England, thousands of square miles of which lie wild and waste, our rivers furnish power sufficient to run the factories of the nation, and our coast line is notched throughout its entire length with the best harbors in the world; yet during the last decade commerce languished, most of the colossal strength of our rivers flowed idly to the sea, and our population was not increasing, worse than that, we were not even holding our own within our borders.

Men are the wealth of a State. How were we to gain in men? This was the problem.

By keeping our own youth at home? Yes; best of all. But time proved this could not be done. Our young men continued to swarm from our farms and villages like bees from parent hives, and seek their fortunes in the great west.

Why did they go west? One of the chief causes was this. The youth of Maine are as a rule educated. Reared in comfortable homes among an intelligent society, and trained in our colleges, academies, high and common schools, their minds and

hands are skilled, and they are fitted to do the skilled work of society. It is a fact patent to all, that our young men desire to earn their living by means of the professions and mercantile pursuits, rather than by farming and so-called hard work. They do not wish to be laborers, but rather the doctors, lawyers, traders factors and brokers of the laborers and actual producers of the land.

But Maine with her limited population is full and running over with professional men and merchants. Our young men therefore, finding no demand for their educated brains and hands at home, go west because the unskilled laborers of Europe are immigrating there by hundreds of thousands, and on their thrift the professions and trades may also thrive.

Cause unskilled labor to flow into Maine, and you not only do not drive our own young men out of the State, but you keep them at home in the exact ratio of the immigration of laborers and actual producers.

European immigration will therefore do our State a two-fold good. It will increase our population and wealth directly by the accession of the immigrants themselves, and indirectly by retaining within our borders as many of our own young men as are necessary to be the lawyers, doctors, manufacturers and traders of this new laboring population.

But the nationalities of Europe are many. Which is best adapted to the climate and soil of Maine?

It is an interesting fact, that with few exceptions, as the French in Canada, immigrants from Europe take up the same relative position in America they occupied in the continent of their birth. In fact there seem to be certain fixed isothermal lines between whose parallels the immigrants from the Old World are guided to their homes in the New. Thus the Germans from the centre of Europe settle in Pennsylvania, Ohio and our other middle States; the French and Spanish from southern Europe and the shores of the Mediterranean, make their homes in Louisiana, Florida and all along the Gulf of Mexico; while the Scandinavians from the wooded north, fell the forest and build their log cabins in Wisconsin, Nebraska, Michigan, Minnesota—in our northern range of States—the Pine-tree State forms one of this northern, wooded range; Scandinavian immigration flows naturally to us.

Such, in brief, were the facts, and such also were the conclusions of the most thoughtful and far-sighted of our citizens.

The matter found its first official utterance in 1861, in the message of Gov. Washburn, wherein the subject of Scandinavian immigration was favorably presented to the attention of the legislature. This recommendation was followed by no immediate result. In 1864 an attempt was made by a company of Maine gentlemen to procure laborers from Sweden, but the undertaking proved a failure. The idea then slumbered until Gen. Chamberlain was called to the gubernatorial chair. He eloquently and persistently pressed the subject upon the attention of the legislature and the people. Interest in the question grew apace. It was a fruitful theme of discussion both in and out of legislative halls.

The desirability of Scandinavian immigration was at last quite generally conceded. But could we obtain it? and how? These were unsolved problems, and the doubters were many.

The question was discussed by the legislature of 1869, and on the twelfth of March of that year, a resolve was passed entitled: "A resolve designed to promote the settlement of the public and other lands in the State." It provided for the appointment of three commissioners, a part of whose duties were "to ascertain what measures, if any, should be adopted by the State to induce settlements upon its unpeopled townships." The persons appointed on this commission were Hon. Parker P. Burleigh, your present commissioner and Hon. William Small.

This commission made a tour of observation and inquiry through Aroostook county in October of the same year, and presented a report to the legislature of 1870.

This report contains the first definite, practical plan for securing Scandinavian immigration to Maine. The plan was this:

1st—Recruit a colony of Swedes in Sweden.

2nd—Transport the colony to Maine.

3d—Permanently settle it on our wild lands.

Then, it was assumed, the problem would be solved, for a permanent Swedish colony *in* Maine must of necessity continually attract Swedish immigration *to* Maine. The details of this plan were fully given in the report.

An agent was to be sent to Sweden with the opening of spring. He was there to gather together the nucleus of a colony, consisting of some twenty-five families with their pastor. Only honest and industrious farmers and laboring men with their families were to be received; and of these *only such as could pay their own passage to our State.*

The agent was to lead them over the ocean to Maine and locate them on Township No. 14 in the 3d Range, as early as the month of August next ensuing, giving to each head of family a lot of one hundred acres of land. This nucleus was then to be increased into a colony of adequate proportions by advertisements and otherwise as rapidly as might be, and the colony was to receive whatever assistance was necessary to enable it to effect a permanent settlement among us. Then all State aid was to cease, for it was confidently expected when once the colony was fast rooted in our soil, it would thrive and grow of itself, and throughout the future draw a respectable portion of the Swedish immigration of the United States to Maine.

This enterprise though presented with confidence, was presented only as an experiment. The legislature entertained it only as such. The merits of the experiment and its probable advantages to Maine, were placed before the House of Representatives by Col. James M. Stone, in an eloquent and exhaustive speech. Something ought certainly to be done. Nothing better was offered. So on March 23d, 1870, an act was passed authorizing the experiment to be tried.

The act established a Board of Immigration, consisting of the Governor, Land Agent, and Secretary of State, and committed to their charge the enterprise. The Board appointed your Commissioner to recruit the colony abroad and superintend its establishment in Maine. The important duty of preparing for the reception of the colony devolved upon Hon. Parker P. Burleigh of your Board, and it is fortunate that the work fell to such tried and able hands.

Mr. Burleigh proceeded to Aroostook, cut a road through the woods into township No. 15, Range 3, ran out lots of one hundred acres each, felled five acres of trees on each of twenty-six lots, commenced erecting twenty-six log houses, and procured a supply of provisions and tools; thus rendering diligent and efficient service indispensable to the success of the undertaking.

Meanwhile, on April 30, your Commissioner sailed for Sweden, gathered together a little company of fifty Swedes, with their pastor, and brought them across the Atlantic. We landed at Halifax, sailed up the river St. John and crossed the border into Maine and the United States at Fort Fairfield. Here a large concourse of people welcomed the Swedes to our State with music, flags, a salute, speeches, and a collation.

On July 23d, 1870, just four months from the day of the passage of the law authorizing the enterprise, the first Swedish colony of Maine reached its destination in our northern forests, on Township No. 15, Range 3, W. E. L. S. We called the spot "New Sweden," a name commemorative of the past and auspicious of the future. Some two hundred Americans escorted their newly acquired Swedish brethren into the township, and broke the first bread with them in their new homes in the wilderness. Only six log houses were built. In one of these were stored the provisions and tools; the fifty immigrants were crowded into the remaining five. Thus they passed their first night in the American forest.

These Swedes, together with all who have since followed them, paid their own passage to Maine.

The road by which the Swedes had reached New Sweden terminated near the centre of the township, thence branch roads had been surveyed radiating into the wilderness. Twenty-six lots of one hundred acres each had been laid out to front these roads, and one such lot was assigned each settler. On every lot five acres of trees had been felled, and on six of them, log houses had been erected.

It became evident that the Swedes must be provided with tools. Provisions also must be furnished until they could harvest their first crop. The State needed labor on roads and buildings. To sell necessary tools and provisions, instead of giving them, to the Swedes, and take payment in labor, was a natural suggestion. This course was at once adopted and has been continued throughout. All supplies furnished have been charged to the individuals receiving them and payment has been taken in labor on the roads, buildings and other public works. The aid granted the Swedes thus accomplishes a double good, it *first* enables the new settlers to live until the earth yields its increase, and *second*, is worked out to its full value chiefly on roads, which are a permanent public benefit, and worth, to the State, all they cost.

The remainder of summer and autumn saw busy work in the Maine woods; log houses were rolled up, roads cut out, trees felled, fellings burned, and the land cleared. The blows of the axe resounded through the forest from morning till night, six days in the week. On the Sabbath all the colonists met for public worship and the interesting instruction of the Sabbath School. In the center of the settlement, a commodious framed town house and store house, which the Swedes call "the capitol," was

erected. This building is 30 by 45 feet, and two stories; from its front gable end rises a shapely tower, surmounted by a vane. An acre of land was cleared and sowed with turnips the first of August, a week after the arrival of the colony. These gave a large yield in October, and were the first crop of New Sweden. Many patches of winter grain were sowed. The settlement continually increased by the arrival of Swedes, both from Sweden and America. Here soon transpired the three great events in the life of man. There were births, marriages, and a death.

When the year closed, there was located on the wild lands of Maine, a colony of 114 Swedes,—58 men, 20 women, and 36 children. Seven miles of road had been cut through the woods, 180 acres of trees felled, 100 acres cleared, and 20 acres sowed with winter wheat and rye. A framed public building and 26 comfortable log dwelling houses had been built.

The founding of this Swedish colony in Maine was noised abroad throughout Sweden and the United States. During the winter and spring of 1871, circulars were scattered broadcast over Sweden, advertising our colony and making exhaustive mention of the advantages offered, by Maine, to Swedish settlers. Advertisements to like effect were inserted in the principal Swedish newspapers. Condensed circulars were distributed by American pilots, among the immigrants on board incoming Atlantic steamships. Capt. G. W. Schroeder was appointed agent for Maine in old, and Capt. N. P. Clasé in New Sweden. A special agent was sent back to Sweden with maps, plans, and specimens of Aroostook crops, and sub-agents were employed to travel and distribute information in the northern sections of Scandinavia.

Seed thus well and widely sown was soon followed by a harvest. With the opening of spring, Swedish immigrants began pouring into our new settlement, first in little squads, and later in companies of a hundred or more. With difficulty could the surveyors run out lots as fast as they were desired by the new comers. Each immigrant took up a lot of one hundred acres, received an axe and went to work felling trees and building a log house. Roads were cut out in all directions, through the woods, to accommodate the settlers. Our main highway was grubbed three and one-half miles through the forest to the nearest American settlers, and two miles turnpiked in a substantial manner. Good crops of grain and roots were harvested on the land cleared the year before.

Business sprang up ; a variety store was opened at the center ; a shoe-maker, a tin-smith, a furniture-maker, and a blacksmith set up their shops and were over-run with customers.

A regularly ordained minister, Rev. Andrew Wiren, crossed over from Sweden and assumed charge of the spiritual affairs of the colony, taking the place of the unordained pastor, who had hitherto conducted the religious exercises. Mr. Wiren also became the school-master, and in the fall of 1871, commenced the first day school on the township.

Besides settling in New Sweden, Swedish immigrants spread over our State. The men hired out, for the most part, as mechanics, farm-hands, and laborers ; the women as house servants. They thus furnished a valuable class of labor in our cities and villages, on our farms and railroads, and in our work-shops, quarries, and manufactories.

At the close of 1871 there were one thousand Swedes in Maine, over half of whom were in New Sweden.

This was a colony sufficiently large to attract immigration. The State agency abroad, having done well its work, was discontinued, all advertisements ceased, yet the stream of immigration flowed on and is flowing to this day.

Since 1871 the policy of the State has been directed rather towards securely establishing the Swedes already within our borders, than to increasing their numbers. The State has therefore continued to extend a fostering hand towards its newly adopted children through the first hard years of frontier life. Aid has been bestowed in necessary cases, never lavishly, but always with an eye to making its recipients self-supporting as speedily as possible. Provisions and tools have been the chief articles furnished. These have been invariably *sold* the colonists, and payment taken in road labor. This labor has always been performed when called for. Under this policy the colony has continued to grow and thrive.

NEW SWEDEN TO-DAY

numbers over six hundred souls, twelve-fold the little company of fifty, who founded the settlement three years ago. The colonists have taken up an area of 20,000 acres of land, chiefly in New Sweden, but extending also upon the adjoining sections of Lyndon, Woodland and Perham.

CLEARINGS.

The amount of land cleared on each lot varies with the strength, skill and circumstances of the settlers, and the length of time since their arrival. A few have cleared but three or four acres each, many between ten and fifteen, several upwards of twenty, and one—pastor Wiren, has cleared fifty acres within two years, besides building a large house and barn.

In the aggregate the Swedes have felled 2,200 acres of trees, 1,500 acres of which they have cleared in a superior manner, the old soggy logs being all unearthed, smaller stumps uprooted, and larger knolls levelled.

CROPS.

Last spring there were cleared but 1,000 acres. On this land crops were raised, consisting chiefly of wheat, rye, barley, oats, peas, beans, potatoes and turnips. An untimely frost, which accompanied the great gale of August 27th, pinched the later sowed grain, and nipped the potatoes. Yet a fair crop was harvested. Had not this most unusual frost fallen upon the land, the yield would have been one of luxuriant abundance. Last spring each of the Swedes had from one to five acres of grass land. Reckoned all together the grass patches of the colony amounted to 200 acres; 200 acres additional were seeded to grass this season, giving a total of 400 acres of grass land now possessed by the colonists.

ROADS.

The main highway was laid out as a county road in 1871, from the capitol to Caribou village. The Swedes have made this highway into a smooth, hard turnpike as far as the nearest American settlement, a distance of three and one-half miles. Lyndon and Woodland have also improved the sections of this road, which lie within their town lines, so that the highway out of New Sweden is now in as good condition as the average of county roads in Maine. The road is nearly level, being laid out so as to avoid both hills and ravines. Twenty-seven miles of branch roads have also been built through the woods of the settlement. Most of these roads were cut out in 1871. The next year they were widened, levelled, the worst stumps uprooted and the low spots corduroyed. Last season several miles of these roads were grubbed and the wet

places ditched or turripiked. In this way the branch roads of New Sweden have been placed in quite a passable condition.

The road labor, as well as much of the work on buildings, has been performed by the Swedes in payment of the provisions and tools furnished by the State.

The Swedes are debtor to the State for aid from the founding of the colony to December 1, 1871.....	\$9,925 13
From December 1, 1871, to December 1, 1872.....	10,382 94
From December 1, 1872, to September 30, 1873.....	4,014 35
Total.....	<u>\$24,321 42</u>

The Swedes have been credited by work from the founding of the colony to December 1, 1871.....	\$2,238 00
From December 1, 1871 to December 1, 1872.....	2,040 00
From December 1, 1872, to September 30, 1873.....	3,750 86
Total.....	<u>\$8,028 86</u>

Total State aid furnished Swedish colonists	\$24,321 42
Total credit by work of colonists.....	8,028 86
Balance due	<u>\$16,292 56</u>

It will be seen from the above that one-third of the amount advanced by the State in necessary supplies has already been repaid. The balance of indebtedness now due from the Swedes to the State will be paid by them in work on highways whenever called upon by the proper authorities.

All State aid to the Swedes ceased in September, 1873. Since then the colony has been self-sustaining.

BUILDINGS.

Twenty-six houses were put up by the State to receive the first colonists in 1870. Since then the Swedes have erected one hundred and four houses in addition, making a total of one hundred and thirty houses in New Sweden, most of which are substantial structures of hewed timber. The Swedes have also built one hundred and thirty barns, many of them small it is true, yet ample to protect the crops now raised and the few domestic animals of the settlers. The capitol continues to be the store-house, school-house, meeting-house and heart of the colony.

IMMIGRATION.

MILLS AND STORE.

Two steam shingle mills and one water power saw mill have been erected and put in operation. A large amount of shingles and boards have been sawed. The mills, however, have not been a profitable investment to their owners.

The variety store at the center does a thriving business. Its sales average about \$200 a week. The goods are chiefly bartered for the surplus products of the Swedish farms, and cedar shingles shaved by the hands of the settlers. The Swedes have become skilled in the manufacture of shaved shingles. In fact it is generally admitted by the traders in Northern Aroostook, that the Swedish shingles are the best made in the county. All the necessities of life can be procured as readily in exchange for shaved shingles as for money, and this branch of manufactures is at present of great importance to the colony. In one instance when the head of the household was sick, the Swedish wife, with her own hands, cut the cedar, sawed it into blocks, and split and shaved them into shingles; one bunch of which she carried on her back three miles to the store, where she exchanged it for needed supplies. The store is entirely the private enterprise of an American trader.

LIVE STOCK.

As soon as circumstances would permit, the Swedes commenced purchasing and raising the necessary live stock. The number of domestic animals in New Sweden has steadily increased, and the colonists now own 22 horses, 14 oxen, 100 cows, 40 calves, 33 sheep and 125 swine.

POST OFFICE.

Immediately after the founding of New Sweden the United States government established a post office there and appointed a post master. The county road from Caribou was subsequently made a post route, and weekly paid postal service commenced in July last. Mr. Sven S. Landin, one of the Swedish settlers, is mail carrier, though when pressed with work on his farm, his wife not unfrequently walks with the mail to Caribou and back, a distance of sixteen and a half miles.

NATURALIZATION.

On the 14th of October last, Ransom Norton, Esq., Clerk of Courts for Aroostook county, visited the colony for the purpose of affording the Swedes an opportunity of taking the first step towards naturalization. On that day one hundred and thirty-three men came forward and publicly renounced all allegiance to the "King of Sweden and Norway, the Goths and the Vandals," and declared their intention of becoming American citizens.

CHURCH AND SCHOOL.

The Swedes are all protestants. They are nearly equally divided into two sects, Lutheran and Baptist. This division created, at first, some jealousy and sectarian feeling, but Pastor Wiren reconciled the two denominations, and they worship harmoniously together, every Sunday, though each holds additional meetings of its own. The Sabbath School too is an union school. It is largely attended and its exercises awaken a lively interest in both young and old.

The free common school is in a most flourishing condition. Pastor Wiren is teacher, and the hall of the capitol the school-house. The first term commenced in November, 1871, and continued four months. The second term began in September, 1872, and was of seven months duration. The last three months of this term were kept in New Jemmland,—a district four miles beyond the center,—and accommodated a portion of the children, whom distance prevented from attending at the capitol. The third term of school is now being held with an average attendance of eighty scholars. The English language is the chief study. To learn to speak, read, and write the language of this State and continent is deemed of more importance than all other branches of education, which could be taught. The result is that the majority of the children, above ten years of age, read and write English tolerably and speak it well. An American now visiting New Sweden need have no trouble in making himself understood, for every child that can talk, can act as interpreter.

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS.

Since the founding of the colony there have occurred 11 marriages, 75 births, and 36 deaths. Before another year has passed

there will undoubtedly be over 100 native Americans in our Swedish colony.

THREE YEARS AGO

New Sweden, with its roads and clearings, its houses and barns, shops and mills, schools, church, and busy population, was an unbroken and uninhabited wilderness.

SWEDISH IMMIGRANTS OUTSIDE THE COLONY.

New Sweden represents less than one-half of the Swedish immigration to Maine. The number of Swedes drawn to our State by the colony, and who are now outside of New Sweden, is estimated at nine hundred.

A few of these are in independent circumstances, and have purchased improved farms in Presque Isle, Fort Fairfield, Maysville, Lyndon, Woodland, and other places. Most of the men, however, are at work in the great tanneries of Penobscot, and the slate quarries of Piscataquis, on the farms and in the mills and lumber woods of Penobscot and Aroostook, and in the work-shops, stores and manufactories of Portland and Bangor.

Many of the young women are employed as house servants in our cities and villages, and furnish a long desired class of help.

These Swedes, both men and women, are everywhere intelligent, trustworthy laborers, and everywhere are praised and prized by their employers.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Swedish immigration enterprise is a success. A colony of 600 Swedes is comfortably and securely established on our wilderness domain, and 900 of their relatives and friends are furnishing needed and valuable labor throughout our State. Maine numbers to-day 1500 Swedish inhabitants. These have all paid their own passage to our State, have brought with them \$100,000 in cash, and are worth to Maine \$1,500,000 as a producing force.

The colony is successfully founded; the stream of immigration successfully started. Not another dollar of appropriation is needed. Without solicitation or endeavor, Swedish immigration will continue to flow into Maine. Without further aid the colony will thrive and grow, will continue to attract Swedish immigrants

to us, and will rapidly advance towards a future, alike prosperous for itself and the commonwealth.

The experiment is an experiment no longer. That the colony has been recruited in Sweden, located in Maine, and made self-sustaining, are facts in the history of our State.

Not only all special state aid, but all state supervision may now be withdrawn from New Sweden. In this event the future municipal government of the colony becomes an interesting question. New Sweden presents the anomaly of an unorganized township occupied by 600 foreigners, furthermore no legal organization can at present be effected, since there is not an American citizen on the township, through whom the first step towards organization can be taken.

A look at the past, however, will satisfy us that any difficulties arising from this state of things are more apparent than real.

The first year of the colony your Commissioner found time to personally settle all disputes between the colonists, organize the labor on roads and buildings, and arrange all matters of general concern. As the colony increased and extended, it became impossible for one man to do this. A committee of ten was therefore instituted to assist your Commissioner. Nine of this committee are elected, the Pastor is the tenth ex-officio. Three go out of office every six months, and their places are filled by the colonists at a general election.

This decemvirate has satisfactorily managed all the municipal affairs of the colony, and its decisions command universal respect and obedience. I believe that no other local government will be necessary until New Sweden can be organized into a plantation. This can be effected in two years, since a large number of the Swedes may then become American citizens.

I recommend that the public buildings and all public property in New Sweden, be transferred to the charge of the Land Office, and that the amount now due from the Swedes to the State, be worked out on the public highways, under the direction of the Land Agent.

It is a pleasure for me to further recommend that the office I hold, be discontinued, since the accomplishment of the undertaking has rendered the office no longer necessary.

With this report your Commissioner takes leave of a measure which has occupied the better portion of his life and endeavor for

the past four years, confident that as a result of the enterprise, population and wealth will continue to flow into Maine as long as Swedish immigration flows to the United States.

W. W. THOMAS, JR.,
Commissioner of Immigration.

PORTLAND, Dec. 31, 1873.