



Drama Activity

Scene One:

The British Parliament, London, England 1824

1st Member of Parliament

The Irish are restless again!

There is little work. Food is in short supply. Many are being thrown out of their homes for they have no way to pay the rent. I fear catastrophe my lord. I fear riots.

2nd Member of Parliament

Send in more troops!

3rd Member of Parliament

No, I suggest we relieve the pressure. Move some of the poor souls out.

4th Member of Parliament

But where to move them? That is the real question gentlemen.

3rd Member of Parliament

Contact the Attorney General of Upper Canada, John Beverley Robinson. He took the Irish to Bytown last year and he says they need more farmers in Upper Canada.

1st Member of Parliament

Good then. Draft a letter immediately to the Attorney General. Tell him the British government will provide reasonable funding if he will take some of these poor wretches off our hands.



Peterborough Museum & Archives

Scene Two

*A meeting between John Beverley Robinson and his brother Peter Robinson
Government House, Bytown, Upper Canada 1824*

John Beverley

*Well Peter, they have decided to do it again. A really big move this time.
The British Government will pay to transport 2000 Irish paupers if we agree to
settle them here.*

Peter

*It's a big job. It was hard enough last year, moving those 500 Irish to the
Bathurst district.*

John Beverley

*We need to settle that area north of Rice Lake. I believe there's a mill on the
Otonabee, owned by Adam Scott, but precious few want to live so far out in the
backwoods. The job is yours if you want it Peter. The money is good. If the job
can be done... you are the man to do it.*

Peter

*Thank you, John. I can leave for Ireland early in the new year and select the
families. I should have them on their way by spring. It's a six week voyage across
the ocean, then by steamboat to Cobourg and a long trek north to the backwoods
of Upper Canada. We will want them all settled in by winter.*

John Beverley

*The British Government will pay for the whole move - ships, food, supplies – but
you'll have to keep a record of every penny you spend. Good luck and God Speed!*