

# FURTHER REPORT

*Of the Select Committee, appointed on the 23rd July last, to enquire into, and report upon the working of the present system of Immigration, with the view of recommending some plan more adequate to the altered state of the Colony.*

1. The evidence taken before your Committee not having been printed and in the hands of Members until the 7th January instant, your Committee feel that the long delay in bringing up their Report does not rest with them. In the present instance, however, the delay in question may prove more advantageous than otherwise, affording the Committee, as it has done, ample opportunities of watching the character and extent of the present large voluntary Immigration which has been going on for several months, in addition to a copious supply of Government ships which have arrived during the same period. Notwithstanding all this, however, your Committee find that with the exception of married shepherds no sensible reduction has been made in wages; on the contrary, since the evidence was closed, in September last, the wages of mechanics and skilled labour have risen fully 20 per cent. upon the prices then current, and that with the contemplated large expenditure of Government in the erection of Public Works and Buildings, and the eager desire of Companies and private persons to construct Railroads and build houses, a still larger Immigration than that which has already taken place can easily find highly remunerative employment without having resort to the Gold Fields. Your Committee, for these reasons, strongly and urgently recommend the immediate and continued importation of as many Immigrants of the *working classes* as the funds devoted by law to the purpose will admit, and as the volume of voluntary Immigration increases, which has hitherto consisted and is still likely to consist chiefly of males, more likely soon to employ labor than to labor for others, the more necessary does it appear to your Committee to increase in a like proportion the number of those classes whose position prevents them from going to the Gold Fields, and are at once available to the employers of labor. Keeping this principle in view, the classes which appear to your Committee most required at present are young single women suitable for domestic service, married mechanics, and married farm labourers.

2. Your Committee have directed their attention to the principle of a loan, to be repaid by the Immigrants in one or two years after arrival in the Colony; but as there are well-founded doubts whether such loans would be repaid, your Committee abstain from recommending that course, but would rather urge on the Government the liberal measure of paying the entire expense of as large a number as possible of those classes which are best calculated to supply our wants, feeling assured that the success of these in the Colony would in a comparatively short period enable them to send funds to bring out their relatives and friends, and thus promote, as in America, a large self-supporting system.

3. In order as far as possible to promote morality and good conduct on the voyage out, such ship should bring at least one-third or more of married persons with their families, and the remainder single women of good character. Employment should be provided for the latter at sea, and the Surgeon Superintendent shall have supreme control.

See the evidence of Messrs. Brown and Ramsden, pages 34 and 35.

H. C. E. Childers, Esq., page 17.  
J. D. Pinnock, pages 10 and 11.

J. Sullivan, Esq., page 27.  
T. F. Mann, Esq., page 30.

J. D. Pinnock, Esq., page 11, reply to Question No. 245.

A. Chisholm, Esq., Answer to Question No. 266, and H. C. E. Childers, Esq., Nos. 382 to 384.

4. That at least one-half of the married men be masons, carpenters, wheelwrights, cabinetmakers, bricklayers, and blacksmiths; and the other half farm labourers.

5. That a preference be given to such families as have a preponderance of females.

6. That the Immigrants be selected chiefly from the rural districts of the United Kingdom.

7. To carry out more satisfactorily the Immigration here recommended your Committee desire to see the Rules of the Immigration Commissioners relaxed in several particulars. 1. No division of families should be tolerated; and any number of children taken. 2. More power should be given to local agents in several parts of the Kingdom, and ships despatched from several ports, thereby preventing that delay and dissatisfaction which at present exists. 3. Families should not be refused unless the age of the father or mother exceeds 60, and no objection should be taken to widows or widowers of good character with their families.

8. Your Committee now revert to the first part of their enquiry, and they do so by recording their deliberate conviction of the unsoundness of the present Government system of Immigration, which is so strikingly proved by the evidence taken before your Committee. The chief points to which your Committee would here wish to draw attention are—1. The total absence of responsibility in the administration of so large a fund. 2. An entire absence of accounts since 1847. 3. A sum of £129,000 being totally unaccounted for, to say nothing of Emigrants having been sent to Twofold Bay, in New South Wales, at the expense of Victoria. Other defects may also be pointed out, among which the evident want of sound information among the working classes in the United Kingdom stands pre-eminent, and the long delay that occurs in referring every question to a Central Board in London. These causes, among others, your Committee think are sufficient to account for the inability of the Commissioners to procure Immigrants, while at the same period crowds were offering to come and pay a great portion of their own passages by Mrs. Chisholm's ships.

9. Your Committee feel that there is no safety for the Colony but to return to the Bounty system freed from its former defects. This plan, by placing the control of the funds where it undoubtedly ought to be—in the hands of the Colonial Government—the only effectual check, namely the withholding of payment, may be imposed whenever the rules, to be laid down, may be infringed. By this plan a year would also be gained upon the present system, inasmuch as it takes fully that period to effect sales of Lands and remit the money to London.

10. Your Committee would finally draw attention to the health and safety of Immigrant ships; recent painful instances having proved that there is far greater mortality in ships bringing more than 400 souls than in ships which do not exceed that number. Your Committee also think that to ensure safety as far as possible, preference should be given to ships constructed on the principle adopted in vessels built for the Royal Navy, and that in advertising for Tenders a clause should be introduced to that effect.

11. Your Committee regret to add that the evidence adduced respecting the character of many of the females sent out to this Colony under the auspices of Mr. Sidney Herbert is not of a favorable nature.

(Signed) W. F. SPLATT,  
Chairman.

T. F. Mann, Esq.,  
page 30. Replies  
to Questions 630,  
631, and 632.

H. C. B. Childers,  
Esq., pages 20 and  
21.

T. F. Mann, Esq.,  
page 30. Replies  
to Questions 635 to  
640.

J. D. Pinnock, Esq.,  
pages 12 and 13.  
Answers to Questions  
No. 271 to  
279.

J. Sullivan, Esq.,  
page 25. Answers  
to Questions Nos.  
552 and 553.

See Mr. Ballingall's  
Evidence.