

1856.

VICTORIA.

IMMIGRATION.

CORRESPONDENCE RELATIVE TO
IMMIGRATION.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND

By Authority:

JOHN FERRES, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

No. 22, a.

SCHEDULE.

No. in Series.	Date and Number.	Subject.	Page.
<i>Despatches from the Commissioner of Trade and Customs to the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners.</i>			
1	20th March, 1856. D. 56 143	Enclosing four Resolutions passed by the Legislative Council of Victoria, relative to the appropriation of £100,000 for Emigration purposes in 1856	3
2	5th August, 1856. D. 56 355	Enclosing copy of new Immigration Remittance Regulations dating from 1st August, 1856	3
3	26th August, 1856. D. 56 385	Relative to the application of the sum of £100,000, voted under the Estimates of 1856; and referring to the intended discontinuance of the services of the Commissioners as Agents for Emigration to Victoria	7
<i>Despatch from His Excellency Major-General Macarthur to the Secretary of State.</i>			
4	26th August, 1856. 91	Enclosing copy of Despatch from the Commissioner of Trade and Customs to the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners (<i>Vide</i> No. 3)	8
<i>Despatch from the Secretary of State to Governor Sir C. Hotham.</i>			
5	29th January, 1856. No. 12	In reply to Despatch of 29th August, 1855, forwarding Report of Mr. Rusden upon Emigration, &c., for the year 1855	8
<i>Chief Secretary, Victoria, to Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.</i>			
6	14th August, 1856	Protesting against a notice published in the <i>Hobart Town Gazette</i> , notifying that the passage money of female domestic servants brought from Victoria into Tasmania would be reimbursed to the persons introducing them	12
<i>Colonial Secretary, Tasmania, to Chief Secretary, Victoria.</i>			
7	29th August, 1856	In reply to the above	12

CORRESPONDENCE.

No. 1.

D. 56 | 143.

GENTLEMEN,

Office of Commissioner of Trade and Customs,
Melbourne, 20th March, 1856.

I am directed by His Excellency the Officer administering the Government of this Colony to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 5th November, 1855, reporting the difficulty which existed in obtaining a proper class of emigrants, and stating that a modification of the regulations had been made by you.

In reply, I am to state that the subject has been brought under the notice of the Legislative Council, and I append a copy of four resolutions passed in Committee on the Estimates for your information. Enclosures

I shall shortly address you again, and convey to you the views of the Government of Victoria as to the manner in which the intentions of those resolutions should be carried out.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

RUGER C. E. CHILDESS.

Her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners,
Westminster, London.

Enclosure to No. 1.

Resolutions.

1. That the sum of £100,000 be appropriated for the purposes of assisted immigration, such sum to be remitted to the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners during the year 1856, in addition to the deposits under the "Immigration Remittance Regulations."

2. That half the number of statute adults despatched under this vote to Victoria should be single females.

3. That one-third of the emigrants despatched to Victoria should be sent to Melbourne, one-third to Geelong, one-sixth to Portland, and one-sixth to Port Fairy.

4. That three hundred statute adults should be sent from emigrant ships in other parts to Port Albert.

No. 2.

D. 56 | 355.

VICTORIA..

Office of Commissioner of Trade and Customs,
Melbourne, 5th August, 1856.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to transmit to you herewith a copy of the new Immigration Remittance Regulations, which have been issued under the authority of His Excellency Major-General Macandrew in Council, and have been in force since the 1st instant.

You will notice that the principal differences between the present and previous regulations are:—

1. The formalities to be gone through by depositors in the Colony have been simplified.

2. Some of the conditions required as to age, number of children, proportion of males to females, young persons being accompanied by their parents, &c., have been withdrawn.

3. The rates of deposit have been modified, so as to reduce the charges for eligible emigrants under the age of thirty.

4. Railway laborers and town mechanics of certain descriptions have been included in the class of most eligible emigrants.

5. The deposit is intended to cover the nominee's railway or steam-packet fare from the nearest station to the place of embarkation.

With respect to the latter alteration, the Government have had in view the facilities stated to be afforded by railway and steam-boat companies in the United Kingdom to emigrants en route for America, and they have presumed that arrangements can be made with those companies by your Board, under which persons accepted by you might receive tickets franking them to the point of embarkation.

Should you, however, be unable to make such arrangements, it is still considered desirable that the cost of the journey, as described above, should not be defrayed by the emigrant.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

RUGER C. E. CHILDESS.

Her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners,
Westminster, London.

Enclosure to No. 2

Office of Commissioner of Trade and Customs,
Melbourne, 21st July, 1856.

IMMIGRATION REMITTANCES.

His Excellency the Senior Military Officer administering the Government, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to direct that from the first day of August next ensuing, the Immigration Remittance Regulations of the first June, 1853, and all rules made in pursuance of those regulations, be cancelled, and that in lieu thereof the following Revised Regulations be adopted and published for the information of persons desirous of securing passages for their relatives and friends from the United Kingdom to Victoria.

His Excellency, in Council, has also been pleased to direct the publication of the Regulations of Her Majesty's Land and Immigration Commissioners relative to the selection of Emigrants to this Colony.

By His Excellency's Command,

HUGH C. E. CHILDERS.

IMMIGRATION REMITTANCES.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

Persons wishing to bring their relatives and friends from the United Kingdom to Victoria, can secure passages for them in vessels chartered by Her Majesty's Government on the following Conditions:—

1. The persons to be brought into the Colony must be in good health, free from all bodily or mental defects; of good moral character, sober, industrious, and in the habit of working for wages at the occupation specified in the application forms. Children under the age of fifteen years must be accompanied by some competent person who will take charge of them during the voyage.

2. The names, ages, relationship, married or single state, occupation and address of the persons for whom passages are requested, must be furnished by the applicant according to the accompanying form:—

Christian Name and Surname at full length.	Age.	Whether Married or single.	Relationship.	Trade or Calling.	Address at full length of the Place or Town and Street where living in the United Kingdom.

3. The applicant will then be informed of the amount to be paid to secure the passages, and upon payment of this sum he will receive a certificate which he will forward to his friends by post.

4. The amount to be paid will depend on the number of the persons to be introduced, their age, sex, occupation, and other circumstances. It will generally be within the following limits:—

SEX.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 12.	12 and under 30.	30 and under 40.	40 and under 50.	50 and upwards.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Male.....	1 to 2	3 to 4	4 to 6	6 to 8	8 to 12	12 to 18
Female.....	1 to 2	2 to 3	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 6	10 to 18

5. Should the persons sent for be unwilling or unable to emigrate, the amount deposited towards their passages will be repaid to the applicant in this Colony on the receipt of the usual voucher to that effect from the Commissioners. But should any false statements be made as to the age, occupation, character, or condition of the persons to be brought to the Colony, passages will not be granted, and the money deposited for that purpose will be liable to forfeiture.

6. Application forms and every information will be given, and deposits received, at the under-mentioned places :—

Melbourne,	by the Immigration Agent;
Geelong,	} by the Assistant Immigration Agents.;
Portland,	
Port Fairy,	
Warrnambool,	
Port Albert,	
Castlemaine,	} by the Sub-Treasurers ;
Sandhurst,	
Ballaarat,	
Avoca,	
Beechworth,	

and at other places by persons to be specially appointed for that purpose.

7. Persons residing at a distance from the above places can obtain application forms at the nearest Post Office, and on sending them (duly filled up and signed) to the Immigration Agent in Melbourne, will receive immediate information. The amount required can be sent to the Immigration Agent in Melbourne by cheque, or order on a bank or mercantile house, or by bank notes in a registered letter. Upon receipt of the remittance, the usual certificate for the passages of his friends will be forwarded to the depositor, and he will transmit it by post to their address in the United Kingdom.

(CIRCULAR.)

Immigration Office,
Melbourne, 1st August, 1856.

The present regulations have been framed with a view of affording additional facilities for the passages from the United Kingdom of relatives and friends of persons residing in Victoria, and thereby of introducing a useful class of immigrants into the Colony.

2. The persons eligible for passages under these regulations are agricultural laborers of every kind, domestic servants, railway laborers, mechanics, and artizans, and their wives, children, and near relations. They must be in sound health, free from bodily or mental defects, of good moral character, and accustomed to work for wages at the occupation specified by the depositor on the application form.

3. Children under fifteen years of age cannot be accepted unless accompanied by some suitable person who will take charge of them during the voyage.

4. Should a family contain more than two children under seven years of age, an extra rate of four pounds for each child in excess must be paid by the applicant before passages can be secured. The same extra rate must be paid to secure passages for single men coming alone.

5. In ordinary cases the applicant will pay a proportion of the cost of the passage according to the subjoined scale, the remainder of the cost being defrayed by Her Majesty's Government.

Class 1.

6. Agricultural laborers, shepherds, herdsmen, farm and domestic servants, railway laborers, blacksmiths, brickmakers, bricklayers, carpenters, masons, quarrymen, sawyers and wheelwrights, with their near relatives.

SEX.	Children under 1 year of age.	Children between 1 and 12.	Persons between 12 and 30.	Persons between 30 and 40.	Persons between 40 and 50.	Persons between 50 and 60.	Persons exceeding 60.
Male.....	£1	£3	£4	£6	£8	£12	£16
Female.....	1	2	2	3	4	10	16

Class 2.

Other mechanics and artizans with their near relations.

SEX.	Children under 1 year of age.	Children between 1 and 12.	Persons between 12 and 30.	Persons between 30 and 40.	Persons between 40 and 50.	Persons between 50 and 60.	Persons exceeding 60.
Male.....	£2	£4	£6	£8	£12	£16	£18
Female.....	2	3	3	4	6	12	18

7. No payment is required by the Commissioners from the persons sent for, but they will have to defray their own expenses to the nearest railway or packet station, and to shew that they possess an outfit for the voyage, in accordance with the regulations.

8. It will be advisable, therefore, whenever practicable, to receive from the applicant (in addition to the sums in the above scale) five pounds, or such amount as he may find convenient to remit, for these expenses. This amount will be paid through the Commissioners to the persons nominated, in the United Kingdom.

9. On enquiring at any of the Immigration Offices or Sub-Treasuries, the applicant is to be furnished with an application form (form A), which he will duly fill up, sign and leave with the officer.

He is then to be informed of the amount required to be paid, and of the outfit (form B). As soon as he has paid this amount to the Assistant Immigration Agent or Sub-Treasurer (as the case may be) the money or a receipt for it from the Treasury is to be remitted to the Immigration Agent in Melbourne, with the application form (form C) and a statement of the sums paid for passages and outfit. The Immigration Agent will then transmit a certificate for the persons nominated, either to the office at which the money was paid, or to such address as the applicant may request. This certificate is to be sent by the applicant to his friends in the United Kingdom.

10. For the convenience of persons at a distance, the application form (A) may be obtained at the District Post Offices. The applicant will fill up the particulars, sign his name and address, and forward it to the Immigration Agent in Melbourne, who will inform him of the amount to be paid, and on the receipt of the money forward him the usual certificate.

11. The sums remitted to the Immigration Agent will be paid into the Treasury daily. The Treasurer will furnish a monthly return of the amounts, and the Immigration Agent will likewise furnish a monthly return for transmission to the Commissioners, of the names and other particulars of the persons nominated, and of the amount paid for passages and outfits.

12. Should the persons nominated decline or be unable to emigrate, the money paid towards their passages will be returned to the depositor in this Colony. All applications for sums to be refunded should be addressed direct to the Immigration Agent, Melbourne.

13. Should the applicant wilfully misrepresent the particulars of the persons nominated, the deposits towards the passages will be liable to forfeiture.

14. Should a difficulty occur in any special case not included in the above instructions, the particulars should be forwarded to the Immigration Agent, who will afford every information on the subject.

[FORM A.]

SIR,

185

I have the honor to transmit a list of the persons I wish to bring into this Colony from the United Kingdom. The full particulars are given in the form below, and, to the best of my belief, they are quite true in every respect: I should therefore feel obliged by being informed of the sum to be paid to secure passages for them in a Government ship.

Christian Name and Surname at full length.	Age.	Whether Married or Single.	Relationship.	Trade or Calling.	Address at full length of the Place or Town and Street where living in the United Kingdom.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Applicant's signature,
And residence,

To the Immigration Agent, Melbourne.

[FORM B.]

SIR,

185

In reply to your enquiry as to the expense of securing passages from the United Kingdom to Victoria in a Government ship for the persons named in the application form, I have to inform you that the sum required will amount to £ , as stated in the margin.

2. On payment of the above sum at this office a certificate will be sent to you, which will entitle your friends to a passage. You will therefore be careful to forward it to their address in the United Kingdom.

I remain, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

[FORM C.]

185

SIR,

I have the honor to enclose an application from
for the passages of the persons named therein.

The sum of £ , as specified in the margin, has been paid into this office, and I
enclose herewith a , for the amount.

3. Mr. requests that the usual certificate may be sent for him to
this office.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

The Immigration Agent, Melbourne.

No. 3.

(COPY.)

D. 56 | 385.

VICTORIA.

Office of Commissioner of Trade and Customs,
Melbourne, 26th August, 1856.

GENTLEMEN,

With my communication of the 20th March, No. 143, I had the honor of transmitting to you the copy of a series of resolutions adopted by the local Legislature on the 13th February, relative to the appropriation, upon the Estimates of the current year, of one hundred thousand pounds for the purposes of emigration from the United Kingdom to Victoria. It is now my duty to put you in possession of the views of the Executive Government as to the application of this vote.

Duplicate herewith.
Vide No. 1.
£100,000.

I must premise by explaining to you why I have not sooner addressed you on this subject. According to a calculation based upon the information contained in your letters of the 5th November, 1855, and the 24th January, 1856, (addressed to Mr. Merivale,) and upon subsequent reports from the Immigration Department, it appears that the funds already in your hands will not have been exhausted, or even pledged, before the end of November next. The present is therefore the earliest date at which any further remittance to you would be necessary, and as the inducements and facilities for emigration to Australia have recently been subject to constant changes, it has been deemed advisable to postpone the completion of the instructions as to the appropriation of the sums remitted to you until the time arrived when those instructions would require to be acted upon.

With reference to the first resolution it is intended to remit to you the £100,000 appropriated for the service of the current year in five sums of £20,000 (less bank charges) by the mails of each of the following months:—September, October, November, and December, 1856, and January, 1857. I shall, by the same packets, remit the sums deposited under the Remittance Regulations during each of the preceding months. I have to request that you will arrange that these remittances, together with the balance now in your hands, may provide for the entire charge for emigration to Victoria (including the second moiety of freights, return passages, &c.) to the 30th June, after reserving a sum sufficient to defray the passages of persons selected under the Remittance Regulations who may not have presented themselves; and any other charges against the Colony which may accrue before that time.

It is right that I should explain to you that the object of this arrangement is that steps may be taken to close your account with Victoria, and to commence a distinct Emigration Agency for the Colony about the date which I have named.

On this subject His Excellency has addressed to Mr. Labouchere, by this mail, a Despatch explaining the views of the Government of Victoria relative to the future conduct of emigration, so far as it concerns this Colony.

As this Despatch will without doubt be communicated to you, it is not necessary for me to do more than refer to the discontinuance of your operations in connection with this Colony which it notifies.

Assuming that the net average cost of passage during the first half of the year 1857 will not exceed £16, the sums to be remitted to you (including the deposits above referred to) will provide for the emigration of about 7000 statute adults. The 2nd resolution prescribes that of these one half, or 3500, should be single females, and it is the earnest hope of the Government that you will be able to obtain this number of respectable persons.

His Excellency is fully aware of the difficulty which has been hitherto experienced in this respect, but it has been suggested that the principal cause of failure is the limited remuneration afforded to the district agents; and several instances have been given of young women prepared and desirous to emigrate, who have been deterred by the want of facilities for placing themselves in communication with your Department, and reaching the port of embarkation. The great inequality of the sexes in Victoria renders it absolutely essential that every means should be taken to induce the immigration of single females, and His Excellency will willingly sanction any additional expenditure which you may think fit to incur in increasing the remuneration to country agents in this respect.

I may state here that one of the objections urged against the system adopted by your Board, has been, the alleged refusal of passages to natives of Ireland, domiciled in England. It has been represented that a large class of such persons (many of them females) have been unable to obtain passages, although the same persons would have been accepted had they dated their applications from Ireland. I have no means of verifying the truth of this statement, but it does not appear to this Government that the exclusion complained of, if it really exists, need be continued. With reference to the proportion of persons to be selected from each of the three kingdoms, it is, of course, desirable that the principle of the census should be observed, if possible; but I am to state, that the Government does not consider that it should be insisted upon to the exclusion of *eligible* emigrants.

You will observe that the proportions to be sent to the several ports of the Colony, under the third resolution, differ somewhat from those proposed in Mr. Rusden's report for the year 1854, and adopted in your communication of the 29th January.

With respect to the port of Port Fairy, I have to inform you that ample accommodation now exists for the reception of immigrants, barracks having been erected on a convenient site at the commencement of the current year. Should you, therefore, experience any difficulty in chartering vessels for this port on the usual conditions as to lay days, there will be no objection to those conditions being varied, so as to admit of the passengers being landed within twenty-four hours after arrival, and the vessel proceeding to Portland, or any other more secure harbor. It would be, however, desirable that sufficient notice of such an alteration in the charter-party should be given to the Immigration Agent.

The object of the fourth resolution will be best attained by special agreements being made with one hundred passengers in each of three ships chartered for Melbourne or Geelong for passages to Port Albert. On being advised of this arrangement, the Immigration Agent will engage steamers to receive the immigrants in question at Port Phillip Heads, and land them at Port Albert within twelve or fifteen hours. I may state that depôts have been erected at the latter port, and arrangements made for the care and provisioning of the immigrants.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HUGH C. E. CHILDERS.

Her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners,
Westminster, London.

No. 4.

(copy.)

No. 91.

VICTORIA.

Executive.

Toorak, near Melbourne.

SIR,

26th August, 1856.

Vide No. 3.

By this mail a Despatch, the copy of which I enclose, has been addressed to the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, conveying to them the wishes of this Government relative to the appropriation of the sum of One hundred thousand pounds, voted under the Estimates of this year, for the purpose of Assisted Emigration to Victoria.

Allusion is made in that Despatch to the intended discontinuance of the services of the Commissioners as Agents for Immigration to this Colony, and it is my duty upon this point clearly to explain to you the course which my Executive Council have decided to adopt, and the grounds upon which they have acted.

I need hardly state that since the commencement of the New Constitution, the subject of immigration has demanded and received the most anxious consideration on the part of my advisers.

Situated as the Australian Colonies are, both geographically and with reference to the rapid development of their resources, a steady and effective supply of labor is almost their first necessity, and its promotion cannot but be one of the most important functions of the Executive Government.

There is in this respect a marked difference between their position and that of the North American provinces. It has been found sufficient to confine the duties of the administrations of those Colonies in connection with emigration to the necessary *surveillance* over a regular and important trade, the protection of the passengers at sea, and the facilities for their reception on shore and transmission into the interior. But the attraction of the Australian Gold Fields, even when most vividly brought under notice in the United Kingdom, has failed to secure a steady stream of eligible labor to her markets, without assistance from the public funds and the active promotion of paid agents in the United Kingdom.

It is not necessary that I should on the present occasion inform you in detail of the manner in which it will be proposed to apply the funds which may be voted for immigration, so far as the operations of the Government within the Colony are concerned.

These arrangements, however, imperatively involve the existence in the United Kingdom of a paid agency for immigration directly responsible to the Colony, and it has been necessary to decide whether application should be made to Her Majesty's advisers to allow the present department of Colonial Lands and Emigration to act in this capacity, or whether a separate department not connected with the Imperial Government should be established for this purpose.

For many reasons the continuance of the present arrangement might appear advisable. I cannot speak too highly of the evident anxiety which the Commissioners have felt to discharge the duties entrusted to them to the satisfaction of the colonists of Victoria. Many of the suggestions which my predecessors had directed to be made to them have been readily adopted; none have been rejected without careful and impartial inquiry. The funds at the disposal of the Board have been generally expended with economy and prudence, and I have no reason to believe that in the appointments which they have made the most scrupulous care has ever failed to be exercised by the Commissioners, or the superior officers under their survey. Whatever complaints may have been made by other Governments relative to the selection of emigrants, with proportionately few exceptions those selected for passages to Victoria have been, especially during the last two years, well received by the colonists.

But on the other hand, it is the opinion of this Government, that the management of the large funds set aside for immigration should not in future be entrusted to a department, however efficiently conducted, which is not directly responsible to, and under the control of the Colonial Administration. Although conscious of the difficulties which will undoubtedly at first attend any change in this respect, they believe that those difficulties will be far less than such as may be expected to arise from the want of control by the Colony over so important a department as that conducting the introduction of labor must be. Nor have they failed to notice the evident wishes of Her Majesty's advisers in this respect. I allude to the recent debate in the House of Commons as the Estimates for the establishment of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners. It appears from the only report of this debate which I have been able to obtain, that the future duties of that department have been clearly defined as "directing and controlling but not stimulating emigration." No active exertions to promote the settlement of this Colony can therefore be expected from the Board, and it would be manifestly impossible for me to recommend to the Legislature that the duties of their Agency for Emigration in England should be passive only.

Under these circumstances I have to notify to you the intention of my advisers to recommend, that from the 1st of July next, the operations of the Commissioners in connection with emigration to Victoria be discontinued, and their account with the Colony closed. It may perhaps be necessary hereafter to alter the precise date at which their services should terminate, but it is probable that that now named will be the most convenient.

I have earnestly to request, that the necessary instructions may be given to facilitate this arrangement, in order that the new agency for emigration may commence operations (receiving the balance in the hands of the Commissioners) without interruption to the business of the Colony.

With respect to the nature of the agency to be substituted for that of the Commissioners, I shall do myself the honor of addressing to you another Despatch.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

EDWARD MACARTHUR, Major-General.

The Right Honorable Henry Labouchere, M.P.

No. 5.

No. 12.

Downing-street,

SIR,

29th January, 1856.

I have received your Despatch, No. 112, of the 29th of August last, accompanied by the Annual Report of Immigration Agent.

The contents of this Report are very interesting, and well arranged.

I enclose, for your information, the copy of a report upon it, which I have received from the 24th January, 1856. Emigration Commissioners; and upon the practical questions therein adverted to, I concur in the Commissioners' suggestions.

I have, &c.,

G. GREY.

Governor Sir C. Hotham,
&c., &c., &c.

Enclosure to No. 5.

Emigration Office,
24th January, 1856.

The Governor's Despatch,
No. 112, 29th August,
1855.

SIR,

We have to acknowledge your letter of the 7th instant, enclosing the Annual Report of the Immigration Agent for Victoria.

2. From this Report we propose to collect and place before Mr. Labouchere, first, the principal statistical facts respecting the nature and extent of the immigration during 1854; next, the observations of the Immigration Agent on the conduct of the immigration during that year; and, thirdly, his recommendation with regard to future immigration.

3. (r.) Between the 30th of June, 1851, and the 31st of December, 1854, the immigration into Victoria by sea was as follows:—

Year.	Unassisted.	Assisted.
Second half of 1851 ...	9,029	1,987
" 1852 ...	79,187	15,477
" 1853 ...	77,734	14,578
" 1854 ...	67,092	16,318
	233,042	48,360
	48,360	
	281,402	

Dividing the immigration according to sex the result is as follows:—

	Males.	Females.
Unassisted Immigration ...	187,331	45,711
Assisted	19,537	28,823
	206,868	74,534
Deduct the Emigration ...	94,825	14,637
And there remains an addition to the population of ...	112,043	59,897

Or in all, of 171,940 persons.

4. The actual state of the Colony at the end of 1854, as regards the division of sexes, is shewn as follows. The census of 26th of April gave the following results:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Persons in the Colony in April, 1854	155,898	80,900	236,798
Add balance of unassisted Immigration over Emigration during rest of 1854 ...	17,401	6,367	23,768
Assisted Immigration ...	3,772	6,608	10,380
Persons in the Colony 31st December, 1854	177,071	93,875	270,946

The excess of males was, therefore, on the 31st December, 1854, 83,196. It would probably have been about 10,000 more, but for the excess of females on the assisted immigration of the last few years.

5. The assisted immigration of the whole of 1854 was made up as follows, in point of sex and country:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
English	2,019	3,216	5,235
Scotch	1,759	2,733	4,492
Irish	1,678	4,913	6,591
	5,456	10,862	16,318

In point of religion :—

Roman Catholics	6,113
Church of England	4,675
Presbyterians	4,563
Wesleyans	518
Other Protestants	449
	16,318

6. As might be supposed, the Roman Catholics were almost entirely Irish; the Presbyterians, Scotch; and the members of the Church of England, English. Of the 5,456 males, 2,254 were agricultural laborers, and 1,144 mechanics, concerned with building—a class of persons very urgently wanted, till houses in the Colony had increased in some proportion to the sudden influx of inhabitants.

7. Of the whole number, 8,630 could read and write; 2,934 could read only; 4,764 (including children) could neither read nor write; and the per centage of those who could read and write in the different communions was:

Church of England	0·655
Presbyterian	0·634
Wesleyans	0·626
Other Protestants	0·629
Roman Catholics	0·329

The average wages of agricultural laborers, during 1854, were (besides rations) for—

	£	s.	d.
Married couples	86	5	10
Single men	39	12	9
Single women	24	18	10

A somewhat curious result, as it would seem that a man and woman would add more than thirty per cent. to their aggregate wages by marrying. It seems, however, that the average wages of 1854, would not have been obtainable in 1855, having sunk, in July, 1855, in the case of married couples, to £53 6s.; single men, to £33 15s. 6d.; single women, to £22 4s. 6d. per annum.

8. The remittances paid by the colonists to bring out friends from England, were on the increase. They were—

	PERSONS.	AMOUNT.
For 1852	208	£1,505
„ 1853	549	£4,135
„ 1854	850	£5,972

9. (II.) With regard to the general conduct of the emigration, Mr. Rusden notices the efficiency of the surgeons, and the decrease of mortality, which, during the last four years, was (in ships arriving in Victoria) as follows:

Last half-year of 1851	1·86
„ 1852	5·5
„ 1853	3·6
„ 1854	1·47

Among the adults the mortality on board was at a rate equivalent to no more than 1·834 per centum per annum.

10. These satisfactory results Mr. Rusden ascribes partly to the increased precautions taken to secure health, partly to the larger class of ships employed, and partly to the smaller number of children put on board. There can be no doubt that the last of these causes has had a most important effect on the total mortality, and we hope that the first is not also without its weight. But a very minute investigation of the subject (undertaken with reference to the question of salted ships), has led us to doubt whether the increased size of the ships employed tends much to improve the health of those on board. It may be remembered, as somewhat curious, that in this respect the experience of the American and Australian emigrations led to directly contrary results.

11. The cost of the emigration to Victoria for 1854 was high, being no less than £21 10s. 8d. per adult. This is, of course, accounted for by the high price of shipping and provisions. It will, we hope, be considerably less in 1855, as the prices of Australian emigrant ships may be said, roughly, to have ranged, during the first half of 1854, between £20 and £26 per statute adult, but during the first half of 1855 between £14 and £18.

12. We regret to perceive that the persons sent out during 1854, and especially the Irish, are reported to have been of an inferior class. Mr. Rusden points out that the Irish emigrants were less educated than the English and Scotch, while a far larger number of them are sent out than is warranted by the relative population of Ireland and Great Britain. The subjoined figures embody Mr. Rusden's conclusions :—

	English.	Scotch.	Irish.
Proportion which should have been sent out according to census of 1851.....	657	105	238
Proportion which was sent out.....	321	275	404
Proportion of Emigrants who could read and write.....	658	632	356

13. On this point, however, the question has been rather what was practicable than what was best. Without drawing very largely upon Ireland we could not have answered the great demand for emigrants which was pressed upon us from all the Australian Colonies. And still less would it have been possible to send out the large excess of females, of which Mr. Rusden fully appreciates the advantages. He alludes to the “ameliorating tendency which has been brought about by the labors of the Emigration Commissioners.” He even goes so far as to propose means, to which we shall hereafter advert, for still further reducing the number of males sent out by this board, and he suggests that Government emigration should be confined as far as practicable to single females and the nominees of depositors

under the remittance regulations. But (as we have had occasion to state in another report of this day's date) this large immigration of unmarried women could not have been effected from England. By reference to Mr. Rusden's Report it will be seen that it is due to the emigration from Ireland, to which, on other grounds, he objects. He states the proportion of single men and women arriving in Victoria, in 1854 to have been as follows:—

	Single Men.	Single Women.	Per Centage proportion of Men to Women.
From Engand	720	1924	37·4
„ Scotland	837	1815	46·1
„ Ireland.....	792	4028	19·6

and it is evident from these figures how greatly our endeavours to correct the sexual disproportion of the unassisted immigration must have been neutralized, had emigration from Ireland been reduced to the amount justified by the population of the Colony.

14. At present the eager desire to emigrate from the United Kingdom, and to receive immigrants in Australia, has somewhat abated, and in the less exclusive emigration which we are now carrying on (being at the rate of two ships a month to Victoria), we are endeavouring to reduce the number of Irish. But looking to the extreme weight attached in the Colony (with evident justice) to female emigration, we shall not, unless otherwise instructed by the Secretary of State, consider ourselves bound to adhere accurately to the correct proportion between English and Irish emigration, at the expense of materially reducing the excess of females which we are now able to send out.

15. Before leaving this part of Mr. Rusden's report, we may be allowed to point out that the arrivals of 1856 are said to be of a superior class, and to explain that the Irish single women are not, as the Australian colonists appear to imagine, taken from workhouses, but are selected according to our usual rules, from agricultural families. Persons in the habitual receipt of parochial relief are not eligible under those rules, and are never knowingly accepted by us.

16. (iii.) It remains to notice Mr. Rusden's principal recommendations, which he enumerates at the conclusion of his report.

1. The immigration for 1856 is not to exceed 11,000 or 12,000 persons, sent out in the following proportions:—

Melbourne	4,000
Geelong	4,000
Portland	1,500
Belfast	1,500
	11,000

We fear that the state of this country will hardly enable us to despatch this number of emigrants during 1856, without sending an undue number from Ireland. The proportions suggested by the Immigration Agent we shall of course observe.

2. It is at present the practice, even if a vessel could be filled with single women, to send out with them a certain number of married couples, as persons likely to strengthen the authority of the surgeons over the single women, and, if requisite, against the ship's crew. Mr. Rusden thinks that a smaller number of families might be made to serve this purpose if military pensioners, accustomed to discipline, were sent out with their families. On this point, however, we are inclined to adhere to our present practice, partly because the families sent out may be required to contain a fixed proportion of females, and so be made to swell the female excess; partly because old soldiers, taken to a certain extent at random, are not always, when released from strict military discipline, the most amenable to the orders of civilians.

3. The proportion between English and Irish emigrants we will endeavour to observe, except so far as some excess of Irish may be necessary to secure the required excess of females.

4. Mr. Rusden suggests a mode of simplifying the machinery through which deposits are received in the Colony, from persons desirous of procuring free passages for their friends in England; and he proposes, with regard to these nominees, that the rule of occupation should not be so strictly enforced; and with regard to their families, that our rules which limit the number of young children should not be enforced. Of these suggestions, the first two are entirely for the consideration of the Colonial authorities. We may state, however, that it is already our practice to apply our rules regarding occupation very liberally to remittance cases; and that, at the desire of the authorities of Victoria and South Australia, we have already withdrawn the rule which limits the number of children to be sent out in any one family, under the remittance or land deposit regulations.

5. The Colonial Governments will, of course, be apprised (as suggested by Mr. Rusden) of any reciprocal legislation, which may be effected between Great Britain and other countries, for the protection of passengers.

6. After pointing out certain objections to a cognate scheme of Mrs. Chisholm's, Mr. Rusden suggests that it might be useful to promise a certain amount of land scrip to emigrants (of certain classes we presume) making their way at their own expense to the Colony. This is a matter to be decided upon in the Colony. We should ourselves, like Mr. Rusden, question the expediency of stimulating, at present, the unassisted immigration. But we also doubt the wisdom of issuing land scrip for that purpose. It cannot, we presume, be intended that this scrip should be issued in such quantities as to become depreciated. And if not, it would be as inexpensive to the Colony, and much more simple, to give the Colonist any bonus, which may be thought expedient, in hard money.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c., &c., &c.

We have, &c.,
(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH,
FREDERIC ROGERS.

No. 6.
VICTORIA.

Chief Secretary's Office,
Melbourne, 14th August, 1856.

SIR,

The attention of His Excellency the Officer administering the Government of Victoria has been drawn to a notice appearing in the *Hobart Town Gazette* of Tuesday, 15th July, page 934, stating that "persons introducing female domestic servants from Victoria will be reimbursed the amount of their passage money to Hobart Town or Launceston," on application to the Immigration Agents.

His Excellency has directed me to point out to you, that as the revenues of Victoria are at the present time charged with the expense of importing female servants from the United Kingdom, the operation of the notice in question will be practically to devote a portion of the public funds of the Colony to the benefit of another, without any consideration, and if continued will tend to augment that spirit of jealousy between neighboring countries which it should be the duty of all Governments to prevent.

It would probably be unwise to place any restrictions upon the emigration of laborers or others from one Colony to another, on the score of their introduction having been originally a charge upon that Colony which they wish to leave, and the Government of Victoria have uniformly refused to entertain any propositions of this character affecting immigrants imported hither at the cost of the land fund; but they cannot permit a bounty upon this emigration to be given by the Government of a neighboring Colony, without taking steps to neutralize the effect of such an arrangement.

His Excellency, however, hopes that it will not be necessary to do so, and that the Government of Tasmania will, upon consideration, see the necessity of withdrawing the notice in question, and thus of ceasing to introduce at the public expense labor from a Colony which devotes a portion of its own funds to the purposes of immigration.

(Signed) I have, &c.,
J. MOORE,
Under Secretary.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary,
Tasmania.

No. 7.
TASMANIA.

2998.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
29th August, 1856.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, remonstrating against the proceedings of the Immigration Commissioners of this Colony, in notifying that the passage-money of female domestic servants would be re-imbursed to the persons introducing them.

In reply, I beg to acquaint you, that I have submitted your letter to the Commissioners, and that they have withdrawn the notice complained of, in compliance with my suggestion to that effect.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary,
Melbourne, Victoria.

(Signed) I have, &c.,
W. T. N. CHAMP.