

money to be raised by it was applied to roads, instead of all to emigration and public works, for without passable roads the emigrant, after he may have earned money on public works, cannot settle on land without encountering difficulties which to many are insurmountable, and which have driven many from their settlements after expending years of labour and considerable capital thereon.

Again, the Committee say that in British North America "Land is so cheap, that the exercise of industry and frugality enables the labourer to purchase a small estate in fee after a short residence in these provinces, and thus to become an employer of labour, so that the demand for additional hands, instead of decreasing with the supply, undergoes a constant augmentation." This passage will mislead those who know not the country, for many long years must elapse before the labourer who from his earnings during a "short residence" here purchases land, can become an "employer of labour." On this point we will quote the following evidence of A. B. Hawke, Esquire, Emigrant Agent at Toronto, given to Lord Durham's commission on land and emigration. He was asked how long the indigent emigrants remained in the condition of labourers, to which he replied: "With the more prudent of them it generally happens that in the course of two or three years they have money enough to pay the first instalment on a Government or Canada Company lot, or to purchase a small quantity of land of some private person; this is the course generally pursued by those who are not settled in towns, or employed on public works." And when asked what prospect an emigrant labourer, who had purchased in this manner, has of paying the remaining instalments out of the produce of his farm, he replied: "My attention has been most particularly directed to the settlers who purchase of Government, and it is my opinion that very few persons of this class succeed in paying the remaining instalments." And he mentions that "in 1832, a number of settlers who had been sent out by the Petworth committee were located in Adelaide and Warwick, on 100 acres of land each, which was valued at 10s. per acre, they were to pay the first instalment in three years with interest; provisions and implements were furnished by the Government, for which acknowledgements were taken, in which they engaged to repay

the amount before receiving the patent of their lands; there has not been a single instance in which they have fulfilled their engagements from their labour, or the produce of their land; there have only been two instances in which any payment has been made; in these cases the individuals have sold their improvements to wealthier settlers. In the Bathurst District a number of indigent settlers were located upon free grants of land, to whom the Government made advances of provisions and implements, taking acknowledgements for the amount thus advanced; the whole of this sum, amounting to nearly £30,000 currency, has been abandoned by Government; and not to dwell upon these perhaps exceptional instances, I believe that in fact a very large proportion of those who have purchased land of Government have not paid their instalments as they became due." And the uncertainty which this occasions as to the settlers ultimately enjoying the fruit of their labour, "has a most disheartening operation, especially in the case of the poorer settlers. As an individual of this class finds the instalments, with interest, accumulating upon him, he is apt to despair of ever being able to pay for the land, and is induced, in many instances, to abandon his improvements, or sell them for a trifling consideration." Here is ample proof that it is no easy matter to settle on land without capital, and labourers cannot become employers of labour with such facility as the Committee assume. In truth, there are strong reasons against their going on land prematurely, as many have done, tempted by the power of obtaining land on paying one instalment, which, says Mr. Hawke, "has the effect of converting a number of useful labourers into indigent and useless farmers, who from want of capital are unable to bring their lands into cultivation." The advantage to be held out to the emigrant labourer is, that he can live by his labour, and, if he possess the requisite qualities, may in time obtain land of his own; but there is nothing to be gained by representing this as being easy of attainment, or that when the labourer has settled on land he will soon be an employer of labour, for he will have many a year of severe toil to encounter before he will master the difficulties that will then beset him, and become able to employ labour on his farm. Mr. Buller in his report says: "I cannot recommend that any measures should be adopted