

Appendix.
 No. 4.
 Minutes of
 Evidence.

necessarily are, affording no other accommodation than the shelter of a bark-hut, they would not be comfortable abodes for females; but with respect to mechanics and farm-labourers, I should have no objection to their being married. I have not been obliged to increase the number of sheep in my flocks in more than one instance, which was in March last, when I was weaning my lambs, and was compelled to put 1,100 lambs in one flock, not being able, on any terms, to procure a shepherd. I never, but as a matter of necessity, would put more than 600 in one flock. In order to procure shepherds I have been obliged to advance their wages from 16*l.* and 20*l.* to 25*l.* and 27*l.* If I had the number of men I have stated, I should be able to carry on improvements which I have for some time had in contemplation, and to complete those which are now quite at a stand. Indeed, we can barely keep up our present extent of cultivation and stock-grazing, such is the scarcity of every description of labour.

William Lawson, Esq., of Prospect, a considerable Landowner, called in; and Examined.

W. Lawson, Esq.

IN reply to the inquiry of the Committee, as to my opinion of the extent of the present deficiency of labourers, farm and other servants; and whether, in consequence of such deficiency, I have been obliged to increase the numbers of sheep and cattle in each flock and herd, under the charge of my shepherds and herdsman, I beg to state that I have experienced such great difficulty in obtaining the services of shepherds and other labourers, that I have been under the necessity of putting from 1,000 to 1,500 sheep under the charge of single shepherds, while the average number of sheep in my flocks did not formerly exceed 500 or 600; and that considerable losses have arisen from such large numbers being congregated together; and further, that the extent of my cultivation and agricultural as well as other improvements has been greatly circumscribed by the same deficiency. In reference to the number of immigrants who may with certainty find employment in the colony, I should consider, judging from the very rapid increase of sheep and other stock, and the very general demand for labour at the present time, that 10,000 men would not be an excessive supply between the periods of the 1st May 1838 and 30th April 1839; and I am also of opinion that a similar quantity might easily and advantageously be employed, if introduced, in the course of the succeeding twelve months. In the event of the Government introducing British immigrants on a sufficiently extensive scale, I should deprecate the importation of Indian labourers, on the presumption that their habits are greatly at variance, if not irreconcilable, with those of an European population; and that their engagements being merely of a temporary nature, such a description of supply would be a source of annually increasing expense, without adequate advantage or permanent increase to the labouring population.

Saturday, 22 July 1837.

Alick Osborne, Esq., R. N., Surgeon Superintendent of the ship Adam Lodge, with Emigrants from Ireland, called in; and Examined.

Alick Osborne,
 Esq., R. N.
 22 July 1837.

I was employed by the colonial government in March 1836, to go to Ireland and select emigrants and bring them out to this colony. I accordingly proceeded in that month, and arrived in London in the month of July, and in Ireland in August 1836; but did not receive my final instructions from the Colonial Office, Downing-street, till November. I experienced no difficulty whatever in procuring the number of emigrants I required, under the instructions on which I acted; the terms which these instructions enabled me to propose were most satisfactory to them; namely, a free passage for themselves and their families, and employment for one year certain, guaranteed by the Government, on their arrival in this country. The description of persons to whom I was authorized to offer these terms were mechanics of the following descriptions, viz. blacksmiths, masons, carpenters, joiners, bricklayers, and stone-cutters. To labourers and other individuals, I was authorized to offer a free passage only, employment not being guaranteed to them by Government. Some disappointment may occasionally be experienced by the agent from individuals changing their minds when the ship is nearly ready, and this must be obviated by introducing a few beyond the specified number, and should any of these be thereby disappointed, they would have the first offer by the next ship. Small farmers possessing little capital, with their wives and children, and young single women, their relatives, and single men, as labourers, could be procured to almost any extent. I was authorized to charter a suitable vessel on the part of Government, and I did charter the *Adam Lodge*, a first-class British-built ship of 567 tons, with a height between decks of about seven feet; the owners furnishing the provisions of prime quality at 6*l.* 10*s.* per head, according to the annexed scale for adult males and females, rating children in the proportions specified in the Passenger Act. In this agreement were included rations, bedding, wine, medicines and medical comforts. We also issued potatoes at the rate of 6*lbs.* per week, to each adult, in addition to the rations, and the owners were compensated by the consequent saving of bread. The issue of potatoes continued from the 29th of March, the day we sailed from Londonderry, till the 1st of June, and was of the utmost advantage to the emigrants. The number of emigrants embarked was about 86 married men, 86 married women, 30 single women, and 200 children, equal to 287½ adults, estimated according to Act of Parliament, and which was 13 less than the number the ship might have taken, according to her tonnage, independent of her crew, and which, of course, caused the rate of expense for each emigrant to be higher than it would have been if the number had been complete. This deficiency in numbers is accounted for by my instructions from the Government precluding my entering one individual beyond the prescribed