

cattle, that the probable demand for stock-keepers and shepherds may be arrived at; and if it be supposed that each landed proprietor requires two additional farm servants, and each householder one household servant, the demand for these descriptions of labour may be thus determined.

I am not aware how the demand for mechanics is to be ascertained; I think, however, there can be but little risk in introducing persons of this description into the colony. Most settlers would, doubtless, be glad now to embellish their properties, and add to the comforts and conveniences of their abodes, if proper artificers were at hand. I would suggest, nevertheless, that in the arrangements for the introduction into the colony of persons of the above descriptions, care should be taken to prevent the arrival of more than a certain limited number of each class at any one time. I scarcely know what to say about the introduction of Indian labourers. The Bengal convicts employed at the Mauritius, during my service there, suffered severely from the effects of cold, but they were a most orderly and useful class of people.

Thomas Barker, Esq., a considerable Stock-owner, called in; and Examined.

I AM fully aware of the inconvenience and pecuniary loss sustained by landowners, flockowners, and householders generally, from the present scarcity in the colony of labour of every description; yet if emigrants arrive in numbers of, say from 5,000 to 6,000 annually, they will in my opinion speedily supply the demand for them; and I think, therefore, that some measure should be adopted by the Government, to protect them from the necessity of engaging themselves on arrival at rates of wages below those which, considering the inducements held out to them in Britain, they ought to receive. The settlers in this colony have so long been accustomed to obtain labour at a cheap rate, and without much regard to the characters of those they have employed, that I fear many of them would be very unwilling to offer what might be considered fair remunerating wages for the services of virtuous and useful families. I would therefore respectfully suggest, that the Government should continue to supply food and lodging to the immigrants on their arrival, and that they should also give them employment in future, at a rate of wages which should, after deduction of the cost of such food and lodging, be but little below the rates then current in the colony; which would secure them against the necessity of accepting situations on terms inadequate to the value of their services, afford to those who may be penniless an opportunity of earning the means of furnishing themselves with the little necessities which, as new comers, they would require, and yet, at the same time, would not make them unwilling to engage with private individuals, at a fair rate of wages. With respect to the introduction of Indian labourers, although from the paucity of labour I am an advocate for it as a temporary relief, or as an experiment, rendered necessary by the present pressing wants of the colony, yet I hope that not more than one, or at most two thousand of them will be introduced among us, and these, I think, should all be males. This colony possesses very many natural advantages, which the industry of a virtuous and skilful race of people would soon develope; and I hope shortly to witness the introduction of people of this description from the mother country in such numbers as will sensibly relieve her of some of the evils of a redundant population, and keep pace with the necessities and prosperity of the colony.

Appendix.

No. 4.

Minutes of
Evidence.

Thos. Barker, Esq.

Colonel John Thomas Leahy, of Illawarra, a considerable Landowner, called in; and Examined.

I AM perfectly convinced that there is a great want of mechanics and labourers in the colony; and I feel it press peculiarly hard upon myself, inasmuch as it costs me at present upwards of 500*l.* a year for free labour; notwithstanding which, from the difficulty of procuring labourers at any price, I have, at this moment, upwards of 24 acres of maize not harvested, which, if the rains set in, may be totally destroyed. Had I attempted to harvest it with the few men I could hire, I could not have put any wheat in the ground this year. I beg to add, that I possess in the district of Illawarra nearly 5,000 acres of land, of which upwards of 500 acres have been in cultivation, and the timber on 600 acres more has been cut down, and is ready to be burnt off when I can get hands to do it. In regard to my dwelling-house, it is in a state of great dilapidation, and I cannot, at any rate of wages, procure mechanics to repair it. In regard to my sheep, of which I possess a considerable number, I beg to observe, that I have been obliged to dispose of 500 lately, in consequence of my being unable to procure shepherds to attend them.

Col. J. T. Leahy.

George Cox, of Winbourne, Mulgoa, Esq., a considerable Landowner, called in; and Examined.

I AM quite aware that there is a very great want throughout the colony of labourers, farm and household servants, shepherds, stock-keepers and mechanics, although I have no means of making any calculation of the numbers of each description that may be required to supply that want. I have no doubt, however, that an immediate importation of 5,000 well selected emigrants would find ready employment at remunerating wages. I think that number would be sufficient to import in the course of the ensuing year, and from 3,000 to 4,000 the succeeding year. My brother Henry and myself would immediately engage 25 shepherds, farm-labourers and mechanics, with their families. I would rather wait the necessary time to procure Europeans than take Indians to supply my immediate wants. I think the shepherds should always be young single men; for, situate as our sheep stations

George Cox, Esq.