

glad to unload barges or obtain any casual employment, and the number that are able to obtain work do not earn sufficient to support their families—the majority barely exist, and of some it is a puzzle to know how they keep body and soul together. I do not think there are many in my parish who have been immediately connected with strikes, though some, no doubt, have injured themselves in that way. For the last four years my people have suffered terribly, and notwithstanding the indiscriminate charity which has been given, and which has done much harm, the distress is rather increasing than diminishing." Mr Caparn would rejoice in any remedy, but though he has assisted in Emigration, he fears it alone will not do. He ends by asking, "Are there not vast quantities of waste land in Great Britain that might be made to produce food for our increasing population?"

He would add one more testimony, but it was that of a man whom he was sure the Prime Minister would not undervalue. The Rev. Dr Miller, of Greenwich, wrote :

My strong conviction, which has for some time been deepening, is that this question, "How to deal with the unemployed," will, ere long, be the most urgent social question of the day. That very many are willing to emigrate if aided, not as paupers, is certain. I fear the want of employment will continue. Scarcity, and a hard winter, would probably bring the matter to a grave point.

So much for the metropolis. Now as to the other towns, Mr Russell, the able conductor of one of the Liverpool journals, said :

This is a city of refuge, or colossal workhouse, for all many miles round, and for thousands from Ireland; anything which would deplete the labour market elsewhere would greatly reduce the distress in this town. Casual labour ought to be organised here in order to avert suffering in bad times, which comes suddenly, and often lasts too long. Emigration would lessen the supply of cheap casual labour, which brokers like to have dangling about, of course. It is more popular with working men than with them.

Mr Samuelson, brother of the honourable member for Banbury, said :

During a great part of the year there is a very large amount of superfluous labour in the cotton and general produce markets. Only when favourable winds bring in a fleet of vessels is there full employment. One large cotton broking firm employs fifty regular hands as porters and weight takers, and ninety casually. Eleven months out of twelve, they have no difficulty in engaging these hands at an hour's notice. Their warehouseman tells me that at two o'clock on most days he could go on 'Change and engage 500 hands in a very short time. Some ascribe the superfluity of labour to what they call high wages, which tempt men, they say, to flock into town during a flush of work; and which being soon spent the men are unable to leave. I think what is wanted is a higher rate of wages, to compensate for casual employment, and a well managed trades' union to regulate labour and counter-