

Whilst upon this subject, I may observe that the ships which were dispatched last year to New South Wales contained many very eligible young women, who, after engaging their passages, were found unable to make up the difference between the sum allowed by the Government of 12 £ and that to which the actual cost of their passage amounted. This inconvenience was obviated by the owners of the ships consenting to receive, in lieu of the 5 £ which each party ought to have paid, a promissory note for 9 £, which those females from whom it was taken undertook to repay out of their earnings. As this measure cannot but have an injurious tendency, I have been induced to assent to an arrangement by which this accommodation to the emigrant, if necessary, will in all future cases be afforded by the Government, in lieu of the owners of the vessels; the whole sum of 17 £ being advanced upon the emigrant giving a promissory note to repay 6 £ in the manner before mentioned; whilst the chance of any undue influence being exercised over the female during the existence of her pecuniary obligation will be avoided. Intimation will, at the same time, be given to the parties that repayment of the loan so made will be rigidly enforced, should any disposition be manifested by them to evade it when the means are conveniently within their reach. These loans, in addition to the moiety of the bounty of 12 £, will also be advanced by the Treasury in this country; so that it will be necessary that repayment be also made into the military chest of such portion of the loan as may have been actually issued for the benefit of the parties. The promissory notes of the females who may be thus assisted will be forwarded to you by the vessel in which the females themselves may be conveyed; and you will of course take such precautions as you may deem sufficient for ensuring the validity, in the colony, of the promissory notes; which, as a greater measure of security, will be witnessed previous to the vessel's departure, in the manner explained with respect to all other advances, in a subsequent part of this despatch.

The expense of each of the female emigrant ships about to be dispatched to the colony, will not exceed 3,000 £; whilst the funds available for the purposes of emigration will, as before stated, amount to 20,000 £. It is not intended to send more than two ships with females to New South Wales during the present year; and I have decided that the remainder of the above sum should be applied to the encouragement of general emigration, on the same principle as was adopted last season; but that, instead of mechanics, none but young and married agricultural labourers should be allowed to avail themselves of the loan.

In furtherance of this measure, the accompanying notices have been issued by this department, explaining the regulations under which the assistance of Government will be dispensed. These regulations are very similar to those which were in force during the last season. There is one point, however, in which they differ, and to this I would particularly draw your attention. You are aware that the promissory notes required from the emigrants accepting the loan was usually witnessed by the collector or some other officer of customs, at the port at which the parties embarked; and that the witnesses not being on the spot to prove the signature attached to the note, many of these emigrants had refused, on their arrival in the colony, to acknowledge the obligation which it contained, and consequently to enter into a fresh bond for the repayment of the advance at a more distant period. To meet this evil it is now provided that the promissory notes should be witnessed by the captain and chief mate of the vessel in which the emigrants may take their passage; and it will be distinctly explained to the masters of them that payment of any advances will be withheld until the parties on whose behalf such advances may be ordered shall have been produced before some competent officer of your government, and shall have entered into a fresh obligation for the repayment of their respective amounts. The witnesses being thus on the spot, compulsory measures can be adopted for forcing the emigrants into a compliance with their engagements, should they show any disposition to evade them.

I have, in conclusion, to request that you will, on your part, take every necessary step for carrying this regulation successfully into effect, by appointing to this duty some officer who can give his attention to it, in addition to his other avocations.

I am, &c.

(signed) E. G. Stanley.

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

Mr. Secretary
Stanley to Major-
General Bourke.

6 April 1834.