

private individuals. The immediate want of labour being so appalling, I conceive that every available channel should be opened, and every stimulus used in the hastening an extensive arrival of immigrants; and that, with this view, a bonus, equal to the amount of the harbour dues and other port charges, should be offered to the owners of every vessel which shall land 50 immigrants in this colony. And, further, that in addition to the exertions of the naval surgeons instructed for the purpose, resident agents should be appointed at different ports of England, Scotland and Ireland, empowered to offer the full passage money, or an equivalent bounty, to all emigrants approved by them, according to the regulations, in whatever vessel they may embark. In respect to the introduction of the hill coolies from India, and of Chinamen, I am of opinion that it would be greatly beneficial to the colony, as affording a temporary relief to our present distress, and as being likely to diminish the evils to be apprehended from the probable inadequateness of the emigration from Europe to meet the full extent of the wants of the colony during the next ensuing two or three years. I think also, that, to a certain limited extent, these Indians might be of permanent use to us for the cultivation of various products in our northern districts, and that they would be of more than ordinary utility in the service of gentlemen coming to us from India, who would be acquainted with their language and habits.

Appendix.  
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No. 4.  
Minutes of  
Evidence.  
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*James Bowman, Esq., late Inspector-general of Hospitals, a very extensive Landholder, called in; and Examined.*

I HAVE lately made an extensive tour in the Upper Districts of the Hunter, and at all the places where I have been there appeared to be a great want of labourers; and I am much in want of servants at my own establishment, although I engaged a considerable number of the immigrants lately arrived by the "Lady Macnaghten." I have not made minute calculation as to the wants of the colony, but I am quite certain that a very large number of immigrants would obtain immediate employment. I do not think 10,000 would be too many to import during the next year, to meet the present wants, and to keep pace with the probable increase of live stock. About one-third of that number might be imported during the following year; progressively increasing in each succeeding year. If Europeans could be obtained in as short a time, or nearly so, as Indians, I would certainly give them the preference; but if Indians can be brought soon, I will take some of them, being so much in want of servants. Each of my breeding flocks used ordinarily to consist of about 350 ewes, but in consequence of the scarcity of shepherds, I have lately been obliged to increase the numbers to 500 and even 600 in a flock.

J. Bowman, Esq.

*Joseph Hickey Grose, Esq., late one of the Directors of the Commercial Bank, and a considerable Landholder, called in; and Examined.*

I AM of opinion that about 1,000 agricultural labourers would be a sufficient number to import annually, to enable us to produce grain in such quantity as would be fully equal to the consumption. The greater portion of these people should be married men.

J. H. Grose, Esq.

In respect to shepherds, I think they may be more advantageously obtained from India. For household servants, I think Chinese would be best suited; and of whom not less than 500 should be imported; a great portion of these would be mechanics; and, as the Chinese would not bring their families with them, it would, perhaps, be necessary to import a similar number yearly, to supply the places of those who return to their own country. Shepherds and stockmen, I think, can be best procured from India, from the hill country of Bengal. I would import these to the extent of displacing many of the present shepherds; say to the number of 1,000, by way of experiment in the first instance. The want of mechanics is most seriously felt, and unless a very considerable importation of them is made within 12 months from the present time, the commercial interest of Sydney must retrograde. For weeks and months past, shipwrights employed by me, working by piece-work, have earned from 20s. to 30s. per day each; and as a natural consequence they do not, on the average, work more than three days in a week. The present shipping interest of Sydney, which has more than doubled itself within the last two years, requires an immediate importation of at least 100 shipwrights, 500 able seamen and 50 coopers. Ten English engineers from London or Liverpool would find immediate employment, at from 10*l.* to 20*l.* per month. At present, to persons of this description, I give 15*l.* per month and their provisions. Fifty blacksmiths would likewise obtain immediate employment; country smiths would be preferable; 50 house-carpenters, 50 stone-masons, 60 bricklayers and 50 brickmakers, would also be readily engaged. I think these numbers would be required for the service of private individuals, independent of those which may be wanted for that of the government. I beg leave to suggest to the Committee, as an object deserving of consideration, the advantage that would arise from apprenticing orphan school-boys to shipwrights, coopers and masons; but to induce masters in these trades to take and teach the boys, it would be necessary to offer a bounty with them, of about 20*l.*, to be paid after two or three months' trial, on the indentures being signed.