

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA

No. 1.

Memorial from
Parties interested
in the Mines of
South Australia.

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To the Right Honourable the Earl GREY, &c. &c.

WE, the undersigned, being parties interested in the Kapunda Copper and other Mines in South Australia, are desirous of bringing to your Lordship's notice certain difficulties that have occurred in carrying out the operations connected with the said mines, these difficulties being equally participated in by all the other parties connected with the numerous other mines which have lately been discovered in the neighbourhood of Adelaide; but as our connexions and correspondents, Captain Bagot and Mr. Francis Dutton, are the parties to whose energy and exertions the merit is due of the first discovery, and working to any extent of the mines of South Australia, we come before you with greater confidence in our own and their behalf.

Your Lordship is aware of the circumstances attending the original settlement of the colony of South Australia, and that it was solely carried out with the view of developing the agricultural resources of this fine country, and the first operations of the settlers were entirely confined accordingly to sheep feeding and farms, and that the class of emigrants who were sent out, were and still are limited by the Emigration Company to agricultural labourers.

On the discovery and purchase of the Kapunda mines by Captain Bagot and Mr. Francis Dutton, it was with great difficulty a few miners and labourers could be collected from amongst the settlers, to enable them to commence operations. Some of these settlers were Germans (there being a considerable party of German emigrants settled in the colony), who communicated with their friends at home; and thus a communication was opened with Mr. Ravenshaw, the agent for the Kapunda mines in England, through Mr. Delius of Bremen, which led to the despatch, in 1845, of two vessels with German emigrant miners, and in the current year, four vessels at the least will sail from Bremen with like freights.

Last year, no advance was made, only a letter of introduction and recommendation to Captain Bagot was given; but this year, the exportation of miners and smelters from Germany to Adelaide, has been considered so desirable to meet the greatly increased demand in the colony for mining labour, that 500*l.* have been already advanced to further this object.

The first vessel this year took out about 60 miners, smelters, and charcoal-burners, making up with their families 100 souls; she was of 600 tons burthen; a similar vessel sailed early in June; a third was to have sailed on the 1st August, and a fourth is fixed for the 1st October next; by this means a regular communication will be opened between Bremen and Adelaide, and a most industrious class of workmen and their families are introduced into one of our most rising colonies, who will quickly assist to develop that mineral wealth which will probably be found to exist throughout the whole range of mountains, which extend nearly north and south from one end of the colony to the other.

We expect there will have been raised and sent to England from the Kapunda mines alone during the current year, 1,200 to 1,500 tons of copper ore, of the first-rate quality, inasmuch as the first 200 tons have been sold at Swansea at an average of 19*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, and the last 300 tons sold on the 22d ultimo, at an average of 21*l.* 9*s.* 1½*d.*, and the remainder we cannot have any doubt will turn out equally well.

The difficulty in procuring freights for the copper and other ores at Adelaide has been so great, that our friends have been obliged to make arrangements for sending home the Kapunda ores via Sydney and Port Philip (300 tons having been shipped to the former port in the "Templar"), and by the last advices 400 to 500 tons were still awaiting freights; and we hear that the other mining companies at Adelaide have equal difficulties in this respect with the Kapunda Company.

Under these circumstances, we would most respectfully draw the attention of your Lordship to this case, observing, that it hardly appears consistent with the facilities