

4. WESTERN HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS COMMISSION.

Emigration recommended. The Report of this Commission, dated July 1890, contains the following passages on emigration :—

Par. 87. But whatever development of the fishing industry may hereafter become possible, we have formed a strong opinion that in order to produce any substantial improvement in the material prosperity of the population, a considerable reduction of their numbers is urgently required. This is especially the case in the Long Island and in some parts of Skye. In three of the parishes in the Lews, the valuation does not amount to as much as 1*l.* per head of the population. In all the parishes of the Long Island, and in three out of the seven parishes in Skye, the valuation does not amount to as much as 2*l.* per head.

Par. 88. It is scarcely within our province to suggest the mode in which the population in these districts should be induced to remove to less thickly occupied areas; but we cannot forbear from expressing the opinion that every means should be taken to explain the advantages of emigration, and that facilities should be afforded by Government to enable those who are willing to move to commence life elsewhere; and we desire to place on record our conviction that, until some measure has been taken in this direction, no material improvement in the condition of the population can be effected.

**FURTHER ACTS AFFECTING THE
EMIGRATION OF CHILDREN.**

Emigration of children from Reformatories and Industrial Schools.

The Reformatory and Industrial School Act, 1891, which applies to England and Scotland only, and not to Ireland, enacts as follows ;—

If any youthful offender or child detained in or placed out on licence from a certified reformatory or industrial school conducts himself well, the managers of the school may, with his own consent, apprentice him to, or dispose of him in, any trade, calling, or service, or by emigration, notwithstanding that his period of detention has not expired, and such apprenticing or disposition shall be as valid as if the managers were his parents.

Provided that when he is to be disposed of by emigration, and in any case unless he has been detained for 12 months, the consent of the Secretary of State shall also be required for the exercise of any power under this section.

Custody of Children Act, 1891.

It has often happened that the emigration or other disposal of a child has been prevented, to the injury of the child, by the parent claiming its production. The Custody of Children Act, 1891