

have created a still more active demand for free labourers. W. H. Dutton, J. P., says, —

I am at present compelled, from sheer necessity, to place from 1000 to 1200 sheep under the charge of one man; 500 being the very utmost that a man can properly attend to.

T. Walker says, —

The losses that are at present sustained in every department of business in which labourers are employed, but especially in sheep farming, by actual deaths of sheep, are enormous; and the amount of them, if saved, would cover the expense of wages to this additional number of persons.

A circular letter was sent by the Immigration Committee to eighty-four of the principal employers of labour in different parts of the colony, with the view of ascertaining the demand for labour in the several districts. It is dated August 23. 1838. The first query was, —

Is there still an urgent demand for male and female domestic servants, mechanics, shepherds, and agricultural labourers, in your neighbourhood?

The answer from every one of the persons so addressed, without exception, is, "there is such a demand." The Committee observe, hereupon, in their Report, —

It appears that, among the entire number consulted, there is not a dissentient voice as to the want of additional labourers in every department; and the imperative necessity of introducing an immediate and copious supply, if we would avert the most serious evils, has been urged most forcibly upon the attention of your Committee. . . . The appropriation to this purpose of the entire surplus of the produce arising from the sales and leases of Crown lands, after certain recognised charges have been defrayed, is the object upon which the first degree of solicitude is felt and expressed by the public.

In the subsequent year, Mr. Pinnock, the emigrant agent in New South Wales, writes to the following effect, in a letter, dated February 28. 1839: —

It will be evident that there cannot be a stronger proof of the great demand for labour which exists in this colony, than the fact, that all the emigrants who arrived, during the past year, notwithstanding the numerous disadvantages before adverted to, which they had to contend with, are now comfortably settled, and at high wages, throughout the colony.

The latest official Report which has been laid before the House is that of Mr. Elliot, the agent general for emigration, presented during the present Session, in which he states that, —

At the date of the latest accounts, abundance of rain had fallen, and the crops were looking well. The wages of mechanics and domestic servants continued as high as ever; and agricultural labourers were receiving 25*l.* per annum, with

board and lodging. All the emigrants of 1838 had obtained comfortable employment.

Since this paper was presented, another Report has appeared in the public journals, from the Committee on Immigration in New South Wales, confirming the previous statements as to the increasing demand for labour, and suggesting that a loan should be raised, upon the security of the land fund, for the purpose of procuring the additional supply required.

With regard to the flourishing colony of South Australia, I shall leave to my Honourable Friend the Member for Hull who has the honour of having mainly contributed to its foundation, the satisfaction of describing the condition of the labourer in that colony, and the prospect which it holds out to the industrious emigrant.

In reference to Western Australia, I shall confine myself to a quotation which I have extracted from the Emigration Report, presented to Parliament in the month of August, 1839. It contains a memoir, submitted by Sir James Stirling the Governor, to the Council of Western Australia, in which he says, —

In the present state of the colony, there is such a deficiency of labour as to impede its advancement. The prudent portion of the workmen have saved means, and are now in a condition to extend their business and to his assistance, if they could procure it; but the cannot venture to undertake works in the existing scarcity of workmen, and the consequent high rate of wages.

In their resolution upon this memoir the Council state, —

That the Council is unanimously of opinion that there is an urgent and immediate necessity for procuring a supply of labour.

I may add that the very latest accounts from Western Australia which have reached this country declare that an additional supply of labour is essentially required to promote the advancement of that settlement.

For my own part, I can perceive no reason to expect any check to the prosperity of our Australian colonies (and the same observation applies, also, to the Cape of Good Hope) until they supply very nearly the whole amount of wool which is imported into this country. Now, I find that, during the year 1839, the amount of wool imported into Great Britain, from all parts of the world, was 57,395,944 lbs., of which quantity there was received from the Australian settlements 10,128,874 lbs. If we may judge of the future by the past, it is not too sanguine an expectation to believe that our colonies will be able to give us the

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