

which the enclosed is a copy; His Majesty's Government considering it preferable to keep the expenditure within the minimum amount of the funds which may be looked for, than to risk the inconvenience which would result to the local government from a contrary proceeding. But in order that as little time as possible may be lost in renewing the assistance which the emigrants so anxiously seek, I have to request, if you should not have already forwarded to this department the statement alluded to in my Under-Secretary's letter to you of the 10th of March last, that you will, on the receipt of this despatch, lose no time in furnishing me with the desired information.

I entertain considerable apprehension that, in many cases, the persons who have been assisted from the above funds may not belong to that class to which it was the intention of His Majesty's Government to confine it; but you must be too well aware of the difficulties attending the complete success of a measure upon the extensive scale of that which has been undertaken, to make it necessary for me to enter into a minute detail of them; and I deem it, therefore, sufficient to remark, that every endeavour will be made, on the renewal of the encouragement next year, to establish a better system of control over the selection of the persons who may in future be permitted to participate in the benefit. At the first stage of the proceedings, it became advisable to leave generally to the shipowners much latitude in collecting the emigrants, and although the certificates which were required to accompany each application, signed by the clergyman of the parish in which the applicant resided, and by other respectable persons, were, as it was supposed, a sufficient guarantee that no deception would be practised on the Government, yet I am concerned to state, that the precaution was not, in all cases, attended with the desired effect; and that other checks than those which were at first adopted will become necessary, to prevent a recurrence of the same evil for the future.

It was, unfortunately, so much the interest of shipowners to look to numbers rather than to the qualifications of the candidates for loans and bounties, that no means were neglected by which passengers could be obtained, and agents were consequently dispersed throughout the country to induce persons, who might not otherwise be so disposed, to come forward to avail themselves of the proffered assistance. A check to this system may be expected to lessen very materially the number of the emigrants; but any deficiency in this respect will be made up to the colony by the superiority of those who, I trust, will still be desirous of proceeding there, and who will, as far as possible, be strictly limited to the description of persons to which it is recommended that the encouragement shall be given.

An agent of Government, resident at Liverpool, from which port most of the emigrants have hitherto proceeded, has now been appointed to superintend this branch of the business, whose duty it will be to investigate the characters and circumstances of all applicants for the loans or bounties. Through the instrumentality of this agent, a check will exist against those misstatements which have been found in the written applications of shipowners and the parties themselves, notwithstanding the certificates by which such applications were always accompanied. I have thought it necessary to enter at once into this explanation, in order to anticipate, in some measure, the disappointment which I fear may arise on the arrival in the colony of some of the persons who may have proceeded thither, and to show, that although the error may have been committed, His Majesty's Government are not insensible to the existence of it, or unprepared (so far as it may be in their power) to provide a remedy, with the view of introducing into the colony a more respectable and profitable body of mechanics and females than may have already reached it.

There are some points adverted to in your despatches upon this subject, as well as in those from General Bourke, upon which I shall now take the opportunity of offering a few remarks.

It would appear that the rates of wages paid in the colonies are by no means so high as they were stated to be in the printed paper issued by this department on the 18th of July 1831 for the use of emigrants, and every care has accordingly been taken to undeceive those, upon this point, who had not already taken their departure. As the arrival in the colony of so large a body of mechanics and labourers as that which has proceeded there may still further reduce those rates, I request that you will return to me the enclosed paper, corrected according to the present demand for persons of that description, with such additional particulars affixed to it as it may be deemed of advantage to the emigrant to be acquainted with prior to his quitting this country.

April 1833.
Vide Enclosure to
Despatch to Gen.
Bourke, 26 July
1833.

Similar to that ad-
dressed to Gen.
Bourke, Vide No.
12.

Vide Sessional
Paper, 328, Oct.
1831.

18 July 1831.