

(No. 100.)



1864.

---

T A S M A N I A.

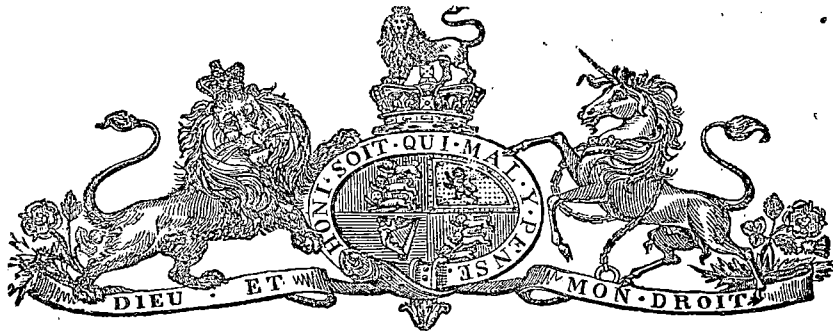
---

**IMMIGRATION FROM NEW ZEALAND.**

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

---

Presented by Mr. Horne, and ordered by the House to be printed,  
8 September, 1864.



*REPORT* from the SELECT COMMITTEE on IMMIGRATION from NEW ZEALAND.

---

*Resolved*, That a Select Committee be appointed to enquire whether it would be wise, prudent, and beneficial to this Colony to encourage Immigration from New Zealand. (*Mr. Allison.*)

Then the following Members were nominated to be of the said Committee :—

MR. JAMES LORD.  
MR. JOHN LORD.  
MR. MURRAY.  
MR. HODGSON.  
MR. GRANT.

MR. WALKER.  
MR. ALLISON.  
MR. T. HORNE.  
MR. DODERY.

---

DAYS OF MEETING.

- No. 1. 4 August, 1864. *Present*—Mr. Allison, Mr. Murray, Mr. Horne, Mr. James Lord, Mr. John Lord, Mr. Hodgson.
- No. 2. 10 August, 1864. *Present*—Mr. Horne, Mr. Walker, Mr. James Lord, Mr. John Lord, Mr. Allison, Mr. Hodgson, Mr. Grant.
- No. 3. 25 August, 1864. *Present*—Mr. Horne, Mr. Dodery, Mr. Hodgson, Mr. Murray, Mr. Allison.
- No. 4. 7 September, 1864. *Present*—Mr. Horne, Mr. James Lord, Mr. John Lord, Mr. Allison.

---

WITNESSES EXAMINED.

Captain William Young.  
Dr. E. S. Hall.  
Mr. E. C. Rowntree.  
Mr. James Spotswood.

---

R E P O R T .

Your Committee have taken into their consideration the question of encouragement of Immigration from New Zealand, submitted to them by your Honorable House; and, from the evidence taken before them, have arrived at the following conclusions :—

1. That it would be both prudent and beneficial to this Colony to encourage Immigration from New Zealand, inasmuch as there appear to be a great many persons who have gone from this and other Colonies, at Invercargill and other ports in New Zealand, who desire to avail themselves of this opportunity of gaining employment, having no employment there; and it would be desirable to bring up One thousand of those persons at the earliest opportunity: and your Committee have no doubt of their receiving immediate employment upon their arrival here.

2. That a competent Agent should be appointed for the purpose of selecting the Immigrants, who is acquainted with this Colony, connected with it, cognisant of its requirements as to labour, and who has resided for some time at least in New Zealand.

3. That, upon the arrival of these men, they should be received for a period of Ten days at the Immigration Depôt.

4. That these Immigrants might be brought up at an expense not exceeding £4 per head for their passage money; and that each man should give his Promissory Note for Twelve months for the repayment of that passage money to some person to be appointed by the Government for that purpose.

5. That, considering the abandonment of most of the great public works in the Middle Island of New Zealand, and the disappointment and distress to which so many persons of the labouring classes are reduced thereby,—and also considering the prospect of large works to be executed in this Colony within a short period,—it is extremely desirable that this system of Immigration should be immediately commenced, in order to prevent the mischief that might arise by a paucity of labour at this period of the year to the farmer and sheep-owner, when the shearing and harvesting will come into operation, and require more labour than, in the opinion of your Committee, can be procured for the carrying out successfully by the farmers and stock-masters of this Colony of their most necessary and profitable works.

6. That it is not advisable to limit the engagement of Immigrants to those persons only who have left this Colony and wish to return to it; but your Committee are of opinion that the selection of Immigrants should be general,—and relying upon a letter of Mr. Thomas Field, appended to this Report, there is little apprehension of those labourers who have left other Colonies making a fraudulent use of the encouragement to be extended to them by these means, and thereby returning to those Colonies which they left when they went to New Zealand.

THOS. HORNE, *Chairman.*

*Committee Room, 7th September, 1864.*

---

## EVIDENCE.

---

AUGUST 4, 1864.

*Captain WILLIAM YOUNG called in and examined.*

*By Mr. Horne.*—I have known this Colony from my youth, and have been trading to New Zealand.

I left Invercargill last Friday week.

I am aware that a great many persons have gone from this place to Invercargill. I have brought back several from that place. I brought back 16 last trip; and on the preceding trip, 35.

There is a great desire among persons that have gone from here to return. Last trip 2 persons worked their passages; on other trips at least 20 persons have offered to do so.

My opinion is that people belonging to this place have a desire to return at once, in consequence of having no employment in Invercargill.

All of those persons who desire to return are of the working classes. Plenty of them try me with a £1 or £2 to take them back.

From the general appearance and numbers of those I see in Invercargill, they appear to be desirous to return to Tasmania.

If free passages were offered to them there is no doubt that plenty of them would return.

*By Mr. Allison.*—I think they would be valuable labourers if selected by an Agent.

*By Mr. Horne.*—My opinion is, that the amount of passage-money they could be brought up for would be about £4 per head.

If a ship were chartered, they could not be brought up for less than £4. They only allow passengers to depart according to the tonnage of the ship.

*By Mr. Allison.*—I do not know if there are any natives of this Colony there desirous of returning.

*By Mr. Murray.*—I am sure they would give a promissory note for their passages. They have tried that plan with me.

*Dr. E. S. HALL called in and examined.*

*By Mr. Horne.*—I am Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society.

We have about 40 families dependent on the Society in consequence of their husbands and fathers having gone to New Zealand.

I think two or three letters have been presented by wives from their husbands, who are desirous to return, but cannot through want of means.

The complaint that they cannot get employment here is the cause of their leaving this place.

*By Mr. Murray.*—I believe many left employment here to go to New Zealand.

*By Mr. Allison.*—I am aware that £70,000 or £80,000 is proposed to be expended on Reproductive Works.

*By Mr. Horne.*—The Reproductive Works may have the effect of bringing some of those men back.

With respect to many of the families receiving relief from the Benevolent Society, we have found that the fathers are of those wandering habits that they would not settle anywhere. We have found cases where the parties have married again in the other Colonies.

*MR. EDWARD C. ROWNTREE called in and examined.*

*By Mr. Horne.*—I have been 28 years resident in Tasmania.

I went to New Zealand for about six weeks in October, 1861. I returned, and stayed here for six weeks, and then went back to Dunedin.

I returned from there on Monday last by the *Isabella*.

There are several of our Colonists in Otago. Not so many in Dunedin; but a great number scattered about the Diggings.

Their means of livelihood are very poor. Many are breaking stones on the roads.

I think many would return if they had the opportunity.

The proportion would be, 1 from here to 25 from Melbourne, and 1 to 5 from Sydney. I speak of the working classes.

*By Mr. Hodgson.*—I should say nearly all persons from Tasmania would return if assisted.

Many of these men are scattered about the Diggings, and they would require further assistance to enable them to get to the Port.

*By Mr. Allison.*—I only know of three natives of Tasmania in Dunedin, but there may be more.

I do not know if there are any in the other parts of New Zealand.

*By Mr. Horne.*—There are many men from here working on the roads and receiving 6s. a day.

Very few of those men are paid by the Government or the Town Board, but by the contractors.

*By Mr. Allison.*—The general state of things in Otago is not prosperous.

Butcher's meat was 1s. per lb., but has lately been reduced to 10d. Flour got up to £30 a ton just as I came away. The price of a 2lb. loaf was 10d.

*By Mr. Horne.*—The railways are given up: the one from Port Chalmers to Dunedin has been abandoned.

I am aware that £70,000 or £80,000 is proposed to be expended on Reproductive Works.

I believe this circumstance would cause many to return, but they would be more willing to return if there was some certainty of constant employment.

*By Mr. Allison.*—I did not find that I had bettered my condition by going to Dunedin, and it would take a great deal to induce me to return.

I have been a large employer of labour in this Colony.

*Mr. Murray.*—Do you think that this Colony affords any inducement equal or superior to that of the place you have been at to labouring men, setting on one side the Reproductive Works that have been mentioned? Yes; for a limited number.

*By Mr. Allison.*—Auckland is also overstocked with labourers.

Only give this place a good name and you will soon get plenty of labourers.

---

AUGUST 10, 1864.

MR. JAMES SPOTSWOOD *called in and examined.*

I have been a resident in this Island for 36 years.

I went to New Zealand in December, 1861, and returned on 27th July, 1864.

I went to the Province of Otago. During the time I was there I saw several of the natives of this place. They were, generally speaking, diggers.

Their condition at that time was very bad.

All of the diggers, with a few exceptions, are in a state of destitution.

I believe if an opportunity presented itself the principal number would leave that Colony.

If free passages were offered to bring them here, my belief is that numbers of them would avail themselves of the offer.

*By Mr. Allison.*—You could not get better or more hard-working labourers than the diggers of New Zealand.

My opinion is that, if properly selected, you could get plenty of good labourers from that place.

*By Mr. Walker.*—I do not know if skilled labourers would come here.

*By Mr. Horne.*—I am aware that it is proposed to expend £70,000 or £80,000 on Reproductive Works.

I think this would induce many to come here; but the labourers in New Zealand are in such a condition that they could not come. If free passages were offered, I have no doubt many would come.

*By Mr. Allison.*—The sum that they could be brought over for would be about £3 per man if a large vessel was chartered.

*By Mr. Horne.*—I believe they would give a promissory note for their passage-money, payable at 6 or 12 months.

*By Mr. Allison.*—I think that a promissory note would be the means of keeping a man in the Colony for some time.

*By Mr. Horne.*—If the Victorian people were brought down here, my opinion is that they would soon go to Victoria, if not bound to remain here in some way.

I do not think persons from this place have been married there.

*By Mr. Allison.*—All the Public Works in Otago have been suspended. Last year there were 1500 persons employed in the streets of Dunedin. All the works having now been abandoned, those persons are left destitute.

---

EXTRACT.

I WAS glad to see you bring forward your Motion for voting a sum for Emigration from New Zealand; but it has struck me that it was rather too confined, and I would offer a suggestion by amendment, viz.—That it should be from the Australian Colonies, and not New Zealand alone. I have just returned from Victoria, and I saw hundreds there that would be glad, if they had only the wherewithal, to reach here. Most of them were Emigrants from England of recent arrival, farm labourers being in excess of other classes of servants, which is just the class of men we want; and as the passage would not exceed £1 per head, in number, I think a great saving would be effected by giving Victoria the preference.

W. R. ALLISON, *Esquire, M.H.A.*

T. W. FIELD, *Launceston.*

Hobart Town, 1st August, 1864.

SIR,

WE, the undersigned, beg leave to address you under the following circumstances :—

We returned to Hobart Town from Invercargill, New Zealand, where we had been induced to proceed with the view of obtaining employment; but on our arrival were sorely disappointed, inasmuch as we found hundreds, we may say thousands, who had in like manner with ourselves left their homes, wives, and families in Tasmania under the same erroneous impression, equally disappointed: for instead of obtaining work in their capacities which they had used every effort to obtain, neither work nor any description of service could be got whereby the condition of the unemployed might be improved; the consequences of which lamentable disappointment have reduced the position of the unfortunate individuals who had been originally induced under flattering promises, hopes, &c., to that of the deepest misery, want, destitution, &c. In fact, Sir, to enter into a detailed statement of the real condition of the individuals who are reduced to the necessity of wandering about to get even casual employment, to avoid being considered itinerant paupers, would be impossible.

On reading the *Mercury* newspaper of Saturday last, under the head of "Immigration from New Zealand," we beg most respectfully to state, with reference to a speech of Mr. Allison's in the House of Assembly, in reply to the remarks of Honorable Members on this subject, that the condition of the many individuals now in a state of comparative starvation in New Zealand calls for the timely consideration of the Government of this Colony, with the view to their return to their homes and families, &c., and again resume their various occupations in Tasmania, whereby much good would result.

We are, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servants,

THOS. HOWELL, *Carpenter.*  
 THOMAS WILKINSON, *Carpenter.*  
 THOS. WINTER, *Labourer.*  
 JAMES DOYLE, *Farm labourer.*  
 J. B. BROWN, *Painter.*  
 WILLIAM SOMERS, *Shoemaker.*

W. R. ALLISON, *Esquire, M.H.A.*