

THE
EMIGRANT'S GUIDE

To

NEW SOUTH WALES,
VAN DIEMEN'S LAND, LOWER CANADA,
UPPER CANADA,
AND NEW BRUNSWICK :

Containing An

ENUMERATION OF THE ADVANTAGES

WHICH EACH COLONY OFFERS

With

THE REGULATIONS

Adopted

BY HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT,

To Facilitate

MALE AND FEMALE EMIGRATION ;

THE PRICE OF PASSAGE,

CERTAINTY OF PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT,

And

Rates Of Wages

LIST OF TRADESMEN AND MECHANICS MOST WANTED,

and the amount of

PECUNIARY ASSISTANCE

Offered to Married Men and Single Females, towards defraying the expense of their passage with
COPIES OF THE OFFICIAL FORMS TO BE TRANSMITTED TO
THE COLONIAL DEPARTMENT BY EACH EMIGRANT.

Also

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF MILITARY OUT-PENSIONERS OF CHELSEA HOSPITAL,
*Who may be desirous of commuting their Pensions, with a view to their becoming Settlers in
the British Colonies.*

[PRICE ONE SHILLING.]

EMIGRATION COMMISSIONERS.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF RICHMOND.
VISCOUNT HOWICK.
FRANCIS THOBNHILL BARING, Esq.
HENRY ELLIS, Esq.
ROBERT WILLIAM HAY, Esq.

T. FREDK. ELLIOT, Esq., *Secretary*.

•
ADDRESS.

The official information contained in the following pages, will furnish the reader with the present views and intentions of His Majesty's Government ; on the important subject of Emigration. It is a topic which has engrossed the serious attention of all classes of society. The latest intelligence from Australasia has produced abundant proof of the intense anxiety which prevails among our fellow-subjects in that distant land, upon this interesting project.

The unremitting labours of the Commissioners have not, however, been directed solely to the Australian Colonies. It will be seen that they have extended their enquiries, with a view to facilitate Emigration, to several of our North American Possessions. The copious information and precise rules laid down for the guidance of the Settler are of great importance ; but it will be remarked, that the Government have not deemed it expedient to grant pecuniary aid to the North American Emigrant, and the reasons advanced to justify this decision appear to be quite satisfactory,

A copy of any supplementary paper which may be prepared for distribution by His Majesty's Commissioners, for the information of the public, may be readily obtained upon proper application to T. F. Elliot, Esq., Secretary to the Commissioners for Emigration—a gentleman whose uniform urbanity, and indefatigable attention to the arduous duties of his important office, must render him an invaluable acquisition to the Honorable Board presiding over his labours, and to the public at large.

INTRODUCTION.

The present position of Australasia is interesting in the extreme. Little more than forty years ago, New South Wales was a barren desert ; it is now one of the most valuable possessions of the British crown : and of that brief period, not much more than a fourth can be fairly reckoned in the term of her existence as a Colony ; for, during nearly the first thirty years after her establishment, she was an obscure penal settlement, held in contempt by all civilized nations, and scarcely thought of by the mother country but as *Botany Bay*—the emporium of felons—the national Newgate. It was not until four or five years after the termination of the war, when the sudden revulsion, throwing thousands out of employment, revived the spirit of Emigration, that Australasia began to insinuate herself into the favorable notice of the parent state, and to allure free individuals to her distant shores. As a Colony, then, in the proper sense of the term, her age is under a score ; and to the fact, the undeniable, the unquestionable fact, that within so mere a span of time she has advanced to her present magnitude in agriculture, commerce, wealth, and intelligence, do we appeal as a triumphant answer to all that can be objected to her soil, her climate, or her sequestered position on the globe. Even had the Swan River territory equalled the expectations of the settlers, the start which New South Wales has got in all the advantages of an opened, ascertained, and peopled country, would have entitled that Colony to the preference of reflecting men.

During the year 1826, and three following years, the agriculture of New South Wales had to contend against one of the most fearful droughts with which the earth was ever visited since the days of Pharaoh ; and it speaks volumes for the strength of its natural resources, that an infantine community has not only survived the storm, but at this moment possesses, in rich abundance, all the necessaries, and most of the luxuries of life. Wheat is from 5s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. [1] the bushel, and the British government has recently published an Australian list of prices, a copy of which will be found at page 17. Another fact strongly establishes the natural wealth of the Colony : the revenue of the year 1828, in which the drought was at its height, was upwards of £100,000, being an increase on the previous year of more than £23,000.

The census taken in Nov. 1828, shows that, for a population of 36,000 souls, there were in cultivation 71,000 acres of land, being nearly two acres per man, besides an unlimited range of natural pasturage for cattle and sheep, the former of which had increased to near 263,000, and the latter to more than half a million.

Agriculture is undergoing a rapid change, and a change infinitely for the better. Instead of being confined to grain, which has nearly equalled the consumption even in years of dearth, and in favorable seasons is so over-abundant as almost to ruin the grower, it is now embracing some of those more valuable products for which nature has evidently intended the country. It is proved that wine can be produced with but little labour, and at an insignificant expense.

Tobacco, which can always be cultivated on whatever land is suitable for wheat, is grown by nearly every farmer in the country ; and by some has been brought to such perfection as to rival the choicest Brazil.

Besides the vine and tobacco, hops have been produced by some of the more opulent settlers, which would bear comparison with the best ever grown in Kent.

Turning from agriculture to commerce, we meet with a splendid trade in the sperm fisheries. In 1838, the produce was 466 tons ; but where one ship was in the trade then, now nearly a score are employed. Thus, while the soil is teeming with fertility, the ocean is rolling with inexhaustible treasures.

In contemplating the commercial character of New South Wales, it must not be overlooked that the ocean, which girdles her shores, is decked with innumerable *Islands*, most of which abound with valuable productions, and are inhabited by men who, though at present in a state of barbarism, are gifted with physical and mental endowments of a high order, and will vastly enlarge the circle of commercial intercourse. They will in fact be the West Indies of Western Australia.

It has been long the custom to rank among the advantages of New Holland, *its stupendous territorial magnitude*. Hitherto, however, this advantage has been subject to the serious drawback, that the character of its surface has, with the exception of the paltry segment already colonized, remained in profound mystery ; and that the circumnavigation of its coasts was supposed to have shut out all hope of its possessing navigable rivers. Happily this mystery has been penetrated to a considerable extent ; and this absence of rivers has proved to have been too hastily believed. Recent discoveries have established the gratifying fact that the immense range of territory stretching between Sydney and the south western extremity of the island, consists of one of the finest pastoral countries in the world, intersected, too, by several fine rivers, one of which pursues a course of about a thousand miles, and being joined by

others in its progress, at length empties itself into a noble lake on the borders of the sea, from fifty to sixty miles in length, and from thirty to forty in width. The new country thus thrown open, surpasses even the Colony in salubrity of climate, and is far more congenial to the European constitution and habit ; and, from all appearance, there is reason to believe its contiguity to the sea, and its more southerly position secures to it a more copious and regular supply of rain than is enjoyed in the occupied territory.

Here, then, is a country prepared to our very hands, for all the purposes of civilized life. While England is groaning beneath a population for which she cannot provide bread, here is an unmeasured extent of rich soil that has lain fallow for ages, and to which starving thousands are beckoned to repair. *The great want of England is EMPLOYMENT ; the great want of New South Wales, is LABOUR.* England has more mouths than food ; New South Wales has more food than mouths. England would be the gainer by lopping off one of her superfluous millions ; New South Wales would be the gainer by their being planted upon her ample plains. In England the lower orders are perishing for lack of bread ; in New South Wales they are living, surrounded by superabundance. In England the master is distracted to find work for his men ; in New South Wales he is distracted to find men for his work. In England the capitalist is glad to make his three per cent.; in New South Wales he looks for twenty. In England capital is a mere drug—the lender can scarcely find a borrower, the borrower can scarcely repay the lender ; in New South Wales capital is the one thing needful—it would bring a goodly interest to the lender, and would make the fortune of the borrower.

Then let the capitalist wend his way thither, and his one talent will soon gain ten, and his ten twenty. Let the labourer go thither, and if he can do nothing in the world but dig, he will be welcome to his three-and-twenty shillings a week, and may feast on fat beef and mutton at a penny or two-pence per pound.

William Penn, in his “ Benefit of Plantations or Colonies,” after adverting to the various Emigrations recorded in History, says,—

“ I deny the vulgar opinion against Plantations, that they weaken England ; they have manifestly enriched, and so strengthened her, which I briefly evidence thus : *those that go into a foreign Plantation, their industry there is worth more than if they staid at home.*”

Again :—“ They are not lost to England, since England furnishes them with much clothes, household stuff, tools, and the like necessaries, and that in greater quantities than here their condition could have bought, being there well to pass, that were but low here, if not poor, and now Masters of Families too, when here they had none, and could hardly keep themselves, and very often it happens that some of them, after their industry and success have made them wealthy, return and empty their riches into England ; one in this capacity being able to buy out twenty of what he was when he went out.”

The inquiry into which the parliamentary Emigration Committee of 1827 entered, established a proposition precisely similar ; and furnished their justification of suggesting an appropriation of the public funds, by way of loan, for the purposes of Emigration.

The Emigrant's Guide.

FOR some years past arrangements have been in contemplation by His Majesty's Government, for promoting the Emigration to the British Possessions abroad, of Agricultural Labourers, and of other persons to whom it may be considered desirable to afford assistance,

in seeking in the Colonies the means of profitable employment, which they are unable to find at home.

In conformity with these arrangements. His Majesty was pleased, on the 24th of June 1831, to appoint a Commission, the objects of which will be found to be explained hereafter, in the copies of the official papers which have been issued for the information of the Public,

Should any Emigrants arrive in Van Diemen's Land or New South Wales sooner than was expected, directions have been given for the appointment of a proper Officer of the Colonial Government, to superintend the disposal of all Emigrants of this description, on their reaching the Colony. The Officer thus selected by His Majesty's Government, has been considered thoroughly acquainted with the wants of the Settlers in respect to labour, and consequently able to point out to the Emigrant the quarter to which he should apply, with a view to obtain employment.

INFORMATION
RESPECTING THE
AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.

The Commissioners for Emigration have collected the following information for the use of Persons desirous of emigrating to New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land.

PRICE OF PASSAGE.

The Commissioners for Emigration have reason to expect, from the result of the enquiries which they have made on this Subject, that Passages can be provided for People of the Working Classes, including their maintenance during the Voyage, at a charge not exceeding £16 for Adults, and £8 for Children. More exact particulars, and the precise charge for which Passages can be provided, will be stated at the time of entering into the Agreements with such persons as may apply to the Commissioners for that purpose. [2]

PROBABILITY OF EMPLOYMENT AND RATES OF WAGES.

The Commissioners have examined a considerable number of Letters upon these subjects from respectable Inhabitants of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land ; and they find that all concur in representing the existence of a great demand for Labour. These representations are further confirmed by Official Reports received from those Colonies by the Secretary of State.

The following general statements, collected from a variety of sources, will afford a view of the average Rates of Wages in the Australian Colonies : —

Twenty-five or Thirty Pounds a Year, besides Board and Lodging, seem to be the Wages which are usually paid to Common Labourers :

Artizans of very ordinary qualifications are reported to find no difficulty in obtaining £50 a Year, besides Board and Lodging. The following Advertisement which appeared in the Sydney Gazette of the 12th August, 1830, contains a List of several descriptions of Workmen wanted at Sydney, as well as an account of the high Wages which some of them might obtain.

Advertisement from the Sydney Gazette.

“ WANTED IN SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, THE FOLLOWING TRADESMEN AND MECHANICS.”

Bread and Biscuit Bakers

Butchers

* Boat Builders

* Brick Makers

* Ditto Layers

Billows Makers

* Blacksmiths

Bell Hangers

Brass Founders

Boatmen

* Collar Makers

Confectioners

Chair Makers

* Curriers

* Carpenters

* Caulkers

Cart Makers

Coach Makers

Compositors

Candle Makers

Cabinet Makers

Cheese Makers

Coach Spring Mkrs.

Cooks

Colliers

Coppersmiths

Cutlers

Dyers

Dairywomen

Distillers

*Engineers

Flax Dressers

Fencers

Fellmongers

Gardeners

Glaziers

Glass Blowers

Glue Makers

Gilders

Gunsmiths

Hair Dressers

Hat Makers

— Finishers
*Harness Makers
Horse Breakers
Hoop Benders
Ironmongers
Iron Founders
*Joiners
Japanners

Leather Dressers
Lime Burners
Locksmiths

Millers
Mealmen
*Millwrights
Milliners
Maltsters
Mustard Makers-
Milkmen

Painters
Parchment Makers
Pump Makers
Plough Makers
Potters
Paper Makers
*Plasterers
Ploughmen
Provision Curers
Plumbers
Painters & Pressmen

Quarrymen
Quill Preparers
Rope Makers
Reapers

Saddlers
Shoemakers
*Sawyers
Shipwrights
*Stone Masons
*Stone Cutters
*Stone Setters
Stone Quarrymen
Sail Makers
*Slaters & Shinglers
Shepherds
Sheepshearers
Soap Makers
Sign Painters

Sailors
Sail Cloth Makers
Sieve Makers
Starch Makers
Straw Platters
Straw Hat Makers

*Tanners
Tailors
Tin Plate Workers
Tobacco Pipe Mkr.
Tobacco Growers
Tallow Melters
Vine Dressers

Upholsterers

Wheelwrights
Waggon Makers
Wool Sorters
Whalers
Weavers of Blankets
& Coarse Woollen
Wire Drawers
Wood Splitters

Those marked thus (*) are particularly wanted, and earn 10s. a day and upwards *all year round*. And Engineers and Millwrights earn 20s. a day.

All articles of provision are very cheap. Beef and Mutton 2d. per lb. by the joint, and 1d. per lb. by the quarter or carcase. Tea (green) 1s. 6d., Sugar 3d., Indian Corn 1s. 6d. per bushel. &c. &c.

The Agent for New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, in a letter addressed to the Chairman of the Emigration Committee in the Year 1827, since which period the price of Labour is understood to have risen, stated the Rates of Wages as, follows : —

Common Labourers 3s..... a day.

Common Mechanics 7s..... ditto

2d Rate ditto 8s. to 12s.

3d Rate ditto 12s. to 15s.

And to Mechanics of peculiar qualifications or Agricultural Labours capable of managing a Farm in the capacity of Bullock..... £1 per day

It is not necessary that Emigration to the Australian Colonies should be confined to any particular Season, and the Commissioners for Emigration will therefore be ready immediately to afford their assistance to persons desirous of going to New South Wales or Van Diemen's Land. In consequence, however, of the state of the Population in the Australian Colonies, the all the year round. Commissioners do not propose to take charge of the conveyance of any but married men and their families, or of females.

The Commissioners for Emigration take this opportunity of announcing, that they are not prepared to undertake the conveyance of Emigrants to the Settlement on the Swan River.

We here append a List of Van Diemen's Land and New South Wales Prices, (extracted from the "Colonial Times" of August 24, 1831.)

Colonial Office, 8th November, 1831.

THE Commissioners for Emigration have received numerous applications from persons desirous of emigrating to New South Wales or Van Diemen's Land ; but the greater proportion of these applicants state their inability to defray the whole charge of their conveyance, and request to be allowed some aid for that purpose, on condition of repaying the same out of their earnings in the Colony in which they propose to settle. The Commissioners for Emigration therefore, have satisfaction in being able to announce that His Majesty's Government has sanctioned the appropriation of a limited Sum out of the Colonial Revenues of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, to *aid the private funds* of such Emigrants as shall appear likely to earn the means of repaying that aid and to become useful Settlers. The following are the regulations under which this indulgence will be dispensed :—

No one Family will be allowed an advance exceeding £20 ; and therefore it will be *useless* for parties, who may not *possess* the *remainder* of the Sum requisite for engaging their passage, to *apply* to the Commissioners.

No advance will be made except to persons who are competent workmen in some of the ordinary Mechanical Arts ; as for instance, to Blacksmiths, Carpenters, &c. and the advance will be further confined to Men who are married and intend to take their wives with them.

Every person desirous of receiving the proposed advance must fill up, and send back to the Secretary to the Commissioners. the Return hereto annexed. If the information contained in this Return shall be considered satisfactory the applicant will receive notice to that effect. He may then proceed to make his agreement with the Owners or Masters of Ships proceeding to New South Wales or Van Diemen's Land, and as soon as any Ship-owner or Master shall notify to the Commissioners for Emigration (in a form which will be provided for the purpose) that the Emigrant has taken the other necessary steps for engaging his passage, an order will be granted for the payment, in the Colony, of £20 to the Agent or the Master of the Vessel in which this Emigrant may arrive. The Emigrant will of course be able to obtain a corresponding deduction from the amount to be paid by himself in this Country.

The Order for payment will be entrusted to the Master of the Vessel in which the Emigrant is to proceed, and will consist of a sealed dispatch to the Governor, containing the name and description of the party on whose account the Money is to be paid ; but arrangements will be made by which the delivery of this Order to the Master will not take place until the Emigrant shall have signed the acknowledgment which will be required from him, of the debt he will contract with Government. For it is the intention of His Majesty's Government, and cannot be too clearly understood by all persons who may accept this loan, that repayment of the debt (in such proportions, and at such intervals, as may not be unsuitable to the circumstances of each Emigrant) shall be strictly enforced, by means of ample powers which the Laws of the Colony render available for that purpose.

Should the number of applications to the Commissioners be greater than the funds at their disposal will enable them to comply with, priority of date will form the rule of selection among applications in which there shall appear no other ground of distinction.

By order of the Commissioners,
(Signed) T. FREDERICK ELLIOT,
Secretary to the Commissioners.

FEMALE EMIGRATION.

•

The praiseworthy labours of the Emigration Committee have not been confined to the relief of the superabundant *Male* population of the United Kingdom. The representations which have been received from various quarters, of the evils resulting from the great disproportion of the *female* to the male population of the Colonies of New South Wales, and Van Diemen's Land, have led them seriously to consider what means might be adopted, for supplying the deficiency of females which is so much complained of.

There are in England, and especially in the Agricultural Countries, many young women, who having been brought up in such a manner as to qualify them to discharge the duties of Servants in the family of a Farmer, are unable in this Country to procure such situations or to gain an honest livelihood, and who would therefore gladly avail themselves of an opportunity of emigrating to a Colony in which they could rely upon finding the means of doing so. In New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, all accounts concur in stating, that *such persons* would without *difficulty* find *eligible* situations, and that their arrival would be very acceptable to the Settlers, who seem to be almost entirely unprovided with female Servants. To this end, and with a view to facilitate the accomplishment of this patriotic purpose, a capital has been appropriated from the funds, arising by the sale of Crown Lands at Sydney and Van Diemen's Land, to defray a moiety of the expense of conveying a certain number of female Emigrants to those Colonies.

The regulations under which the Emigration Committee have recommended that the intentions of His Majesty's Government on this subject should be carried into effect, will be found in the following copy of a paper which has been circulated by the Committee.

Colonial Office, 10th October, 1831.

His Majesty's Government having resolved that the sums produced by the sale of land in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land should be appropriated to the encouragement of the emigration of females to those Colonies, the Commissioners for Emigration have been directed to publish the following account of the regulations under which this money will be applied.

1st.—The Commissioners will contribute £8 (which it is supposed will be about one-half of the total expense) towards the passage of unmarried female Emigrants.

2ndly.—When Emigrants of the above description, and between the ages of *fifteen* and thirty, are members of families which are about to proceed to New South Wales or Van

Diemen's Land, they will, on applying to the Commissioners for Emigration, be furnished with orders, for the above-mentioned sum of £6., made payable in the Colony to the masters or agents of the vessels in which the Emigrants shall arrive.

3dly.—Females desirous to emigrate to New South Wales or Van Diemen's Land, and not forming part of any family proceeding to those Colonies, will be admitted as candidates for the bounty of £8., if they be between the ages of *eighteen* and thirty, and possess the funds which would be necessary, in addition to the sum allowed them by the Commissioners, to complete the price of their passage, and if a sufficient number of such persons shall signify their wish to emigrate they will be called upon to pay into the hands of an officer appointed for that purpose their share of the charge of the passage, and the Commissioners will then take up a vessel (into which no other passengers will be admitted) for the conveyance of these Emigrants to their destination ; but should there not be as many applicants as would be requisite to defray the charge of so taking up a vessel, the Commissioners, will be unable to assist females who are emigrating without being accompanied by relatives or friends responsible for their protection.

4thly.—Should the number of applications to the (Commissioners be greater than the funds at their disposal will enable them to comply with, the preference will be given, first, to females emigrating (as described in paragraph 2) in company with their families ; and next, to those who are qualified to make themselves useful as servants in a farmer's family. Females who may offer to pay a larger proportion than others of the cost of their passage, will also be considered entitled to a preference. In the absence of all other distinctions, priority of application will form the rule of selection. The applications may be made (with such adaptations as may be requisite in each particular case) on the same forms that have been drawn up for the application of mechanics desirous of receiving advances.

By order of the Commissioners,
(signed) *T. Fredrick Elliot*,
Secretary to the Commission.

[1] Vide Sydney Gazette, October 1, 1831.

[2] The price of Sixteen Pounds is computed on the supposition of a whole Vessel's being taken up for the conveyance of Passengers, but as the Commissioners for Emigration do not at present contemplate engaging a Vessel in that manner, the best course for Persons possessed of the requisite funds is to engage their Passages by private agreement with the Owners of the Ships sailing to New South Wales or Van Diemen's Land. The price of steerage Passages thus engaged has usually ranged from Thirty to Forty Pounds ; but Passages have lately been provided by some Ship Owners for people of the Working Classes at so low a charge as from Twenty to Eighteen Pounds for Adults, and Nine Pounds for Children.—12th Dec. 1831.

The emigrant's guide to New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, Lower Canada, Upper Canada, and New Brunswick : (1832)

Author : Great Britain. Colonial Office ; Miscellaneous Pamphlet Collection (Library of Congress) DLC

Publisher : London : W. Pearson

Year : 1832

Language : English

Digitizing sponsor : Google

Book from the collections of : Oxford University

Collection : europeanlibraries

Source : Internet Archive

<http://www.archive.org/details/emigrantsguidet00britgoog>

Edited and uploaded to www.augty.org

December 12 2011