

# The Colonial Observer.

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No. 58.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1842.

Vol. I.

## COLONIAL POLITICS.

### THE IMMIGRATION REPORT.

(Continued.)

From our remarks in our last number on the first part of this document, our readers will doubtless perceive that it bears a strong resemblance to a pig in the water; for it not only furnishes materials for cutting the throat of its own argument, but actually perpetrates the rash act, as the pig is said to do when it tries to swim: for while it affords us the strongest reasons for insisting on the immediate discontinuance of the Bounty System, it actually recommends the continuance of that system, thereby blowing hot and cold at the same time. We are happy to find, however, from the proceedings of Council on Wednesday last, when the Report was formally submitted to that body, that the views we have so long entertained of the real character and working of the Bounty System are coincided in by the honourable the Colonial Secretary. We were much pleased with his remarks on the subject:

"With respect to the bounty system, it would be seen that the Council had taken a great deal of evidence, particularly that of the Immigration Agent and the members of the Board, and he regretted to say, that he thought there was abundance of proof before the Council that it was not expedient to continue the bounty system, the disadvantages of it were so great. He did not mean to say that great advantages have not been derived from the bounty system: it would be doing an injury to numbers of highly respectable people who came out under it, and have done much towards raising the moral character of the colony; but still there have been a great many exceptions, exceptions which there should not have been considering that the expense of immigration is borne by this colony; and he feared that while immigration is looked upon as a cold mercantile speculation, as it is by so many of the persons concerned, there will be little prospect of amending it. Another reason why he looked upon the bounty system with disfavour was, the irregularity of the supply of labour: a dearth at one time, an over-supply at another. There is no mutuality in the agreement between the Government and the affrighters, and he thought merchants would not enter into the system were they bound to bring out all they obtained orders for: the number of immigrants under the bounty system will always vary, not according to the demand in the colony, but according to the rates of freight and the prices of provisions in England. Another reason why he disliked the bounty system was, the impossibility of regulating the ports from which the ships should depart, and the time at which they should sail, in order that they might gradually arrive in this colony. It had sometimes happened that the emigrants arrived in numbers that was almost disheartening, although the demand for labour was so great that very little inconvenience was felt. A further advantage which a government system would have over the bounty would be, that the commissioners could provide that a fair proportion of emigrants should be sent from each of the three divisions of the United Kingdom. Another advantage would be, that the selecting officer would be an officer of government, and that the surgeons would be either naval surgeons, or any rate persons used to the sea, for it was of less consequence that the surgeons should be skilful, than that they should be respectable persons competent to manage large numbers of people."

There can be no doubt that numerous reputable persons and families have arrived in the Colony under the Bounty System. It would be marvellous indeed if it were not so, and we never denied the fact. We only maintain that the proportion of utterly useless and thoroughly bad people whom that system has introduced into the Colony has been incomparably greater than would ever have found their way to our shores through an emigration conducted under the superintendence of the Home Government. It is this moral aspect of the matter that

we look at *exclusively*; the mere inconvenience arising from the irregularity in the arrival of the immigrants under the Bounty System, and the uncertainty of their arrival at all, to which Mr. Thomson appears to us to attach undue importance, are matters of no moment to the Colony compared with this.

After quoting the first extract from the Report contained in our last number, relative to the numerous cases of fraud and forgery that had been detected under the Bounty System, Mr. Thomson proceeds as follows—we quote the published report of his speech:—

"He regretted to say that proofs of deception were numerous; he would not say that all the merchants engaged had been alike, as there were remarkable and honourable exceptions; and some had been deceived by their sub-agents, and were as much shocked as the government when the frauds were discovered. There was one individual he could not pass over without remark, for he looked upon him as a benefactor to the Colony, he meant Mr. Marshall, whose ships formed an honourable exception to the others employed; and in fact the system under his management was ably and judiciously carried out. It had been argued that the numerous disallowances that had been made by the government, would act as a check, and that in future such cases would not occur; but he feared while immigration was a mere mercantile speculation, only those emigrants would be brought out who could be easiest obtained."

Now we cannot sympathise by any means with this unmerited praise of an individual—we mean Mr. John Marshall—who has done such vast and permanent injury to this Colony. Was it not that mercenary speculator who first, and who has all along most extensively, practised that gross deception which the Bounty speculators have now been practising so long upon both the Mother-country and the gullible legislators of this unfortunate Colony, by sending us out numerous ships with Bounty immigrants from Plymouth, where one should have expected the immigrants would be almost all English, while the fact, as is now universally known in the Colony, was that they were almost exclusively from the worst parts of Ireland—collected at so much a head by the Bounty whippers-in at Cork, Limerick, Dublin, and Tipperary? Was this being a great benefactor to the Colony?

Oh! Mr. Thomson! Mr. Thomson, Oh!

To return to the Report:—

"Nevertheless, while these considerations in some degree abate the unfavourable impression created by the detection of so many abuses under the Bounty System, your Committee still feel, after every allowance has been made, that there remains evidence of impropriety which can scarcely be spoken of in terms of too great severity. The disposition to resort to such practices cannot but be checked by the numerous examples of severe pecuniary loss sustained by the charterers of Emigration ships, through the refusal of the Bounties in all cases where abuses have been discovered; and this community is under the deepest obligations to the Executive Government for its firmness in imposing those penalties. Should that check however prove insufficient, and if no other can be devised to prevent the recurrence of systematic deceptions, and to suppress such frequent breaches of morals as have occurred during the past year, your committee must, in fulfilment of their duty, recommend the abolition of the system. The points which they consider to require especially a corrective or total remodelling, are the following:—

"I.—The mode of certifying the age, occupation, character, and identity, of the parties who are permitted to embark as bounty emigrants.

"II.—The maintenance of order and morality among the emigrants during the voyage."

"The disposition to resort to such practices" as those reprobated in this passage—

practices which have been so lamentably prevalent under the Bounty System—can never be "checked" in the manner proposed. Certificates of age, occupation, character, and identity, can, we repeat it, be obtained in bushels, in any part of England, and more especially in Ireland, when there is any purpose to be served by them—particularly when they can be rendered available in ridding a neighbourhood of worthless characters. The only security the Colony can have for the proper expenditure of the Land-Fund, in the introduction of respectable persons in the capacity of free immigrants, is to be sought for in the appointment of men of character and respectability at home to select them. In short, the Bishop's checks are good for nothing for the object in view, and we are decidedly of opinion, with Earl Durham, that "the whole emigration from the United Kingdom should be so far placed under the superintendence of Government—that emigrants conveyed at the public expense, should necessarily proceed in vessels chartered and regulated by the Government." But if the Government ought to be responsible for the right management of the emigrant ships on the passage out, much more ought they to be so for the proper selection of the immigrants; and they can only be so through the appointment to that office of Government Officers who have a character to lose themselves, or of some person of ability and respectable character from the Colony, in whose general trustworthiness the Colonists could place entire confidence.

The disclosures that have been made in the course of enquiries into the operation of the Bounty System, as to the manner in which the intentions of the Colonial Government have been defeated in regard to the standing and character of the persons appointed as Surgeons Superintendent by the Bounty Speculators, are sufficient to shew that it is quite hopeless to prevent chicanery and deception of every kind, so long as that system is continued. The Colonial Government, desirous of securing the services of really respectable men for this responsible office, bound themselves to grant the Surgeons Superintendent, a comparatively handsome remuneration for these services on their arrival in the Colony. But what was the result? Why, the mercenary creatures who had got the business into their hands bound the Surgeons in almost every instance to pay them, out of their Government allowance, a high-rate of passage-money as Cabin passengers in the very ships of which they were Surgeons Superintendent! And yet the Bishop tells us, that the Bounty System should be continued! Pro-di-gi-ous!

The immigration of all kinds during the past twelve months has amounted to 23,426 persons, of whom 12,351 have arrived in Sydney, and 7,380 at Port Phillip, through the Government Bounties; 3,695 persons having arrived without any assistance from

Government. Now, although this large addition to the population of the Colony has been distributed over the territory, and has thus disappeared in great measure from the Immigrant Barracks, it is nevertheless the fact that there has been a great lack of employment, even for industrious persons, both in town and country, for months past; and it will certainly require a considerable lapse of time from the present moment to work up the available labour now in the Colony into its body politic. If the immigration of the past year had been extended over two years, much of the distress that has been experienced in many quarters from the want of employment would never have been felt, while the general prosperity of the Colony would have experienced far less interruption. It is easy for Bishop Broughton and his fellow Committee-men to talk of a great demand for labour—but they are either unqualified to give a right opinion on the subject or are not to be trusted when they do give one. When a poor immigrant, whether mechanic or farm-labourer, is out of employment, is it to the residence of a Bishop or Councilman that he will go in search of it? "The rich man," Solomon tells us, "has many friends"; but they are all of his own class—"but as for the poor man, his neighbour," the Bishop or Councilman, "does not know him." Cases of poverty and of want of employment are, for this Colony, unprecedentedly numerous at the present moment and have been so also for a considerable time past; and in such circumstances it is heartless in the extreme for the unsuccessful candidates for employment to hear men talking of inundating the Colony with more labour, as the Bishop and his fellow Committee-men do in their Report. Neither, we repeat it, are these gentlemen to be trusted when they give an opinion on such a subject; for being almost all of them employers of labour, they wish, as a matter of course, to have it at the lowest possible rate. Are they aware of the fact that there are labourers at this moment in the district of Illawarra, engaged at five shillings a week and their rations? Are they aware of the fact that single men have very recently been hired at the Nepean River at 12l. a year? Are they aware of the fact that the Captain of the *Honduras*, one of the last vessels that has left the port, had applications from upwards of fifty Bounty immigrants for a passage home, offering to work without wages, if they only be taken back to England? No! They examine only the employers of labour; they never think of examining the men who are in search of remunerating employment and unable to find it!

We have something to say about the policy of the Loan proposed by the Committee, as also about the Crowning Mercy of the Bounty System—the multitude of Irish with which it has inundated the Colony; but we must have done for the present. The subject is one of too much importance to the Colony to grudge a third article upon it.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1842.

Present—the Governor, the Bishop, the Commander of the Forces, the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, the Collector of Customs, the Auditor-General, Messrs. Campbell, Berry, Jones, Blaxland, H. and J. Macarthur, and Sir J. Jamison.

The Governor said the Court of Requests Bill having been fairly transcribed and presented to him by the Attorney-General and Mr. Jones, it had been discovered that there was one small addition necessary, and he therefore proposed to recommit the 31st clause, for the purpose of adding to the end of it the words, "or residue thereof, as the case may be."

The amendment, which was merely technical, was adopted.

The Colonial Secretary then moved that the bill be read a third time, after the other orders of the day, which was agreed to.

The Australasian Sugar Company Bill, the Doubly Convicted Felons Detention Bill, and the bill to enable the trustees of the late Samuel Foster to lease certain property in New South Wales for a period of twenty-one years, were severally read a third time and passed.

The Colonial Secretary then moved the order of the day for the third reading of the Courts of Requests Bill; and the bill having been read,

The Governor said there was one point on which he wished to say a few words before the bill was finally disposed of, though, as the person principally concerned was present, he felt some difficulty. On a former occasion it appeared to be the opinion of the council that the commissioner for the County of Cumberland, as he would probably be prevented from deriving any emolument from the practice of his profession, would be entitled to some additional remuneration; and, though he was anxious to reduce as much as possible the expenditure of the colony, he would not resist the application, although not prepared to state the exact sum to which he would go. The act would not come into operation until the first of January, by which time Mr. Plunkett, the Attorney General, would have returned to the colony, and some arrangements might then be made. He was afraid that any large increase would be objected to in England. From some despatches he had received, which he did not think it necessary to lay before the council, he was led to believe that the royal assent would not be given to the Administration of Justice Act, on account of the increased expense it incurred. This bill would tend considerably to diminish the revenue derived from the fees of the Supreme Court, and he was not prepared to say what additional salary should be given. He would content himself, at present, with merely saying that he would entertain the proposal of the council, and, so far as it was in his power, sanction an addition.

Mr. Jones was of opinion that the salary ought to be the same as that of the Attorney General.

Mr. Berry thought the lowest amount of salary ought to be 1000*l.* a year, but he would sooner say 1200*l.*

The Collector of Customs brought up the report of the committee on the erection of light houses in Bass's Straits, which was ordered to be printed.

The Colonial Secretary now rose to propose the motion of which he had given notice when he presented the immigration report last week; he then stated that he hoped some member not of the committee would bring forward the usual resolutions, and he regretted that no one had done so; the duty had therefore devolved upon him, and he would endeavour to discharge it as satisfactorily as possible, though he would have been glad if it had been taken up by some one who was not an official member. He need scarcely inform the council that the report had been drawn up by the right rev. chairman of the committee, and that it was an able and lucid document, as indeed everything was that came from his hands. He had great pleasure in moving the adoption of the report, with which he agreed, except on one point, and that was respecting the bounty system. He would read the resolutions, making such remarks as he thought necessary, and he would then submit each of them separately to the

council, in order that there might be a distinct decision upon every point. The resolutions were a mere echo of the report, and it would be seen that in adopting them the council would adopt the opinions expressed in the report itself. The first resolution was as follows:—

"1. That this council having had under consideration the report from the committee appointed during the present session to inquire into and report on the subject of immigration, concurs generally in the opinions therein expressed."

He had already stated that he had one objection—with respect to the bounty system. On that subject the committee had taken a great deal of evidence, the most important portion of which was that given by the immigration agent and by the members of the immigration board; and there was, he thought, abundant proof before the council in that evidence to show that it was not expedient to continue that system any longer. That many respectable and useful immigrants had been introduced into the colony by it could not be denied; but there were many unfortunate exceptions which they had no right to expect, considering that they had been brought out at the public expense. He felt certain that while immigration continued a mere mercantile speculation, they would not obtain the best description of immigrants. Another objection to the bounty system was, its uncertainty; at one time there was a dearth of immigrants, and at another an overflowing; there was in fact no mutuality of obligation between the contractors and the government. The impossibility of regulating the ports from which vessels departed was another objection, and a very strong one. These disadvantages were not to be found in the government system; the number of ships, the time of their departure, and the description of immigrants sent out could all be regulated, and there was also a better chance of a fair proportion being sent from each of the three sections of the United Kingdom. The selecting officers would be responsible persons under government, and surgeons of respectability and experience, acquainted with the sea, and capable of managing large masses of persons, would also be selected. Much of the evil in the bounty system had arisen from the want of skill on the part of the surgeons in managing the people on board. He regretted to say, in the words of the committee, that "proofs of deception attempted, and of fraud and forgery actually committed, by persons in the United Kingdom connected with the occupation of sending out emigrants under bounty orders, and instances of personation and of fictitious characters, exposed by the vigilance of the immigration board, have been painfully frequent. Where so many instances have upon enquiry been brought to light, there is reason to allow much weight to the opinion of witnesses, that there may have been in all probability many other cases in which detection has not taken place. It has been accordingly a question with your committee, whether they ought not to recommend the absolute discontinuance of a system under which it has been proved that such abuses could be practised." He regretted that the proofs of deception were but too frequent. He would not however say that these remarks applied to the merchants, for among them there were many honorable exceptions, and some of them had been as much shocked at the culpability of their agents as the government itself had been. There was one individual whose name he could not pass over in silence. The colony had been very much benefited by Mr. John Marshall; his ships had formed an honorable exception, and it was due to him to say, that they had been judiciously and humanely conducted. It was argued that such cases would not again occur. That the disposition to resort to such practices would not fail to be checked by the examples of pecuniary loss sustained by the charterers of ships, in the refusal of bounties in cases where abuses had been discovered, but in his opinion it was not judicious to hazard the continuance of the system. The next resolution was as follows:—

"That this council especially concurs in the statement of the committee, that notwithstanding the unprecedented influx of immigrants during the past year, in which the numbers added to the population have been no less than 23,426, at an expense to the colony of £328,115, there are no symptoms of a superabundance of labor in any part

of the territory, there being few, if any, instances of industrious and skillful artificers, or laborers, wanting employment; and although wages have been so far reduced, as in some degree to meet the circumstances of the employer, they have not fallen below that level which enables the laborer to provide an honest and comfortable subsistence for himself and family."

The proposition contained in the resolution had been fully borne out by the evidence taken before the committee. There was, he believed, a sufficient supply for the present, but towards harvest and next shearing time wages would rise, and great inconvenience would ensue if measures were not taken for the recommencement of immigration early in the ensuing year. He was aware that there had been some cases of hardship, but these were chiefly amongst persons who had been introduced contrary to the bounty regulations, such as carpenters and masons, and he thought the time was not distant when they should be able to obtain employment. He should be sorry to see any person brought here whose condition would not be improved by the change. It would be prejudicial to the colony if an over supply was introduced: but it was only by a sufficient supply that the energies of the colony could be expanded, and its value as a British dependency maintained. With regard to the improvement in the condition of the lower classes in coming to acquire information as to the accounts opened in the savings Bank, and he found that there were upwards of 1000 more now than in 1840; the accounts now open are 3700; new depositors increase at the rate of about 170 a month, and these are chiefly among the poorer classes; their deposits varied in amount from £2 to £200, which showed that, notwithstanding the depression of the times, those who were of moral and industrious habits were in a prosperous condition; there had been 1500 new accounts opened since the first of January of the present year. The resolution which he would propose on this subject was as follows:—

"3. That the large and increasing sums at the credit of the working classes in the Savings Bank of New South Wales afford a gratifying proof of their continued prosperous condition, notwithstanding the recent extensive increase of their numbers; the deposits in that institution having increased from £143,000, on the 30th June, 1840, to £178,000, on the same date of the present year, whilst the accounts opened during the past year average no less than one hundred and seventy per month, being a considerable increase on the average of all former years."

The next resolution to which he would call the attention of the council was the following:—

"That this council also concurs with the committee, that although the copious supply of labour recently received has, amongst other beneficial effects upon the welfare of the colony, had that of enabling the settlers to carry on the operations of their industry for a certain period; yet that unless measures be taken in the early part of the ensuing year for the resumption of emigration, the want of labour will be as injuriously felt as ever; wages will rise to their former exorbitant rate, and the consequent exhaustion of property, and embarrassment among the settlers will be again experienced, even with aggravated severity."

There were in the colony, including Port Phillip, about four millions of sheep, the annual increase of which would be about a million, and as a shepherd was required for every 400 sheep, they would require an importation of about 2,500 shepherds, who with their families might amount to about 10,000 souls for this department of industry alone. The next resolution he would introduce was as follows:—

"That this council, adverting to the resolutions passed on this subject in former years, have in common with the committee, had reason to find reason for the resumption of emigration as the expediency of negotiating a loan on the security of the unsold crown lands of the colony, for the purposes of immigration more than fully confirmed."

The hon. member expressed himself as being favourable to a loan to be raised in England, as he thought it was a fatal error in political economy to send out of the colony a large amount of capital while the population was increasing. On the next resolution, as the highest minister of state in connection with the colonies had expressed an authoritative opinion on the subject, he would say nothing, but merely read it to the council:—

"That although the land fund has declined for the present, from a great number of causes, to which it is not necessary here to advert, yet that in the opinion of this council, the vast tracts of vacant crown lands must form a fully adequate basis of security for any loan of reasonable amount which could be contracted for the promotion of immigration in this season of emergency; nor can reasonable doubt be entertained that to whatever

extent it may upon trial be found that the colony is capable of receiving and advantageously employing an additional population, to the same extent a loan may be securely applied to the purpose of introducing that population."

The next resolution was as follows:—

"That this council also concurs with the committee that the immediate abstraction of capital in payment for the importation of emigrants, a portion only of whom add to the productive labour of the colony, the facilities being for the most part consumers and not producers for a considerable period after their arrival, must so materially contract that circulation of money which is required to carry on successfully the business of an active community, fraught with such serious inconveniences. During the last five years no less than 43,544 souls have been introduced, at a cost to the colony of £320,840, exclusively raised within itself, and remitted to the United Kingdom. So vast an effort for so infant a community, could not fail to produce considerable exhaustion, nor be made without leading to a serious state of depression."

The Colonial Secretary proceeded to read the remaining resolutions, making a few remarks, the tenor of which was that not only this colony, but the mother-country, would be greatly benefitted by raising a loan; and that the home government would be willing to give its assistance to such a measure.

"That this council agrees further with the committee that these inconveniences would be in a great measure abated if the introduction of labour could for a time be paid for by borrowed funds; the repayment of which, there can be no doubt, would be provided for by the capital which would, in a short time, be created by means of the labour introduced, and the circulation of the capital retained."

"That if the raising of a loan in England, for the purpose of emigration, should wear the appearance of drawing upon the resources of the mother country, its welfare is involved to a degree, not inferior perhaps to that of the colony itself, in the first expedient, as well as in the final application of the funds so raised. The entire amount of every such loan would be ultimately repaid from the resources of the colony, and in the mean time no part would be withdrawn from the United Kingdom, but the whole would be expended in the advancement of the chief and leading interests of the mother country, as well as in the relief of the labouring classes of the British community now suffering from a superabundant population. The shipping interest especially must be promoted by the extent of tonnage employed in the emigration service. The agricultural interest would derive benefit through the demand for vitalising so many persons during a voyage of such duration: while few events would be so favourable to the manufacturing interests of Great Britain, as the rapid growth in this colony of a population, dependent for the supply of their wants upon the products of its industry, and engaged in the pursuit of a staple export, which, while it supplied the raw material of an important article of manufacture, would enable them to be extensive consumers of British goods."

"That on the grounds set forth, this council fully relies on the assistance of her Majesty's government in raising a loan on the most advantageous terms to the colony; nor can such assistance be drawn into a precedent which might be inconvenient as regards the claims of other dependencies of the crown, if in every such case the whole amount is to be expended in the mother country, for the promotion of emigration, with the same advantages to the several classes of the British community, and upon the same undoubted security as are proposed in the instance of this colony."

"That this council repeats its recommendation of former years, that it is highly desirable that all ships in which immigrants may be brought to this colony should be conducted on temperance principles, and especially that the sale of fermented and spirituous liquors on board; a practice which there is reason to apprehend has prevailed in the ships of the last season, and has been attended with injurious consequences to the maintenance of order, and to the moral habits of the immigrants, should in future be strictly prohibited."

"That his Excellency the Governor be requested to communicate a copy of these resolutions to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

The hon. member then moved that the first resolution be adopted.

The Bishop in rising to second the resolution felt called on to say a few words with respect to the bounty system. It was due to the committee to say that if they had thought the evils connected with that system were inseparable from it, there would not have been one dissentient voice against its abolition; but they were of opinion that these evils might be separated from it, and that for the future it might be made much more beneficial than it had been. So far as his experience had extended among the labouring classes of England, the immigrants introduced under that system were a fair specimen. Many objections might be urged against the other system. He could not forget the conduct of some of the surgeons employed under that system, nor could he forget the parties who had been brought from the county of Tipperary. The commissioners were not free from control, and whilst immigrants had been brought from poor law unions on the one hand, and crown witnesses from Ireland on the other, he thought it would not be wise to give up the bounty system altogether. The comparative cost of the two systems was not to

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council, in order that there might be a distinct decision upon every point. The resolutions were a mere echo of the report, and it would be seen that in adopting them the council would adopt the opinions expressed in the report itself. The first resolution was as follows:—

"1. That this council having had under consideration the report from the committee appointed during the present session to inquire into and report on the subject of immigration, concurs generally in the opinions therein expressed."

He had already stated that he had one objection—with respect to the bounty system. On that subject the committee had taken a great deal of evidence, the most important portion of which was that given by the immigration agent and by the members of the immigration board; and there was, he thought, abundant proof before the council in that evidence to show that it was not expedient to continue that system any longer. That many respectable and useful immigrants had been introduced into the colony by it could not be denied; but there were many unfortunate exceptions which they had no right to expect, considering that they had been brought out at the public expense. He felt certain that while immigration continued a mere mercantile speculation, they would not obtain the best description of immigrants. Another objection to the bounty system was, its uncertainty; at one time there was a dearth of immigrants, and at another an overflowing; there was in fact no mutuality of obligation between the contractors and the government. The impossibility of regulating the ports from which vessels departed was another objection, and a very strong one. These disadvantages were not to be found in the government system; the number of ships, the time of their departure, and the description of immigrants sent out could all be regulated, and there was also a better chance of a fair proportion being sent from each of the three sections of the United Kingdom. The selecting officers would be responsible persons under government, and surgeons of respectability and experience, acquainted with the sea, and capable of managing large masses of persons, would also be selected. Much of the evil in the bounty system had arisen from the want of skill on the part of the surgeons in managing the people on board. He regretted to say, in the words of the committee, that "proofs of deception attempted, and of fraud and forgery actually committed, by persons in the United Kingdom connected with the occupation of sending out emigrants under bounty orders, and instances of personation and of fictitious characters, exposed by the vigilance of the immigration board, have been painfully frequent. Where so many instances have upon enquiry been brought to light, there is reason to allow much weight to the opinion of witnesses, that there may have been in all probability many other cases in which detection has not taken place. It has been accordingly a question with your committee, whether they ought not to recommend the absolute discontinuance of a system under which it has been proved that such abuses could be practised." He regretted that the proofs of deception were but too frequent. He would not however say that these remarks applied to the merchants, for among them there were many honorable exceptions, and some of them had been as much shocked at the culpability of their agents as the government itself had been. There was one individual whose name he could not pass over in silence. The colony had been very much benefited by Mr. John Marshall; his ships had formed an honorable exception, and it was due to him to say, that they had been judiciously and humanely conducted. It was argued that such cases would not again occur. That the disposition to resort to such practices would not fail to be checked by the examples of pecuniary loss sustained by the charterers of ships, in the refusal of bounties in cases where abuses had been discovered, but in his opinion it was not judicious to hazard the continuance of the system. The next resolution was as follows:—

"That this council especially concurs in the statement of the committee, that notwithstanding the unprecedented influx of immigrants during the past year, in which the numbers added to the population have been no less than 23,426, at an expense to the colony of £328,115, there are no symptoms of a superabundance of labor in any part

of the territory, there being few, if any, instances of industrious and skillful artificers, or laborers, wanting employment; and although wages have been so far reduced, as in some degree to meet the circumstances of the employer, they have not fallen below that level which enables the laborer to provide an honest and comfortable subsistence for himself and family."

The proposition contained in the resolution had been fully borne out by the evidence taken before the committee. There was, he believed, a sufficient supply for the present, but towards harvest and next shearing time wages would rise, and great inconvenience would ensue if measures were not taken for the recommencement of immigration early in the ensuing year. He was aware that there had been some cases of hardship, but these were chiefly amongst persons who had been introduced contrary to the bounty regulations, such as carpenters and masons, and he thought the time was not distant when they should be able to obtain employment. He should be sorry to see any person brought here whose condition would not be improved by the change. It would be prejudicial to the colony if an over supply was introduced: but it was only by a sufficient supply that the energies of the colony could be expanded, and its value as a British dependency maintained. With regard to the improvement in the condition of the lower classes in coming to acquire information as to the accounts opened in the savings Bank, and he found that there were upwards of 1000 more now in 1840; the accounts now open are 3700; new depositors increase at the rate of about 170 a month, and these are chiefly among the poorer classes; their deposits varied in amount from £2 to £200, which showed that, notwithstanding the depression of the times, those who were of moral and industrious habits were in a prosperous condition; there had been 1500 new accounts opened since the first of January of the present year. The resolution which he would propose on this subject was as follows:—

"3. That the large and increasing sums at the credit of the working classes in the Savings Bank of New South Wales afford a gratifying proof of their continued prosperous condition, notwithstanding the recent extensive increase of their numbers; the deposits in that institution having increased from £143,000, on the 30th June, 1840, to £178,000, on the same date of the present year, whilst the accounts opened during the past year average no less than one hundred and seventy per month, being a considerable increase on the average of all former years."

The next resolution to which he would call the attention of the council was the following:—

"That this council also concurs with the committee, that although the copious supply of labour recently received has, amongst other beneficial effects upon the welfare of the colony, had that of enabling the settlers to carry on the operations of their industry for a certain period; yet that unless measures be taken in the early part of the ensuing year for the resumption of emigration, the want of labour will be as injuriously felt as ever; wages will rise to their former exorbitant rate, and the consequent exhaustion of property, and embarrassment among the settlers will be again experienced, even with aggravated severity."

There were in the colony, including Port Phillip, about four millions of sheep, the annual increase of which would be about a million, and as a shepherd was required for every 400 sheep, they would require an importation of about 2,500 shepherds, who with their families might amount to about 10,000 souls for this department of industry alone. The next resolution he would introduce was as follows:—

"That this council, adverting to the resolutions passed on this subject in former years, have in common with the committee, had reason to find the colony previously mentioned as the expediency of negotiating a loan on the security of the unsold crown lands of the colony, for the purposes of immigration more than fully confirmed." The hon. member expressed himself as being favourable to a loan to be raised in England, as he thought it was a fatal error in political economy to send out of the colony a large amount of capital while the population was increasing. On the next resolution, as the highest minister of state in connection with the colonies had expressed an authoritative opinion on the subject, he would say nothing, but merely read it to the council:—

"That although the land fund has declined for the present, from a great number of causes, to which it is not necessary here to advert, yet that in the opinion of this council, the vast tracts of vacant crown lands must form a fully adequate basis of security for any loan of reasonable amount which could be contracted for the promotion of immigration in this season of emergency; nor can reasonable doubt be entertained that to whatever

extent it may upon trial be found that the colony is capable of receiving and advantageously employing an additional population, to the same extent a loan may be securely applied to the purpose of introducing that population."

The next resolution was as follows:—

"That this council also concurs with the committee that the immediate abstraction of capital in payment for the importation of emigrants, a portion only of whom add to the productive labour of the colony, the families being for the most part consumers and not producers for a considerable period after their arrival, must so materially contract that circulation of money which is required to carry on successfully the business of an active community, fraught with such serious inconveniences. During the last five years no less than 43,544 souls have been introduced, at a cost to the colony of £320,840, exclusively raised within itself, and remitted to the United Kingdom. So vast an effort for so infant a community, could not fail to produce considerable exhaustion, nor be made without leading to a serious state of depression."

The Colonial Secretary proceeded to read the remaining resolutions, making a few remarks, the tenor of which was that not only this colony, but the mother-country, would be greatly benefitted by raising a loan; and that the home government would be willing to give its assistance to such a measure.

"That this council agrees further with the committee that these inconveniences would be in a great measure abated if the introduction of labour could for a time be paid for by borrowed funds; the repayment of which, there can be no doubt, would be provided for by the capital which would, in a short time, be created by means of the labour introduced, and the circulation of the capital retained."

"That if the raising of a loan in England, for the purpose of emigration, should wear the appearance of drawing upon the resources of the mother country, its welfare is involved to a degree, not inferior perhaps to that of the colony itself, in the first expedient, as well as in the final application of the funds so raised. The entire amount of every such loan would be ultimately repaid from the resources of the colony, and in the mean time no part would be withdrawn from the United Kingdom, but the whole would be expended in the advancement of the chief and leading interests of the mother country, as well as in the relief of the labouring classes of the British community now suffering from a superabundant population. The shipping interest especially must be promoted by the extent of tonnage employed in the emigration service. The agricultural interest would derive benefit through the demand for vitalising so many persons during a voyage of such duration: while few events would be so favourable to the manufacturing interests of Great Britain, as the rapid growth in this colony of a population, dependent for the supply of their wants upon the products of its industry, and engaged in the pursuit of a staple export, which, while it supplied the raw material of an important article of manufacture, would enable them to be extensive consumers of British goods."

"That on the grounds set forth, this council fully relies on the assistance of her Majesty's government in raising a loan on the most advantageous terms to the colony; nor can such assistance be drawn into a precedent which might be inconvenient as regards the claims of other dependencies of the crown, if in every such case the whole amount is to be expended in the mother country, for the promotion of emigration, with the same advantages to the several classes of the British community, and upon the same undoubted security as are proposed in the instance of this colony."

"That this council repeats its recommendation of former years, that it is highly desirable that all ships in which immigrants may be brought to this colony should be conducted on temperance principles, and especially that the sale of fermented and spirituous liquors on board; a practice which there is reason to apprehend has prevailed in the ships of the last season, and has been attended with injurious consequences to the maintenance of order, and to the moral habits of the immigrants, should in future be strictly prohibited."

"That his Excellency the Governor be requested to communicate a copy of these resolutions to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

The hon. member then moved that the first resolution be adopted.

The Bishop in rising to second the resolution felt called on to say a few words with respect to the bounty system. It was due to the committee to say that if they had thought the evils connected with that system were inseparable from it, there would not have been one dissentient voice against its abolition; but they were of opinion that these evils might be separated from it, and that for the future it might be made much more beneficial than it had been. So far as his experience had extended among the labouring classes of England, the immigrants introduced under that system were a fair specimen. Many objections might be urged against the other system. He could not forget the conduct of some of the surgeons employed under that system, nor could he forget the parties who had been brought from the county of Tipperary. The commissioners were not free from control, and whilst immigrants had been brought from poor law unions on the one hand, and crown witnesses from Ireland on the other, he thought it would not be wise to give up the bounty system altogether. The comparative cost of the two systems was not to

that such a discussion should have been entered on, and should be glad if the right reverend prelate should withdraw the offensive expressions from the report.

The Governor said it was not competent for the Council to withdraw any thing from a report. The report itself might be withdrawn or counter resolutions passed.

Mr. James Macarthur expressed his concurrence the remarks that had fallen from the Bishop, though he considered the Council Chamber not a proper arena for such discussions. Having given notice of a motion to a similar effect as that conveyed by the words of the report he felt called on to say a few words on the subject. His object on that occasion had been to bring the subject under the notice of parties in England, who took an interest in the affairs of the colony, and who he believed would exert their influence to prevent in future the disproportion complained of. (The honourable member here detailed a Donnybrook scene that had occurred at Camden, from the disproportion of Irish labourers employed and expressed his conviction that inconvenience would arise if a proper proportion were not kept up. He feared that secret and undue influences were at work to maintain the disparity that now existed: and the object of the committee had been to counteract those influences.

After some remarks from Sir John Jamieson and Mr. Berry, not particularly requiring to be recorded, the Bishop moved for leave to withdraw the report, which was seconded by Mr. H. Macarthur.

The Governor said, that if the amendment had been pressed to a division he should have supported it. The expressions objected to (although not intentionally) he considered offensive.

The Attorney General withdrew his amendment.

The Bishop withdrew the report *pro forma*, and again brought it up, leaving out the words "likely to lead to inconvenience and disadvantage to this colony in particular."

Mr. Hannibal Macarthur spoke at great length on that part of the report which had reference to a resolution adopted by the committee, that the raising of the minimum price of land was a highly impolitic measure. It was this step, he maintained, that had paralysed the efforts of colonial industry, by checking the investment of capital in land and stock. The experiment had been tried at the recommendation of a prisoner in Newgate, based on information derived from doubly-convicted felons, and the result of the experiment was worthy of the source in which it originated. The hon. member read a letter from Lord Glenelg dated 9th Aug., 1838, containing instructions for the increase of the upset price, which he considered the origin of all the evils with which the colony had since been visited. The object aimed at by the policy thus introduced, was the concentration of the population, while the very reverse was required: the disposition to concentrate requiring rather to be discouraged than promoted.

Mr. James Macarthur followed. He took nearly the same view of the subject. He considered it desirable rather that the population should be dispersed than concentrated. He did not object exactly to raising the price of land but to making the upset price of land of every description uniform. The object of the sale of land, he contended, should be the encouragement of the pastoral interest; as the country was not adapted to agricultural pursuits. He reiterated the hackneyed arguments in favour of a loan, in tedious detail. The most extraordinary part of his speech was an apology for Lord Stanley. The late administration, said the hon. member, was open to an influence adverse to this colony, and it would be difficult to explain the statement of Lord Stanley, that there was no demand for labour here, except by supposing that he also was open to the same. It was, however, proper to remark that the newspapers said he was not distinctly heard from his standing under the gallery. Now, Lord Stanley might be saying something like what had been ascribed to him, and knowing the influence of those who were to this colony with the press, he thought it was probable that to carry out their designs, they put words into Lord Stanley's mouth which he never spoke.—[We shall take care that the English press shall not pass in ignorance of the high opinion entertained of their honesty by Mr. James Macarthur. The honourable member entered into a long irrelevant dissertation *de omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis*, into which it is unnecessary to follow him.]

Council adjourned to Friday.

#### THE CLOSE OF THE SESSION.

We have found it impossible so to compress the substance of the discussion on the immigration report so as to admit of our doing justice to the closing scene of the existence of the Legislative Council as presented in the meeting of yesterday, or to the comprehensive speech delivered by his Excellency on that interesting occasion. Some notice however of the latter is indispensable.

In regard to the immigration report as a whole, he had no objection that it should go forth to the world as the expression of the opinion of this Council: that is to say,

of the majority of its members, although he himself dissented from it in many important points.

The bounty system he was firmly convinced, as it had existed for the last four or five years, was now brought to a close. The irregularity of the supply, the want of mutuality in the contracts between Government and the importers, the uncertainty and embarrassment in which the Government was consequently involved, formed, in his estimation, an insuperable objection to the continuance of that system as it had hitherto been conducted. He had tried to secure mutuality, and the Home Government for that purpose had given instructions that the contracts with the importers should be drawn up by the law officers of the crown—but the attempt was altogether nugatory. The agreements being made here, it was impossible that any person could come under the necessary obligation, without the greatest hazard. The importer on making application here for bounty orders, was ignorant what the rate of freights, the price of provisions, and the disposition to emigrate—which underwent great fluctuations—might be in England, and on all these circumstances the profit of the undertaking was so entirely dependent, that no one would undertake the business of importation, unless his bounty orders extended over a considerable space of time, so as to enable him to watch a favourable opportunity for their fulfilment.

All agreements, he was therefore of opinion must hereafter be made in England, where all the circumstances on which the profit of the undertaking depended could at once be ascertained and the agreements with the importer could be in the form of a legal contract under a penalty, allowing a lapse of only a few months for the fulfilment of the order, sufficient merely to admit of the local government being pre-advised of the number of emigrants to be expected.

The disallowances of bounty that had been made formed another ground for his belief and conviction that the bounty system was now at an end; the profits of the trade being so materially curtailed that there was much less inducement to parties to engage in it.

The plan he would now propose to substitute in so far as the selection of emigrants is concerned, is to leave parties desirous of obtaining labour for their own purposes, to select them by their own agents, and to obtain bounty for them on their passing the immigration board here, as the selection by government officers was sure to give dissatisfaction; improper influence being always suspected where the selection is left in the hands of government.

The check which it is essential that the local government should have on the introduction of improper persons—the power of refusing the bounty—might thus be retained, which it could not be without palpable injustice if the selection were placed in the hands of an agent of the government, the importer not being responsible in that case for the selection.

He had recently developed these views on the subject of emigration in a despatch to the Secretary of State.

But the subject of pressing importance at present was not how to conduct emigration on the best system, but how to raise the means of conducting it at all. On this point he held entirely different views from those entertained by the Bishop, and dissented altogether from the "National Debt scheme."

His objections to the scheme were: 1st, that it was impracticable. There must be two parties to the transaction, a borrower and a lender. To borrow money at the exorbitant rate of interest charged in the Colony was out of the question, and if they looked to English capitalists to assist them, they took the wrong way to secure their object by their constant outcry that the Colony is ruined. The guarantee of the Home Government he saw no reason to expect.

In the second place, the security for the interest of the loan which the Bishop proposed—the proceeds of the sale of land to the squatters to be met by deferred payments—was unsatisfactory. The difficulty that the Government had experienced in obtaining what was due in form of quit-

rents, was a sufficient indication of what might be expected to be realised by deferred payments. Of all the grants alienated during the administration of Sir Thomas Brisbane, he had only obtained in the shape of quit-rents one solitary promise to pay—and although it would be necessary to call up these quit-rents, he anticipated the sacrifice of one-half the amount before they could be recovered.

But the strongest objection of all was the fact that Lord Stanley's act, which had ere this become the law of the land—went directly in the face of the Bishop's plan. The Bishop proposed squatting leases of fourteen years duration, but the united voice of the British Parliament, and of all the parties in England interested in Colonial affairs said that no land shall be leased for more than one year. There was not the least probability that the provisions of the act would be modified for the purpose of enabling us to raise a loan; and no representation that might now be made would prevent the act from obtaining a fair trial for a term of three, four, or five years. The project of the loan must therefore fail in one most essential particular, the proposed means of defraying the interest. "I cannot," said the Governor, "in the conscientious discharge of my sworn duties to this Colony and to the Government of England, advise a loan till all other resources have failed." The declaration does him honour.

The means of continuing emigration Sir George looks for, partly from the reductions he proposes to effect in the Government expenditure, and partly from the contributions of those for whose advantage emigration is chiefly necessary, that is, the squatters, who have hitherto contributed but very remotely to the increase of the land fund. The sale of land was no criterion of the emigration necessary; its extent should be regulated by the increase of capital, and provided for from that increase; and although the squatters at present might not be able to afford to contribute to the immigration fund, the growth of wool was still remunerative, and when the present panic shall have passed, he had no doubt that from this source something might be obtained.

Such is a brief outline of the views expressed by his Excellency, yesterday, and in consideration of our very limited space, we trust it may in the meantime serve in the place of a report of his speech, which, however, as it is well worthy of being recorded may be looked for in our next.

All the resolutions moved by the Colonial Secretary were adopted, and the Council, after receiving the thanks of his Excellency for their services during the session, dissolved, with the prospect of meeting once more to celebrate their own political obsequies.

#### COURTS OF REQUESTS ACT.

There are few of the acts that are manufactured at the Macquarie-street Factory, that any man of ordinary penetration could not discover a way to drive a coach and four through. However well considered and judiciously prepared an act may be before it is submitted to the ordeal of the sage deliberations of our Legislative Council, it is sure to come out from that ordeal so mangled and mutilated and disproportioned a mass of incongruities as to be entirely unfitted to its original design. The Court of Requests Act has shared the common fate. With the exception of a few arbitrary and unconstitutional provisions, it was as first presented, tolerably well adapted to the object in view, but as it has ultimately come forth from the hands of the Macquarie-street law-makers, its effect and tendency are directly to defeat the object for which it was originally proposed. One object its framer, the Attorney General, may have secured—feathered one nest before relinquishing another—but the public object of the measure is completely frustrated, and instead of facilitating the recovery of small debts, it renders those debts, despite of the summary jurisdiction conferred on the Court of Requests for the County of Cumberland, completely irrecoverable. And if Mr. Jones has succeeded in making less work for the lawyers, he has at the same time provided more encouragement for fraud and dishonesty, and destroyed every security

that the mercantile community possesses for the recovery of debts of a small amount.

Although we are no attorneys, we will fairly *bother* the Attorney-General, by supposing a case which neither he nor Mr. Jones will solve. The increased jurisdiction of the Court of Requests is confined to the County of Cumberland; in other parts of the colony it remains as before. Very well! Parties require to be sued in the district where they reside—so far good; but out of the county of Cumberland they can be sued only for debts not exceeding 10l. Now what is to hinder a man to incur a debt of between 10 and 30l. in the county of Cumberland, and then cut the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, and in fact the jurisdiction of all law, as causes under 30l. are removed from the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court?—There is a specimen of Macquarie-street Legislation worthy of its authors! We would really advise Sir George to introduce "An act to amend an act," and to call a special meeting of the *wittengamot* to get it passed forthwith: otherwise we fear he will require at some future period to propose an *ex post facto* law, to remedy the evils inflicted by this mischievous enactment.

One of the effects, we conceive, will be to aid in the dispersion of the community, at least of the dishonest part of it, from this part of the Colony, and so far it will meet the anti-Wakefieldian views of Mr. Hannibal Macarthur; but we anticipate no other benefit from the operation of this mutilated act. The limitation of the extended jurisdiction to the part of the colony where it is least required, and where it can very well be dispensed with—leaving the rest of the Colony a sanctuary for the dishonest—has stripped the act of all the advantages with which it was originally fraught, and rendered it not only entirely worthless, but the fruitful source of incalculable evils to the mercantile community.

#### PYRMONT AND BALMAIN.

The rapid improvement of these localities and their proximity to the city have suggested to us an idea which, we are decidedly of opinion, the owners of property in each of them ought to carry out immediately. A great improvement has recently taken place in the removal of the ferry between Sydney and Balmain from the Miller's Point station to the allotment adjoining the Gas Works; and on crossing to Balmain at the new ferry on Monday last, it appeared to us that if a small steam-punt were stationed there, to ply between Sydney and both of them, a constant communication to and fro might be kept up to the great convenience of the inhabitants of both villages, to the great advantage of the owners of property on both, and to the ultimate profit of those more immediately concerned. Supposing then that the Gas Works should be made the starting point on this side, and that a landing place should be formed as near the point on the Pyrmont side as possible, and another somewhere near the Southern extremity of the Balmain Peninsula, a single steam-boat, similar to those on the Mersey at Liverpool, would be quite sufficient to maintain a constant communication with both localities by touching both at Pyrmont and Balmain on the opposite side—say at Pyrmont first on the one trip, and at Balmain first on the other. From 500l. to 600l. would be a sufficient amount of capital for such an undertaking, and we are quite sure that at the rate of *three pence* per head, that is, one half the present rate by small ferry boats, a handsome profit would be realised and a prodigious service rendered to the public. We merely throw out the idea for the benefit of those whom it concerns. The owners of property on the other side should at all events heartily support such an undertaking.

COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY.—A Commission of Enquiry was held on Wednesday, before Messrs. Fisher and Bloxsome, commissioners, and a common jury, in the cause *the Queen v. Hebblewhite*, to ascertain the amount due by defendant as orphan dues, under the Auction Act. It appeared that the defendant had been in partnership with Christopher Vickery, as auctioneers, from 1839 to 1841; that on certain accounts rendered by the firm from 3rd February, 1840, to 3rd September, in the same year, the sum of 1,605l. 17s. was due the Queen as "orphan dues," being the one and a-half per



NEW ZEALAND.

THE GREAT BARRIER ISLAND MINING COMPANY. CAPITAL £20,000.

To be raised in 2000 Shares of £10 each, payable by instalments.

THE object of this Company is to raise at the onset, a moderate Capital for the purpose of prosecuting their researches for Copper and other Minerals...

The projectors of the Association deem it unnecessary to expatiate at any length on the important benefits which must result from the development of the Mineral resources...

ON first-rate property in the centre of the town of Sydney, now yielding a moderate rental of Five Hundred a-year. As the Security is exceedingly good, no higher rate of interest will be given than TEN PER CENT.

STOCKTON SALT WORKS. Opposite to Newcastle. SALT for curing Meat and Dairy purposes may now be had at Newcastle, Mr. Flood.

MURRAY'S REVIEW. PARTIES in this Colony desirous of becoming subscribers to this well-known Hobart Town Journal, are requested to leave their addresses at this office...

IN THE SUPREME COURT. Sheriff's Office, Sydney, August 15. Rees v. Ginger. ON MONDAY, the 19th day of September, at noon, at the residence of the defendant, Clarence River, the Sheriff will cause to be sold a quantity of Household Furniture...

PERSONAL DEFORMITY. The following extraordinary case of personal deformity is given by a correspondent of the Australian of Wednesday last. It is deserving of being recorded as highly creditable to the professional operator...

An operation was performed by Doctor Stowell, of this town, a few days since, and the result has been most satisfactory. It was found requisite to remove the whole of this unnatural protuberance, as it was impossible to convert it into any useful purpose in repairing the deficiencies.

The writer regrets the want of a medical journal for communications of this kind. It is a desideratum that has long been felt; but we understand there is some prospect of its being speedily supplied.

Applications for Shares are requested to be made without delay at the Office of the undersigned, where further particulars may be known, and specimens of the ore may be seen.

ABERCROMBIE & Co. 1st September, 1842.

CIGARS. BEST CIGARS in the COLONY, to be had at Dixon's new Cigar Depot, opposite the Bank of Australia, George-street, Sydney.

EDUCATION. A GRADUATE of a Scotch University having his Evenings disengaged, will be happy to hear of employment for his leisure hours in private Tuition.

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VAN DIEMAN'S LAND. The proceedings of the Caveat Board at present existing in Van Dieman's Land a prominent degree of public attention. This is a board with similar powers and functions to the Court in this Colony for the investigation of land claims; but it seems to be much less popular than that court, on account of the judges being to some extent absent in the cases brought forward.

The long disputed case of Mr. Loane's claims has just been decided by this board, against that gentleman and in favour of the government. As this case has been the subject of newspaper paragraphs for a long time past, it may not be out of place to give the particulars of the case as stated by claimant's counsel.

Mr. Macdowell opened the proceedings by stating the case. The land in question was a portion of the Government-house property, and upon it stood the stables and a building formerly used as the Town Adjutant's Office.

The facts above stated were substantially borne out by the evidence, but the decision of the commissioners was as follows:— "With respect to Mr. Loane's claim, the evidence is only verbal. Mr. Murray states that he believes there was a mortgage, and states, that he applied to a Mortgagee from Sydney for (among other things) a mortgage from Ayres to Mr. Loane.

In the course of the investigation some strange circumstances in the past administration of colonial affairs were brought to light. We subjoin the evidence of a William Maum, who had held a situation in the Colonial Secretary's office, relative to the destruction of public documents after the death of Governor Collins:—

"I would know the book again in which the entries were made. (Book shown.) That was not it. The greatest part of Governor Collins' papers were destroyed the very night he died. Not a paper was afterwards found. All the cattle returns were destroyed, Bundled into the fire. There was not a head of Government cattle to be found. That is the way some people grow rich. This is no secret. I have mentioned it many a time before. There was also a very large sum charged for black cloth (for mourning for Governor Collins) of which there was not a yard in the colony except what would make the pall. This is well known to the old hands; it was called "the black job."

The next subject which merits attention is the refusal through the opposition of the Attorney-General, of certain writs of scire facias applied for by a Mr. Abbott, to set aside certain grants which he alleges have been improperly issued to other parties for land which he claims. The refusal to grant such writs is a violation of the rights secured to the subject by magna charta, and has met with the severest animadversion in the public press. Mr. Abbott has forwarded an appeal to England.

The legislative council met as announced on the 24th, when the new members Messrs. Boyes, Welsh, Carr, Kermod, and Gregson, took the usual oaths and their seats at the council board.

The speech of Sir John Franklin is very short and sententious. The only subjects of importance touched on are the land fund, the introduction of free, and the disposal of convict labour; and the proposal from the Commercial Bank in reference to the rate of discount and interest.

Sir John thinks it inexpedient, considering the little demand for crown lands, to put up any considerable quantity for sale till after next harvest. In the event of a regular influx of free immigrants he proposes to allow a large portion of the convicts now on the probation gangs to be assigned to private service.

The proposal of the Commercial Bank is to lower the rate of discount two per cent., discontinuing interest on deposits, if the government will allow its own balance to remain on these terms.

A petition is in course of signature—and lies for that purpose at the Van Dieman's Land and Commercial Banks—praying for the introduction of a bill to restrict the interest of money to 8 per cent.

A committee was appointed to draw up addresses to the Queen and Prince Albert on the birth of the Prince of Wales!!! The True Colonist thinks that "before the address gets home her Majesty will direct the young Prince to answer it with his own hand." It will, at least, according to all accounts, hardly arrive in time to serve for another similar occasion of congratulation.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount (£ s. d.). Includes His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Judges (5,200 0 0), Civil Establishment (61,214 17 1), Department of Public Works (10,440 12 6), etc.

Captain Foster has been discharged from the charge of the probation parties, and Dr. Milligan, (one of the party who accompanied his Excellency and Lady Franklin on their late tour through the Colony,) has received the appointment.

It was also said, that Captain Moriarty and Dr. Turnbull had both been suspended from office.

The floods in the rivers and creeks have not been so high since 1831. There is every promise of an abundant harvest.

The shortness of time allowed by the commissariat for tenders for 10,000 bushels of wheat, had given much dissatisfaction.

Box Influence.—What boxes govern the world? asks a New York paper; and it answers the question thus:—The carriage-box, the ballot-box, the jury-box, and the hand-box.



