

HD
5841
C17A5
1879

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE
PARLIAMENT
HOUSE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
SUPPLY OF THE LABOUR
MARKET

A
A
0
0
1
4
5
3
2
0
5
5



UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY



THE LIBRARY
OF
THE UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

REPORT

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO CONSIDER AND REPORT ON THE

SUPPLY OF THE LABOUR MARKET.

Ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed.

AUGUST, 1879.

CAPE TOWN:

SAUL SOLOMON & CO., STEAM PRINTING OFFICE.

1879.

110765

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

PHYSICS 310

1950-51

LECTURE NOTES

11

1950

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

REPORT

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO CONSIDER AND REPORT ON THE

SUPPLY OF THE LABOUR MARKET.

Ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed.

AUGUST, 1879.

CAPE TOWN :

SAUL SOLOMON & CO., STEAM PRINTING OFFICE.

1879.

A. 26-'79, LABOUR MARKET.

52

THE

REPORT OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE

LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR 1881

REPORT

OF

SELECT COMMITTEE appointed by order of the HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, dated 11th August, 1879, to enquire into the best means to be adopted for supplying the Labour Market, especially in the WESTERN DISTRICTS, with power to take evidence and call for papers; consisting of Messrs. HOCKLEY, DE WET, J. BARRY, T. LOUW, MARAIS, MYBURGH, and the HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS.

Your Committee, having taken evidence on the labour supply of this colony, have arrived at the conclusion that there is a serious want of labour in some of the western districts of this country.

Although this want may be to a small extent remedied when the Railway Works, at present in progress, are completed, they recommend that coloured agricultural labourers be introduced in batches of not less than 100 at a time.

It seems clear that there is plenty of raw material for labour in our own continent, and that there is no necessity whatever for going beyond the boundaries thereof in search of a labour supply.

Your Committee think that the class of persons most likely to be induced to come, and who are at the same time best adapted to the purposes for which they are required are Mozambiques, Delagoa Bay Natives, Mantatees and Berg Damaras, and they recommend that a trial should be made from each of these tribes.

The wages of persons so introduced should be in the opinion of the Commissioner for men from 10s. to 15s. per month, according to circumstances, with food and suitable clothing; for women from 5s. to 10s.; and for youths, according to individual circumstances.

Persons wishing to engage such labourers should pay half the cost of importation, and sign such conditions as may be framed by the Government.

At the end of the agreement, labourers who have fulfilled the conditions thereof should, if they so desire, be conveyed to the seaport nearest to their respective homes at the expense of Government.

Your Committee think that in addition to coloured labourers, juvenile agriculturists from England or Germany might be brought over in greater numbers under the aided immigration scheme.

They also think that farmers would study their own interests by importing, under the said scheme, English or German families, to whom cottages and pieces of land should be supplied, and by this means a class of steady, hardworking, white labourers might gradually be formed to the great benefit of individuals and of the country generally.

JOHN LAING, Chairman.

PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEE.

PROCEEDINGS of SELECT COMMITTEE appointed by order of the HOUSE of ASSEMBLY, dated 11th August, 1879, to enquire into the best means to be adopted for supplying the Labour Market, especially in the Western Districts, with power to take Evidence and call for papers ; the Committee consisting of the COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS and PUBLIC WORKS, Messrs. HOCKLEY, DE WET, J. BARRY, T. LOUW, MARAIS, and MYBURGH.

—

Wednesday, 13th August, 1879.

—

PRESENT :

The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS and PUBLIC WORKS.

Mr. Hockley,
 „ de Wet,
 „ T. Louw,

Mr. Marais, „ Myburgh.

Resolved,—That the Commissioner of Crown Lands and Public Works be the Chairman.

Read order of the House, dated 11th August, 1879, appointing the Committee.

Resolved,—That the following Gentlemen be examined :—

P. L. van der Byl, M.L.C., R. Bensusan, W. Hertzog, of Berg Vliet, J. A. Vermaak, M.L.C., W. Haff, Bree Street, J. J. Heatlie, M.L.C., on Friday, 15th instant, at 10 a.m. ; and Jacobus van Aarde, of Malmesbury, J. Lochner, of Malmesbury, J. P. Eksteen, of Paardeberg, Alexander van der Byl, of Newlands, Jan Snel, of Malmesbury, T. Moodie, Ceres, on Tuesday, 19th instant, at 10 a.m. ; also Messrs. R. Hare, Klapmuts Station, E. Cron Wright, M.L.A., J. Frost, M.L.A., Abraham, of the Institution at Genadendal, Reverend Luckhoff, from Stellenbosch, Rev. Ridgill, Rev. Dempers, of the Paarl.

Committee adjourned to Friday at 10 a.m.

Friday, 15th August, 1879.

PRESENT :

HON. COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Chairman),	
Mr. Myburgh,	Mr. Stockley,
„ J. J. Barry,	„ Marais,
„ de Wet,	

Resolved to take the evidence of the Hon. Mr. Hardwich, M.L.C., and Mr. Fuller, M.L.A., at some future meeting.
Adjourned till Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, 19th August, 1879.

PRESENT :

HON. COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Chairman),	
Mr. Myburgh,	Mr. Marais.
„ P. Louw,	„ Hockley.
„ J. Barry,	

Mr. Alexander van der Byl examined.

Mr. J. Lochner examined.

Mr. J. P. Eksteen examined.

Mr. J. Snel examined.

Resolved to summon the Honourable P. L. van der Byl, Honourable Mr. Heatlie, Mr. R. Hare, of Klappmuts, and Abraham, of Genadendal Institution, at next meeting.

Adjourned till Friday next at 10 a.m.

Friday, 22nd August, 1879.

PRESENT :

MR. MARAIS (Chairman),	
Mr. T. Louw,	Mr. de Wet,
„ Barry,	„ Hockley.
„ Myburgh,	

Resolved,--That in the absence of the Chairman Mr. Marais take the Chair.

Mr. Robert Hare, Honourable Mr. van der Byl, M.L.C., and Aaron Paardewachte examined.

Resolved to examine Honourable Messrs. Hardwich and Heatlie, M.L.C., Mr. Moodie, M.L.A., and Jacob Piton, on Tuesday next.

Adjourned till Tuesday next at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, 26th August, 1879.

PRESENT :

Mr. MARAIS (in the Chair),

Mr. Myburgh,		Mr. Louw,
„ Hockley,		„ Barry.

Mr. J. J. Piton examined.

Mr. Thos. Moodie, M.L.A., examined.

Honourable Mr. Hardwich, M.L.C., examined.

Honourable Mr. Heatlie, M.L.C., examined.

Adjourned till Friday at 10 a.m.

Friday, 29th August, 1879.

PRESENT :

Mr. MARAIS (in the Chair),

Mr. Hockley,		Mr. Myburgh.
--------------	--	--------------

Resolved to summons :

The Rev. M. Luckhoff, of Stellenbosch, the Rev. George Brown, M.L.A., and Mr. Ruperti, of St. George's-street.

Mr. Palgrave.

Adjourned till Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, 2nd September, 1879.

PRESENT :

HON. COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS AND PUBLIC WORKS
(Chairman),

Mr. Hockley,		Mr. Myburgh,
„ Marais,		„ Louw.

Mr. William Coates Palgrave examined.

Mr. Andries Godfried Watermeyer examined.

Mr. Thomas Fuller, M.L.A., examined.
 Mr. Axel Wilhelm Erikson examined.
 Rev. George Brown, M.L.A., examined.
 Mr. H. Ruperti examined.

Resolved,—That the Chairman be required to draft a report and submit the same to the Committee at next meeting.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 10 a.m.

Wednesday, 3rd September, 1879.

PRESENT :

COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Chairman),

Mr. Hockley,
 „ T. Louw,

Mr. de Wet,
 „ Myburgh.

Chairman submitted draft report, as follows :—

“ Your Committee having taken evidence on the labour supply of this colony, have arrived at the conclusion that there is a serious want of labour in some of the western districts of this Country.

“ Although this want may be to a small extent remedied when the Railway Works, at present in progress, are completed, they recommend that coloured agricultural labourers be introduced in batches of not less than 100 at a time.

“ It seems clear that there is plenty of raw material for labour in our own continent, and that there is no necessity whatever for going beyond the boundaries thereof in search of a labour supply.

“ Your Committee think that the class of persons most likely to be induced to come, and who are, at the same time, best adapted to the purposes for which they are required are Mozambiques, Delagoa Bay Natives, Mantatees and Berg Damaras, and they recommend that trials should be made from each of these tribes.

“ The wages of persons so introduced should be for men from 10s. to 15s. per month, according to circumstances, with food and suitable clothing; for women from 5s. to 10s.; and for youths, according to individual circumstances. Persons wishing to engage such labourers should pay half the cost of importation, and sign such conditions as may be framed by the Government.

“ At the end of the agreement, labourers, who have fulfilled the conditions thereof, should, if they so desire, be conveyed to the seaport nearest to their respective homes, at the expense of Government.

“Your Committee think that, in addition to coloured labourers, juvenile agriculturists from England or Germany might be brought over in greater numbers under the aided Immigration scheme.

“They also think that farmers would study their own interests by importing under the said scheme English or German families, to whom cottages and pieces of land should be supplied, and by this means a class of steady, hardworking, white labourers might gradually be formed to the great benefit of individuals and of the Country.”

Resolved,—That the report be adopted.

The Chairman requested to bring up the report.

JOHN LAING,
Chairman.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR MARKET.

Friday, 15th August, 1879.

PRESENT :

Honourable COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Chairman),

Mr. Myburgh,
,, W. Barry,

Mr. Hockley,
,, De Wet,
,, Marais.

Mr. *W. T. Hertzog* examined.

1. *Chairman.*] You are a farmer, and reside near Wynberg?—Yes. Mr.
W. T. Hertzog.

2. What description of farming are you engaged in?—Wine farming chiefly ; with agriculture. Aug. 15, 1879.

3. The object of this Committee is to enquire into the alleged want of labour ; do you experience that want?—Yes ; very much.

4. How many servants do you employ?—At present ten.

5. Could you find employment for more?—Yes.

6. How many more?—Ten more.

7. What wages do you pay the ten in your employ?—Two shillings ; two shillings and sixpence, and three shillings a day.

8. Is the employment constant at that rate of wages?—Yes ; all the year round.

9. If you could get the other ten you could employ them at similar wages?—I could pay them two shillings a day.

10. *Mr. Barry.*] And their food?—No ; without food.

11. *Chairman.*] Do you ever give food as part of their wages?—Yes, the Kafirs. But I do not include them amongst the ten I have been referring to.

Mr. *W. T. Hertzog*. 12. Then you employ Kafirs as well as these ten. How are they employed?—They do the same kind of work as the others.

Aug. 15, 1879.

13. Where did you get them?—From the Government.

14. And you pay them according to the Government tariff?—Yes.

15. What is that?—They are indentured to me for three years; the first six months they receive their food; the second six months 5s. per month; the next six months 7s. 6d. and for the rest 10s. in addition to food and clothing.

16. How many Kafirs have you?—Three.

17. Are they satisfied with their wages?—Yes; perfectly satisfied.

18. Would you take more on the same terms if you could get them?—Yes.

19. Would you be willing to pay more for them?—Yes; after the first year when they came to understand their work.

20. How much would you be willing to pay for similar people when they understand their work?—2s. a day without clothes and food.

21. You mean to say that you could employ twenty labourers at 2s. a day all the year round, instead of ten?—Yes.

22. If you were to offer sixpence more a day, could you get the other ten labourers?—No. I do not think so.

23. How much would you have to raise the wages to get the other ten?—I might perhaps, with difficulty, get them for 3s. a day.

24. Mr. *Myburgh*.] Do you mean to say that by raising your wages you would increase the supply of labour?—I might increase the labour on my farm by offering 3s. a day. The great stumbling block is the wages paid by the Divisional Council, which are as high as 3s. a day. We are unable to compete with them.

25. *Chairman*.] How many men do the Divisional Council employ at 3s. a day?—I do not know.

26. Do they employ so many as to absorb the entire labour supply? Do you think the high wages paid by

them the sole cause of your difficulty in obtaining labour? —No. There must be other causes.

27. You never go beyond 2s. a day all the year round?—No; not for the ordinary labourers; but my coachman gets 2s. 6d., and a kind of foreman 3s. a day.

28. How often do you pay these people?—Every week; except the foreman, who is paid monthly.

29. Are they paid in cash?—Yes.

30. What is their nationality?—Mozambiques.

31. If you had to find these people their food, how would you pay them?—Not more than a shilling a day in addition to their food.

32. That would be about 26s. a month; would you be willing to pay them 26s. a month and their food?—I would rather pay them 2s. a day without food.

33. Have they families or not?—Some have families and some are single.

34. What would it cost a week for one to keep himself and family in the way in which they are living?—I should say it would cost 1s. 6d. a day for actual food.

35. What kind of food do they live on?—Snoek, bread, beans, and the produce out of the garden. They have all a cottage and garden on the place, for which they give one day's work a week.

36. Mr. *Marais*.] So they each pay 8s. a month for the rent of the cottage and land?—Yes.

37. *Chairman*.] What is the size of the ground attached to each cottage?—It is about half an acre; but they can cultivate as much as they please provided they do not encroach on ground I require for myself. At present they have about half an acre entirely to themselves. The cottages are grouped together on one part of the farm.

38. Mr. *De Wet*.] How many square yards of ground does each have?—I cannot tell exactly.

39. Mr. *Marais*.] Do you consider the day's work a week a mere nominal rent? Would you let the same cottage and land to any one else for the same rent?—No; I give it to my work people in order to obtain labourers.

40. Is the soil good?—Yes; it is similar to the other portion of the farm.

Mr.
W. T. Hertzog,
Aug. 15, 1879.

Mr.
W. T. Hertzog.
Aug. 15, 1879.

41. Who work on these plots?—Their wives and children.

42. What would be a fair rental for a cottage and the ground attached?—About 15s. a month.

43. How many rooms are there in each cottage?—Two.

44. Of course they keep them in repair?—No. I do that.

45. *Chairman.*] How many such cottages have you on your place?—They are not all detached. There are two together in some cases; but there are altogether eight dwellings, of two rooms each.

46. What is the average number of members of a family?—About four in each dwelling on the average; that is the man, his wife and two children.

47. Some families are larger?—Yes; but in some cases the elder children and the women go out to service. The average of the families actually living on the place is about four.

48. Do any persons who are fit to work live in these cottages without working?—No.

49. *Mr. Marais.*] Are the people who live in these cottages obliged to work?—Yes.

50. Is there any stipulation as to the wages they should receive? Or do you regulate them by the market rate?—I pay them the rate of wages in the labour market.

51. Would it be more difficult for you to get labourers at the same price, who do not occupy your cottages?—Yes.

52. These people are more or less obliged to work for you, because they live in your cottages?—Yes. I erected the cottages in order that I might secure the labour of the occupants.

53. *Chairman.*] Do they work well?—Yes.

54. *Mr. De Wet.*] They have cultivated only half an acre, you say, in your case; might they have cultivated more if they had liked?—Yes.

55. *Chairman.*] What do they grow?—Cabbages; onions, potatoes, and all kinds of vegetables.

56. Do they grow wheat?—No. Wheat is not grown in my neighbourhood. It is not considered a wheat country.

57. Mr. *Marais*.] You have some Kafirs ; have they families?—No.

Mr.
W. T. Hertzog

58. But by the Government regulations you are expected to take in families if there are any?—Yes. I believe so.

Aug. 15, 1879.

59. Would not that render that class of labour more expensive?—Yes.

60. In some cases you would have to take a grandfather and grandmother?—Yes.

61. Do not people object to Kafir labour on that account?—Yes.

62. Do you think if able-bodied men and male children from ten to twelve years of age could be placed at the disposal of the farmers there would be numerous applications for them?—Yes.

63. Is Kafir labour the kind of labour which the farmer eagerly calls for?—Yes, in the absence of other labour.

64. Are they as good workmen as any of the coloured labourers you employ?—In many cases they are better, especially after a year's service.

65. Is it within your knowledge that several of the Kafirs brought here by Government have run away?—Yes ; two ran away from me. I went to the expense of clothing them, and they ran away after they had been with me for two weeks ; so I was out of pocket by them.

66. Mr. *Barry*.] Why did not you have them brought back? You had a contract with the Government. Did not you lodge a complaint with the Government?—I did not.

67. *Chairman*.] Your opinion on the whole is that there is a sad lack of labour in your part?—Yes.

68. In what way do you think such a state of things can be remedied?—If we fail to get Kafir labour the alternative should, in my opinion, be Germans ; but the system of immigration should be carried on so as to introduce a certain number of Germans every year ; and for this reason, as soon as the German immigrants begin to get a little money they cease to be servants and set up for themselves ; and immigration should be so arranged that as they go out of service others should arrive to fill their place. The

Mr.
W. T. Hertzog.
Aug. 15, 1879.

great failure of the former introduction of Germans was, that, in a short time they became independent, and as immigration had then ceased there were none to take the places of those who left their employers. Next to the Germans, I would be in favour of introducing Mozambiques.

69. Mr. *Myburgh*.] You have mentioned Kafirs, Germans, and Mozambiques. Which of the three do you prefer?—Let me explain. When I mentioned Kafirs, I referred to the natives of the country, not those beyond. If we must go out of the country, in my opinion the best people we can get are the Germans. Next to them come the Mozambiques.

70. *Chairman*.] Would you prefer the Kafir to the Mozambique at the rate you now pay them ; that is the cottage and ground and 2s. a day?—Yes.

71. Would you give more to Germans?—No.

72. Do you think the black man works as well as the German?—Yes ; and better.

73. Would you pay the Mozambique the same?—No.

74. Would you engage these people for a certain number of years?—Yes.

75. How many years?—Five years.

76. What are your hours of work?—From sunrise to sunset ; with half-an-hour for breakfast and one hour for dinner.

77. Mr. *Myburgh*.] And half-an-hour at four in the afternoon?—No. I do not give that ; others do. I omitted to state that I give my people wine every day.

78. *Chairman*.] How much?—About a bottle each.

79. Does that make them work better or worse?—I cannot say.

80. Why do you give it?—Because it is the custom of the country.

81. If you did not give them wine would they buy drink themselves?—I do not think they would, except on Saturdays.

82. What is about the value of a bottle of wine?—Threepence.

83. Do you ever offer them threepence extra per day instead of the wine?—No ; the wine is there, and they can take it if they like.

84. Would you be willing to pay the threepence instead?—Yes.

Mr.
W. T. Hertzog.
Aug. 15, 1879.

85. Would you be willing to pay part of the cost of importing labour?—Yes.

86. What proportion would you be willing to pay, in addition to wages?—I would be willing to pay £2 for each man.

87. Mr. *Barry*.] Would not you prefer Mantatees to Kafirs if their services could be secured to you, and the Government were made responsible for them if they broke their contract?—I would prefer them to the Germans.

88. Mr. *De Wet*.] Are your neighbours similarly situated to you in regard to labour?—Yes.

89. Scarcity of labour is felt all over your neighbourhood?—Yes; and it has been greatly aggravated by the recent demand for mule drivers and others for Natal.

90. Does the difficulty arise from the scarcity of people, or is it because they will not work?—Scarcity of people.

91. Then the coloured classes in your neighbourhood do not lie idle?—No.

92. Then the fact is there is not sufficient labour there?—Not sufficient.

93. As a colonist, would you introduce more blacks into the Colony if we could utilize the labour of those within our frontier?—No.

94. Have you employed many Germans as farm labourers?—No; but I have had opportunities of observing them.

95. Your men are employed in accordance with the conditions which are the rule in your neighbourhood?—Yes.

96. Mr. *Myburgh*.] You are opposed to the importation of blacks? How do you propose to supply the labour that is wanted?—I was asked whether I would prefer our own Kafirs to those outside the Colony, and I said yes.

97. Are you willing to pay some of the passage money if some were introduced? Or would you make them pay it back afterwards?—I would pay part of it; but not make them refund it.

Mr. *W. T. Hertzog.* 98. So that you are willing to sacrifice £2 per labourer because you are in great want of labour?—
 Aug. 15, 1879. Yes.

99. Mr. *Morais.*] Do you think farmers can afford to pay more than 2s. a day?—No. Wages are too high now.

100. Mr. *De Wet.*] As a rule, farmers are obliged to provide their labourers with the same conveniences you provide, in order to secure their labour?—Yes. If we did not do it we should be without labour.

101. Mr. *Myburgh.*] Does not the fact of the Government employing a great deal of labour make it scarce?—Yes.

102. Are not the wages paid by Government so high that we farmers cannot compete with them?—We do not know what the Government pay.

103. Do not the labourers tell you their wages? They do me?—I cannot say what Government pay. I have mentioned that the Divisional Council pay 3s. a day.

104. Mr. *Marais.*] Do you know that a large number of labourers of the class ordinarily employed by farmers are in the employ of Government, at the railways, docks, and other places?—Yes.

105. Do they prefer working for Government to working for farmers?—Those who work for Government live upon plots of ground which they hire, and they are therefore independent, and at liberty to work for whom they like.

Mr. *R. Bensusan* examined.

Mr. *R. Bensusan.* 106. *Chairman.*] Where do you reside?—At Newlands.

107. You are a large employer of labour, I believe?—Yes.

108. What class of labour do you employ?—Partly skilled and partly ordinary. The skilled labourers are those employed in the brewery.

109. What do you pay them?—From 5s. to 10s. a day.

110. Are they white people?—Mostly.

111. What do you pay the ordinary labourers?—From 2s. to 4s. a day. Mr.
R. Bensusan.
Aug. 15, 1879
112. With or without food?—Without food. This does not apply to the Kafir labourers, but the ordinary coloured people.
113. How many such persons have you?—About 25.
114. What causes the difference of their wages; some getting 2s. and others 4s. a day?—If a man is capable of driving a wagon or doing work of that sort he gets 4s. The ordinary labourer gets 2s.
115. Have you any difficulty in getting labourers at that rate of wages?—Yes.
116. The men at 4s. a day as well as those at 2s.?—It is very uncertain even at 4s. a day to get a proper supply. The difficulty is that they work a day or two and then stay away from their work.
117. Are they engaged by the week?—Yes, but we deduct their pay when absent. They will not engage to serve over a week.
118. Does that apply to all?—Yes, more or less. That kind of people will not work more than four days a week, no matter how pressing the work is. They absent themselves without asking leave.
119. Have you ever tried to engage them by the month?—I do not think it would be any use trying. Nor do I think it would be advisable, because they are not to be depended upon, and then they could not be turned away without a month's notice.
120. Then it is quite to be expected that they will remain away two days a week, and you do not refuse to take them back again after two days' absence?—If we did we should find ourselves without labour altogether.
121. Where do they live?—Some on our estate.
122. Do you give them house accommodation?—Only the Kafirs whom we received from Government.
123. How many Kafirs have you?—Twelve.
124. Are you pleased with them?—Fairly.
125. Do they work well?—Yes.
126. How do you feed them?—They get about 2 lbs. of meal a day for each person, meat twice a week, with coffee and things of that sort.

Mr.
R. Bensusan.
Aug. 15, 1879.

127. You feed them well?—They have as much food as they can eat.

128. Would you take more Kafir labour if you could get it?—Not upon the same terms as we have taken these. I would have the Government guarantee that they shall not run away.

129. You would not care for more Kafir labourers unless you felt secure that they would not bolt?—No, I would take more if I was sure we should have no trouble with them.

130. Are you willing to provide cottage accommodation for the class of persons who settle down on your estate to work?—Yes. I do that now for our skilled labourers.

131. What charge do you make for the cottage and piece of ground?—Taking altogether, we reckon about 15s. each a month.

132. Is that deducted from the wages which you say you pay them?—Yes.

133. What is the extent of the ground attached to each cottage?—I cannot say exactly; it might be a acre or only half an acre. My people do not garden to the same extent as those Mr. Hertzog has spoken of.

134. Are you troubled with their going away?—No.

135. What nationality are they?—German.

136. What is a fair wage to pay a common labourer?—2s. to 2s. 6d. a day.

137. With or without allowances?—Without.

138. Would you give them a cottage as well?—No.

139. Do you believe there is a great want of labour in this part of the country?—I believe from what I have seen that the whole agricultural industry is languishing in consequence of the bad supply of labour. I know almost all this part of the country, and that is my opinion.

140. Can you suggest how we could meet that difficulty?—I would recommend a trial of several different plans. I would advocate the importation of English families of the agricultural labouring class, and endeavour to make some arrangement with the farmers to take them, paying them fair wages and giving them a portion of ground to cultivate for themselves.

141. Mr. *Hockley*.] Would you suggest that these labourers should be engaged by the farmers before they are brought here by the Government?—I think that at present there are a great many distressed labourers in England whom our farmers would be glad to get. I would next suggest that Government should get a lot of Kafirs similar to those already here, and secure them to their employers in some way.

142. Mr. *Barry*.] Are you in favour of getting young Kafirs and having them apprenticed?—That is impracticable. They will not stay here away from their own people. A Kafir will never settle here unless he has his family with him.

143. Are you in favour of getting German families?—I am not in favour of Germans.

144. Why not?—They differ from us in nationality and taste; and do not seem to make their home here as the English people do. The German labourer no sooner begins to be useful than he buys a horse and cart, or sets up as a small shopkeeper or something of that sort, and ceases to be a labourer.

145. *Chairman*.] Failing white families and border Kafirs, what have you to suggest?—I would suggest, as a trial, that natives should be brought from Delagoa Bay and Mozambique.

146. Do you mean that as an alternative, or that you would make a trial of all?—I would try all plans, and then select the best one.

147. Would you include the Chinese?—I should not be averse to making a trial of four or five hundred Chinese and Indian coolies.

• 148. Would you be willing to pay any portion of the cost of getting them here?—Yes; I would agree to any reasonable terms. I would be willing to pay half. But I would like to know more particulars first.

149. Would you have Government bring any of these people here before they make arrangements with the farmers?—I think that would be quite immaterial. There would be no difficulty in getting farmers to take them now.

150. Mr. *Marais*.] Are the Germans you have in your employ good labourers?—Yes.

Mr.
R. Bensusan.
Aug. 15, 1879.

Mr.
R. Bensusan.
Aug. 15, 1879.

151. Have they their families with them?—Some of them.

152. Have they been long in your employ?—Some of them; but we never look upon the Germans as permanent labourers.

153. *Chairman.*] In the event of labourers being apprenticed is there any likelihood of their employers oppressing them?—No; it would be to the employers' interest to treat their labourers well.

154. But if the employers knew they were bound to them for five years, would it be possible for the Government to exercise some supervision over them so as to see whether they were oppressed or not?—I would suggest that the field-cornet of each division should be made inspectors.

155. Mr. *De Wet.*] You seem to have given this matter a great deal of thought. What number of labourers do you think would be taken up at once in the western districts; say this side of Worcester?—I should think that three or four thousand people would be absorbed within six months.

156. On this side of the Hottentot's Holland range?—Yes; judging from the fact that all the 3,800 Kafirs introduced by the Government were absorbed so rapidly. But they have all run away.

157. Do you mean that three or four thousand families would be taken?—I would not say anything about the families; but I say that number of labourers. You cannot go to any district within a hundred miles but you see things going to rack and ruin for want of labour.

158. Mr. *De Wet.*] What can agriculturists afford to pay the labourers?—They could give a good man 2s. a day, without food; but they must be given a place to live in.

159. Mr. *Hockley.*] But they would hardly be in a position to ration themselves?—They buy meal in quantities amongst a lot of them.

160. Mr. *Myburgh.*] You say people only work four days a week?—That applies to the people near town.

161. Is not that because they are paid too well?—They live so cheaply here that if they work part of the week

they can earn enough to keep them. But the moral effect of introducing emigrants would be to make the labourers we now have in the country work better.

Mr.
R. Bensuan.
Aug. 15, 1879.

162. Mr. *De Wet*.] Do you think that as a rule the farmers pay their labourers sufficient?—Yes. I think that the labourers on a farm are as well off as labourers in town.

163. Do you think that if labour could be got, a larger tract of land would be brought into cultivation?—Undoubtedly.

164. You think there is the will among the farmers to cultivate more?—Yes, they would do that for their own interest.

165. Mr. *Barry*.] You suggested the supervision of the field-cornets; should not the field-cornets be under the magistrates?—Of course.

Honourable Mr. *Vermaak*, M.L.C., examined.

166. *Chairman*.] You are a farmer residing in the division of Burghersdorp?—Yes.

{Hon
Mr. *Vermaak*,
M.L.C.

167. Are you a sheep farmer or an agriculturist?—Both.

168. Have you any difficulty in obtaining labour?—We who live near the border have not so much difficulty.

169. How many servants do you employ?—Fifteen or sixteen.

170. How many shepherds?—Six.

171. How do you pay them?—In cattle and food; some are paid money from 10s. to 15s. a month with food.

172. Can you get as many as you choose at that pay?—Not always.

173. Mr. *Hockley*.] Their families also are fed by you?—Yes, the whole of them. We are obliged to feed the entire family to keep the men.

174. *Chairman*.] Do you feed them daily?—Yes.

175. Do you give more food to a large family than you do to a small one?—Yes; according to the number of the family. We give them meat every day; we are obliged to do that; for we are nearly all sheep farmers, and if we did not give them meat they would take it.

Hon.
Mr. Vermaak,
M.L.C.
Aug. 15, 1879.

But whether we give them meat or not they kill our sheep.

176. Are your agricultural servants paid in the same way?—Yes.

177. Mr. *Barry*.] Do they get potatoes and vegetables?—They plant vegetables themselves.

178. *Chairman*.] Have you any unmarried men?—Yes.

179. Do they get the same wages?—Yes. We prefer single men.

180. Have you a sufficient supply of labour at the wages you pay?—At times. We have had no reason to complain since the last war. You see we are on the border and near the natives.

181. Mr. *Hockley*.] Do not the farmers generally allow their servants grazing for their stock in addition to their own food?—Yes. I had a family of Kafirs who stayed with me for six years. There were three brothers; and when they came there one had six or eight cows. He then bought a wife and paid all these cattle for her, and had nothing left except sixteen sheep. At the end of the six years, they left me with 72 head of cattle and over 500 sheep, with some goats, and ten or twelve horses. They were always paid in stock; and the quantity I have named were the produce of the wages of three men.

182. *Chairman*.] Where did they go?—To one of the Kafir locations between Queen's Town and Dordrecht.

183. Mr. *Marais*.] Would they take service again after they had got that stock?—Yes, they left me for three years; and then, after they had eaten their stock, they came back to me without anything. One of them had left four head of cattle with me when he went away, and they had increased when he returned. Beyond that they had nothing.

184. *Chairman*.] You have heard what these western gentlemen said. What is your view of the case? How do you purpose to meet the difficulty?—I do not think Kafir labour would answer in the west, unless you could bring the families. Single Kafirs will never stay. As a rule the Kafir will roam about at night. It is part of his nature. I have known them to go twelve and four-

teen miles at night. Unless they have that liberty they will not stay.

185. You think everything possible should be done to remove the labour difficulty in the west. Now if you were at the head of the Government what would you do in the matter?—I advise Government if they get Kafir labour to bring the families.

186. What kind of labour would you introduce?—I would employ an agent in Kafirland to engage families to come to the west, for at least five years.

187. Mr. *Barry*.] Do not you think that you could introduce a lot of young men if the girls too were to come?—They will not do that. They will have their children taught their own habits; they object to their losing their national habits, and will not submit to anything to prevent it.

188. Mr. *De Wet*.] Were these Kafirs who left you in the rebellion?—No. They returned as soon as they saw war was about to break out.

189. Mr. *Marais*.] How many agricultural labourers do you employ?—About six.

190. Mr. *Myburgh*.] Have you heard of the want of labour here?—I have been out in the districts, and it seems to be a general want.

191. You think there is a great want of agricultural as well as domestic labourers?—Yes.

192. And that it is necessary for Government to assist in procuring labour?—Yes.

193. *Chairman*.] What would you propose in addition to the employment of an agent among the Kafirs?—Raw Kafirs will not pay for the first year; therefore they should be engaged for five years.

194. Mr. *De Wet*.] Would you recommend European labour?—Not for my part of the country; the objection to Europeans is that after a time they will set up a brandy shop or something of that kind. They become independent of labour too soon.

195. Mr. *Marais*.] What you say would apply as much to the West as to the East?—Yes.

196. Mr. *De Wet*.] With all the natives we have on our frontier, would you recommend the introduction of Mozambiques?—Yes, I think it would be good to have some competition with our own natives.

Hon.
Mr. Vermaak,
M.L.C.
Aug. 15, 1879.

Tuesday, 19th August, 1879.

PRESENT :

Honourable COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Chairman),

Mr. S. Louw,
 „ Marais,
 „ Hockley,

Mr. J. Barry,
 „ Myburgh.

Mr. A. van der Byl examined.

Mr.
 Van der Byl.
 Aug. 19, 1879.

197. *Chairman.*] You reside at “Nachtwagt” in the Division of Bredasdorp?—Yes; and also at Fernwood

198. You also farm in the neighbourhood of Cape Town?—Yes.

199. Agricultural or sheep farming?—Both.

200. How many servants have you?—I have twenty shepherds and about twelve agriculturists in ordinary times. During harvest and the shearing I have more.

201. Do you get sufficient labour?—I cannot complain; because I give them free living in a cottage, and that ensures me as much labour as I want.

202. Could you get more if you wanted it?—Yes, as a rule I could.

203. Would you have to increase your rate of wages to do that?—No.

204. You could get whatever labour you require, both pastoral and agricultural, at the wages you now pay?—Yes.

205. What class do you employ as shepherds?—They were once respectable farmers.

206. Describe the nature of your agreement with one of them?—They have each a house and the right of sowing seed for themselves. If they have a wagon and oxen of their own I allow them to graze their cattle. They sow three muids of wheat, two of barley and six of oats. Some of them are white men and some black. Some of them are karrewayers, and they look after my sheep and do not cultivate. The proceeds of the carrying and of the cultivation all go to them. In addition to this I pay them £1 a month and food for looking after my sheep. Their food is two sheep and two bushels of flour a month.

207. What kind of houses have they?—Very decent cottages, which I keep in repair at my own expense.

Mr.
Van der Byl.

208. How many sheep does one man look after?—600. Aug. 19, 1879.

209. Then each shepherd gets all these benefits from you for looking after 600 sheep?—Yes; of course they take care of the lambs as well.

210. What value do you consider one of these white shepherds receives from you, in addition to food and wages, in ground to sow?—It varies with the seasons, but they generally make £50 or £60 a year each off their ground; exclusive of wages.

211. How many white shepherds have you?—Eight.

212. How many black?—About eight.

213. What nationality are they?—Bastards.

214. What agreement have you made with them?—£1 a month and just the same food as I give the others.

215. Have they ground to cultivate?—They are too lazy. They can have ground for their wives to dig if they choose. But they only cultivate a little ground for vegetables.

216. Is it good soil?—Yes.

217. Have they wives and families?—Their children are grown up as a rule. Some stay at home; but as they get married they go away.

218. Do they take as good care of the flock as the white men?—Some, but not all. I can trust the white men better.

219. Are you satisfied with the black men?—Yes; they do their work well.

220. Is there not a great difference between the wages of the whites, who get more than £60 a year, and these people, who get only £1 a month?—Yes; but they are a different class of men. If you were to start a black man with oxen he would be sure to cheat you in the long run. Still, I have black men who have been with me thirty-two years.

221. How do you pay them?—In ordinary seasons by the month; but in harvest and shearing time the same as the others, by the day.

222. What do you pay the agricultural labourers?—1s. a day and food.

Mr.
Van der Byl.
Aug. 19, 1879.

223. Can you get plenty at that?—I have a lot of cottages, which fact enables me to get labourers.

224. Do you believe there is a great want of labour in the western districts?—Yes. I know there is in Caledon and Somerset West. Government have taken our labourers to work on the railway, and I only keep mine because I give them free living and treat them well.

225. Yet you say that by giving the black men £1 a month and their food you can get as much more labour as you require?—Yes. I do not require very many.

226. What do you pay during harvest and shearing time?—In shearing time I pay them 1s. 6d. a day with food, and wine five times a day. In harvest I pay 2s. a day with the same quantity of food and wine.

227. Is it necessary to give them wine five time a day?—They will not work without it.

228. What is the value of it?—They get nearly two bottles a day, and it costs £1 per half-aum.

229. Is there a serious want of labour in these districts?—Yes.

230. What is the cause?—The railway and the docks.

231. Was there that want before the railways were begun?—Yes; but not so much as now.

232. When they are completed and the labour set free, will things return to their old condition?—Yes, I think so.

233. What do you recommend?—I think Government have too many men on the railways; wherever there are six employed four are standing still. I think the whole labour difficulty is caused by the railways and the docks. Government pay too high wages and get too little work in return.

234. Is it necessary to import labour?—If the present supply is kept on the railway, labour must be imported.

235. Mr. *Barry.*] Are not your white shepherds overseers on out-stations? Have they not shepherds under them?—Sometimes their children look after the sheep.

236. Mr. *Myburgh.*] Did you take these farmers because you could not get coloured labourers?—I took them because I preferred them. I took what I could get.

237. Mr. *Louw.*] Did you take them because you can place more trust in them?—Yes.

238. You have told us how much seed you allow them to sow ; suppose they wanted to sow more would you allow them more land?—I could not.

239. Mr. *Hockley*.] Do you allow them to run any stock of their own?—Only to keep 50 goats to run with my sheep.

240. Do you allow them to graze their transport cattle?—Only one span.

241. *Chairman*.] Is it a general practice for farmers in your neighbourhood to keep men on these conditions?—I believe my brother and myself are the only ones who do.

242. Have the others any difficulty in obtaining labour?—A great deal of difficulty.

243. Do they, as a rule, who do not keep men on their farm, pay higher wages than you who do?—Yes.

244. What is the ordinary rate?—They pay 1s. 6d. instead of 1s. a day, and in harvest time twice as much.

245. But even at that rate there is a difficulty in getting a supply?—Yes.

246. Have you ever to go beyond your own place for labour?—Very seldom. It is understood that those who live on my place are bound to work for me when required ; but if I did not supply them with these advantages I should also feel the want of labour.

247. Mr. *Barry*.] Have any of your men left you to work on the railway?—A few.

248. Mr. *Myburgh*.] Have all the farmers the same opportunities of giving people cottages as you have?—Only some of them.

249. But as you are a pastoral farmer you do require so much labour as we agriculturists do?—Not all the year round.

250. But still you feel the want of labour?—Just in harvest time I do.

251. Mr. *Merais*.] What nationality are the white men you employ?—Afrikanders.

252. You do not employ them as agricultural farmers?—Their sons generally work at it ; but I get black labour in the harvest and shearing times.

253. What labour is most suitable, coloured or European?—Europeans are very good unless you get

Mr.
Van der Byl.
Aug. 19, 1879.

Mr.
Van der Byl.
Aug. 19, 1879.

such men as the immigrants who came here last year. If you could get immigrant boys, such as came out in 1840 and 1844, they would be the best, they were English boys, and were the best that can be had; they settled down here and became a very useful class of people.

254. Are the cattle of your men used in your employ?—Only for the purposes of the men.

255. Mr. *Myburgh*.] Are you in favour of importing adult European labourers?—No.

256. What would you prefer to adult Europeans?—The only class I would advise spending money on are the English youths I have spoken of.

257. Have you had any experience with the Mozambiques?—Yes; they are a good class of people if they come from Zanzibar and the east coast; but not from the west coast.

258. Do you think if the public works were to be stopped the men now engaged on them would supply the present demand?—Yes.

259. *Chairman*.] In that case we should not need to import labour?—No; but as you must go on with railways you must get more men.

260. Would you recommend the importation of English youths?—Yes.

261. What do you think of Germans?—I prefer English.

262. Of coolies and Chinese?—I have had no experience with them.

263. What do you think of introducing a number of Kafirs?—They will not do. Those you brought here are all gone. As far as agriculture is concerned, adult Englishmen make Kafirs worse than they are.

264. Your farming is generally with sheep?—Sheep and horses, I also plough a great deal.

Mr. *J. A. Lochner* examined.

Mr.
J. A. Lochner.

265. *Chairman*.] You are a farmer in the district of Malmesbury?—Yes.

266. What are your views with reference to labour supply in your district?—They are quite different from those of Mr. Van der Byl. The want in our district is

so great that I can hardly describe it. I do not know a farm in the neighbourhood on which there are five coloured labourers. Most of the farmers have to leave their cattle unemployed in ploughing season for want of hands. I have only four men this year and two Kafir shepherds; and I cannot sow the ground I would if I could get more labour.

Mr.
J. A. Lochner.
Aug. 19, 1879.

267. What is the cause of this?—I think it is the railways and the docks; also the sending away men to Natal for drivers. The high wages paid by Government also helps.

268. Then it is not because people are unwilling to work?—Yes, when they get high wages they work a few days and then leave off till their money is spent.

269. You mean that living is so easy that they can earn enough in two or three days to keep them the whole week?—Yes.

270. What do you pay your people?—15s. a month with free cottage and food.

271. Any land?—No. Our district is not good enough for gardening.

272. Mr. Myburgh.] If your men wished to make a garden they could get the ground?—Yes; when it is a good season.

273. Chairman.] What food do you give them?—They are fed out of the house and get enough for their wives and children; they have their wives and children there who get food and take some home at night as well.

274. Do you deduct anything from their wages for rent of cottage?—No.

275. Do they ask for more wages?—No. In the harvest I pay 2s. 6d. a day for reaping oats and rye, and 3s. 6d. for wheat, with plenty of good food and wine six times a day. The harvest lasted from the middle of October to the last of December last year.

276. When harvest is over how many do you employ?—I require eight or ten men for some time to bring in the crops and thresh them out. I would keep them all the year round at 15s. a month with cottage and food; but I cannot get them.

277. What would induce more men to come to you?—I think more must be imported.

Mr. J. A. Lochner. 278. Could you get more by paying higher wages?—
 Aug. 19, 1879. No. I have offered £1 a month but cannot get them at that. If any honourable member would come to my part I would meet him with a cart and shew him the want of labour in the district. I have had to employ the son of one of my men, six years old, as leader, and pay him 5s. a month with food. They have so much food that my dogs are fed by them, for one will not eat what another leaves.

279. Mr. *Marais*.] If the children cannot work do they live upon the food you give?—Yes.

280. *Chairman*.] With reference to food; do you give the wives and children food as well as the men; or do they take from their husbands' food?—The wives get fed if they assist in the house, the same as the husbands, and 10s. a month for wages. If the children work they get food; if not they get it from the father; still they have so much that they take lots away.

281. What do you suggest to remedy this state of things?—We must try to get men, who will be content to labour, although they may have been here ten or twelve years; and they must be coloured men; because the white men will try to do something else, and make a fortune, the black men remain labourers.

282. Mr. *Barry*.] You mean that Europeans, if they are good for anything, cease to be labourers?—Yes.

283. Mr. *Louw*.] You mean that you want a class of men who will remain labourers, instead of becoming competitors in the labour market against employers?—Yes, that is just what I mean.

284. Mr. *Marais*.] Do you object to a man improving his position whether he is a black man or a white man?—No.

285. You mean to say that as a rule black men do not so much care to improve their position?—Yes.

286. Mr. *Myburgh*.] What the farmers want is labour?—Yes.

287. Mr. *Louw*.] If you have a coloured labourer on your farm who has been with you for two years and you find he wants to get on in life, would you obstruct him and prevent him from rising, and keep him down for the rest of the ten years you spoke of?—No. I

would give him the opportunity to progress; if he wanted to buy a cow or anything of that sort, or to keep a few goats, I would help him whether he be black or white.

Mr.
J. A. Lochner.
Aug. 19, 1879.

288. You say less ploughing has been done this year than might have been done; do you ascribe that to want of labour?—Yes.

289. Have the agricultural part of the community of Malmesbury suffered materially from the want of labour for the last two years?—Yes.

290. Mr. *Myburgh*.] What kind of labour would you suggest should be imported?—The only class I know would be the Mozambiques.

291. Do you think Government should have a scheme of importing some Kafirs?—If they do as well as the few we have; but most of those who came here have run away.

292. Because they run away you object to them?—Yes.

293. Mr. *Louw*.] Would you object to young Englishmen as described by Mr. Van der Byl?—I do not think they would do.

294. Why not?—Because they would try to make their fortunes in a few years and go away.

295. Mr. *Myburgh*.] But juvenile immigrants?—I have had no experience of them.

Mr. *J. B. Eksteen* examined.

296. *Chairman*.] You are a farmer living in the Paarl district?—Yes.

J. B. Eksteen.

297. What kind of farmer?—Corn and wine; and some cattle.

298. How much land do you plough?—I sow 170 muids of oats, 75 of wheat, 4 of barley, and 10 of rye.

299. Can you get plenty of labour?—Not so much as I used.

300. What prevents you?—There are not more men to be got.

301. Then it is not because the men are not willing to work?—That is one reason. They work only half their time and wander about the rest.

Mr.
J. B. Eksteen.
Aug. 19, 1879.

302. Are there men lying about idle?—There are a number in the villages, who work part of their time, and then stop. We find fault with the high prices paid by Government.

303. What class of labour do you employ?—Coloured.

304. How do you pay them?—Full grown men £1 per month and food, with free dwelling, and if they wish to cultivate some land they could have it; but they do not.

305. How are their wives and families kept?—By the husbands, and on their food and wages. Their children are fatter than our own.

306. Did you notice what Mr. Van der Byl said about railways taking away the men?—Yes, and I have had personal experience of that. I quite agree with him, but it is not only the railways but the municipal and other works.

307. If railways were completed and public works stopped would that help the matter?—To a small extent but not much.

308. What do you think Government should do?—I think it a bad policy for Government to compete with us farmers by paying higher wages than we can. I think the most trustworthy and useful labourers are the darkies, the Mozambiques.

309. Mr. *Marais*.] You do not mean that the whites are dishonest; but that the blacks are more to be relied on for their work?—I mean that you can rely better on their working. I prefer Mozambiques. Perhaps if Kafirs were ruled as strictly they would do also.

310. *Chairman*.] Do you think Government should bring Kafirs as well as Mozambiques?—I think so.

311. How many would you take, and what would you give them?—After they have been in the Colony they would be able to compete with the labourers here. I would not object to pay 10s. a month with food and lodging, and increase their wages, according to ability up to 15s. a month. I would take twelve men on those conditions, for five years, and pay them monthly or yearly as it might be convenient to them.

312. Would you pay part of the expense of bringing them here?—If there were a proper agreement so that we were not brought into difficulties.

313. Suppose Government brought 5,000 Mozambiques at a cost of £6 each, and you were to take 12 for five years what proportion would you pay?—A quarter. If they were bound to me for five years, I would not mind paying £2 each in addition to wages.

Mr.
J. B. Eksteen.
Aug. 19, 1879

314. Mr. *Marais*.] When you say you pay £1 a month, with food, &c., that does not apply to the harvest?—No. They are then paid by the day, 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per day, with food and wine.

315. Do you give them wine all the year round?—Yes.

316. Have you had any difficulty in obtaining this labour?—Yes, great difficulty; we are sometimes obliged to go to very great extra expense.

317. Did you not buy some property at the Paarl to enable you to get dwellings for your men, in order that you might get more labour?—Yes. Our best men go to the villages where they can lead an independent life, get high wages when they like to work, and wander about the rest of the time.

318. Mr. *Myburgh*.] You were obliged to purchase this property to secure these labourers?—Yes, and other farmers with me.

319. Mr. *Marais*.] Your agreement is that those who have these houses shall work for you during a certain time of the year?—Yes; not all the year round.

320. Mr. *Myburgh*.] You feel that there is great scarcity of labour?—Yes. I was obliged this ploughing season to take three of my children out of school to help me.

321. Would farmers plough much more if they could get more labour?—Yes. The farmers are all complaining greatly. There are wine farms at Stellenbosch with the vines uncultivated for want of labour.

322. Mr. *Louw*.] Do you think the high wages paid by Government tend to make labourers lazy?—Certainly; we have proofs of that.

323. Do you think young Englishmen, referred to by Mr. Van der Byl, would do better than more advanced European labour?—I have not had Mr. Van der Byl's experience; but according to our experience of English labourers about here, I do not like them. Those that

Mr.
J. B. Eksteen.
Aug. 19, 1879.

wander about here are the worst class we have in the Colony.

324. Would you consider them no better than the ordinary darkies?—I would rather have one darky than two of them; but I do not suppose they are a fair sample of English labourers.

325. *Chairman.*] They are tramps, vagrants in fact, are they not?—Yes. If you ask me to choose between coloured labour and European labour, I would say, bring these young Englishmen and let them be trained according to the wants of the Colony.

326. Would you mix them with the blacks?—They would have to do the farm work. Our farmers' sons are obliged to work with the black men.

327. *Mr. Myburgh.*] Do you think the system of working hours of the Government interferes with the labour supply?—Greatly. Since our labourers have seen the Government labourers work we have had great difficulty.

328. *Chairman.*] What are your hours?—From sunrise to sunset. In the ploughing season we are obliged to make haste before the season passes away.

329. If you found a man industrious would you make any distinction in helping him forward whether he was a white man or a black man?—No.

330. You do not consider a black man should not be helped?—I have had more opportunities of helping darkies than white men. I would be very glad if I could raise that class of labourers to a better state. I am willing to assist them all.

331. *Mr. Myburgh.*] What do you think of importing Chinese?—I am not acquainted with them; but I have met with those who are, and they are not in favour of them.

Mr. J. A. van Aarde examined.

Mr.
J. A. van Aarde.

332. *Chairman.*] You are a farmer?—Yes; a corn and wine farmer.

333. Where do you live?—Near Malmesbury.

334. Have you listened to the evidence of the gentlemen who were examined to-day before you?—Yes.

335. Do you agree with them?—Partly.

336. With whom do you agree?—Mr. Eksteen.

337. Do you agree with all he said?—Yes.

338. And with Mr. Lochner?—Nearly all.

339. Would you like to add anything to what they said?—I do not see anything to add. They have shown that a great want of labour exists, and I know that to be the case. Two of my men went to the docks because they could get higher wages there. They went at busy times; one the time of ploughing; the other when we were breaking up the ground; and I was obliged to stop the work of two spans of mules and stand still.

340. What wages do you pay?—15s. to 18s. a month, with food for themselves, wives and families.

341. If the wife works do you pay her?—Yes, 10s. a month.

342. Do you find it necessary to give wine?—The kind of people we have will not work without it.

343. Is enough given them to make them tipsy?—That would not pay.

344. Do they get jolly on it?—Yes; but in warm weather they think it makes them work.

345. What is the value of the wine you give to each workman?—They have nearly two bottles a day, which is worth about sixpence.

346. Do you think the man who takes wine works equally well with the man who takes none?—Yes.

347. Would you get as much work out of one of your men if you did not give them wine?—Yes, if he is a good fellow.

348. It would be all the same to you if, instead of giving them wine to the value of sixpence, you gave them sixpence extra wages per day?—All the same to me.

349. Would you give a man sixpence extra per day instead of wine, if he were to ask you?—In the harvest season some have said "I don't like wine, I want money," and they got it.

350. How much do you pay extra for their not drinking wine?—It depends upon the price of the wine. It is generally sixpence.

351. Do they ever get brandy?—Yes, a *soupe* in the ploughing season in the morning.

Mr.
J.A. van Aarde.
Aug. 19, 1879.

Mr
J.A. van Aarde,
 Aug. 19, 1879.

352. Mr. *Marais.*] You don't give two bottles of wine all the year round?—Only in harvest time; but they have some all the year round, and the *soupie* too as long as I have it.

353. You heard what Mr. Eksteen said about the Mozambiques; do you think them the best class of labourers?—Yes. I would take ten or a dozen of them, in addition to my present labourers for ten years, and pay them 10s. a month for the first year, raising them up to 15s. That sum, with food and cottage would be as much as we could afford. They get their food on Sundays and rainy days when they do not work.

354. Would you be willing to pay part of the cost of getting them here?—Yes; the same as Mr. Eksteen.

355. Would you cultivate more ground if you had more labour?—Yes; I have now to dig my vineyard without assistance, because my men ran away. I had to take my two sons, aged seven and ten years, out of school to work.

356. *Chairman.*] Do your people work well?—Some of them; but the high prices now paid by Government make them independent. When I told one of them, who was standing still, to go on working, he said, "If you don't like me I can leave at the end of the month." He knew he could get higher wages at the docks and other places.

357. Mr. *Myburgh.*] Do you think it highly necessary to import labour?—Yes.

358. Can farmers now cultivate the ground as they would like to do?—No; I am a field-cornet, and I see the want of labour in my district.

359. The farmers are obliged to take their children from school to work in busy times, because the natives are idling in the institutions?—Yes.

Mr. *Jan Snel* examined.

Mr.
Jan Snel,

360. *Chairman.*] What is your nationality?—I am a bastard.

361. Are you a labourer?—Yes. I take work by contract.

362. Then you employ men?—Yes, sometimes from twelve to fifteen.

363. What kind of contracts do you take?—Farm work and brick making.

Mr.
Jan Snel.

364. You work with your men?—Yes. Clearing land, farm work, and brick making.

Aug. 19, 1879.

365. Have you any difficulty in getting men?—For the last two years I have not known what to do for labour. It was better before that time.

366. What is the cause of the present difficulty?—I do not know.

367. What do you pay your men?—1s. 6d. a day for clearing land, besides their food, which is given them three times a day, with wine four times a day.

368. Could you employ more than you have?—Yes; but I cannot get more.

369. What can be done to remedy this state of things?—I have worked with the Mozambiques and know them. I think they would be the best labourers for this country. They are rather stupid at first, but become very good workmen after a while.

370. Being yourself a coloured man you know the feelings of coloured men on the subject?—Yes.

371. Do the coloured labourers think they get too little wages from the farmers?—Yes, they do think so.

372. Too little money?—That is what they think; but I do not think so, neither do I know why they should.

373. Do they complain of the food they get from their masters?—No.

374. Mr. *Myburgh*.] How many times a day do farmers feed their people?—Three.

375. Do they give them enough?—Yes.

376. *Chairman*.] If a man gets only wages, without food, and has a wife and two children to keep, what would it cost him a month?—We give one man a bushel of meal, one sheep and 30 fishes a month.

377. What would that cost?—The meal 6s. or 7s., the fishes are 12s. per hundred, and the sheep 18s or £1. These are the conditions upon which our contractors engage our men.

378. Do you think the farmers would plough more if they could get more labourers?—Yes. They have applied to me for men; and if I help them I have to stop my own work,

Mr.
Jan Snel.
Aug. 19, 1879.

379. Do you think that any fault rests with the farmers, that prevents their getting more labourers?— I do not know any point upon which they are to blame.

380. Mr. *Myburgh*.] You think it is owing to the scarcity of labour that so little land is ploughed?—Yes. I think the scarcity arises from the high wages paid by Government. Men have told me that if I would pay them the same as Government pay they would work for me.

381. *Chairman*.] What do the Government pay?— 4s. 6d. a day. I give as much as 3s. 6d., according to the work. I have eleven head of cattle to herd. I offered some men £3 a month and food to herd them, but they all refused. They were working on the railway.

382. Do you think it necessary to import labour?— Yes, otherwise the farmers will not be able to farm, and I will not be able to go on. I could do much more if I could get as many men as I want.

383. Mr. *Hockley*.] Are there any unemployed natives about your neighbourhood?—Yes, a good many; who will not work all their time. Some work only two or three days a week.

384. Do they earn sufficient to keep them the rest of the time?—Yes; they have sufficient to live on.

385. Are they reputed honest people?—Some are reputed honest and some reputed bad men.

386. Mr. *Louw*.] Do you think they would work more days than they do if they could get higher wages?— No, I do not think so. On the contrary, if you pay them more they will work less time.

Friday, 22nd August, 1879.

PRESENT :

Mr. MARAIS (Acting Chairman),

Mr. de Wet,		Mr. Hockley,
„ Myburgh,		„ F. Louw.
„ J. J. Barry,		

Mr. Robert Hare examined.

387. *Acting Chairman.*] You are a farmer in the Paarl Division?—Yes.

Mr.
Robert Hare.
Aug. 22, 1879.

388. A wine farmer?—Wine and corn; and a little of everything.

389. How many labourers do you employ?—At present fourteen.

390. Could you employ that number all the year round?—Yes.

391. Are they agricultural labourers?—Most of them, they are on different parts of the farm. Three of the number are herds.

392. What wages do you pay them?—From ten to thirty shillings a month, besides food. The day labourers have cottages, for which they pay from seven to ten shillings a month; that includes a garden, with water for irrigation. Their wages are 1s. 6d. per day with food, which they get regularly three times a day, and wine six times a day; but the boys imported from Delagoa Bay do not drink wine but get coffee instead.

393. Have you experienced any difficulty in getting labour on those terms?—Yes; and it gets worse every year.

394. Could you employ more men?—Certainly. I have three thousand acres on my farm, and I am not able to farm one quarter of it. If I could get the labour I require I would cultivate three times as much.

395. Could you get more labour by raising your wages?—That would not do. The men are not dissatisfied. I have some who have been with me fifteen or sixteen years.

396. What step do you think could be taken to remedy

Mr.
Robert Hare.
Aug. 22, 1879.

this state of things?—It is difficult to say, I have seen so many things tried. I have come to the conclusion that the man who is worse off in his own country is better adapted for labour in this; for if you bring him into a better position he is more likely to do well. I have employed many Englishmen and paid them high wages; but they do not answer. My brother-in-law imported some Indian coolies, but they did not answer. They were engaged for three years at ten rupees a month, but they did so badly that he was glad to send them back before their time was up. I have had no experience with Chinese; but I remember when several were employed as builders, &c., in Barrack-street. I think the cheaper the men the better they are. I do not care where the labour comes from if we can only get it. I have tried English, Irish, Scotch, German, and Kafirs; but up to the present the Delagoa Bay boys I imported, through the Government, are the best.

397. Are they Mozambiques?—No, Arabs.

398. What do you think of Mozambiques?—They are capital men. The best men I have on the farm are the east coast men.

399. Supposing the Government were to introduce Mozambique labourers, how many would you take?—I would take six at once, and would pay them ten shillings a month at first, increasing their wages up to a pound.

400. Mr. Barry.] In addition to their food?—Yes.

401. Acting Chairman.] How long do you wish them to be contracted for?—I think three years long enough.

402. But if there was a scale of wages fixed, beginning at ten shillings a month and food, you would not object to engaging them for five years?—No.

403. Do you think coloured labourers best suited for the Western Province?—No. On the whole the European farm servant is the best farm servant we can possibly have; but, unfortunately, the immigrants we have had were not farm servants at all. They were not used to the country. Their ideas were raised to the extreme, and they were dissatisfied with the country, and made everything and everybody else dissatisfied. If they had had to feed themselves, it would have not mattered

so much ; but when it falls to the lot of the mistress of the house to feed such people it makes things very unpleasant. I may mention, as an example, one who was fed, just as we ourselves were fed ; we gave him some bread and fried fresh fish (harders.) He told us he did not want to stop in "this here——country to be fed on hog's bread and herrings.

Mr.
Robert Harv.
Aug. 22, 1879.

405. Mr. *Myburgh.*] That lot of men were complained of wherever they went, all over the country?—Nobody would take them but myself. If I could get the proper sort of Englishmen, and make them comfortable, I would do it. They wish to be more comfortable than I am myself.

406. Supposing Government were to introduce a number of Mozambiques, would you be willing to pay any portion of the cost of getting them here?—I paid, towards the cost of those I had, £3 each and £3 towards their passage back, and I am prepared to do the same again. I deposited money with the Government for that purpose, but they refunded it and said they did not wish to bring the boys.

407. Would you be in favour of introducing families?—No.

408. Mr. *Barry.*] But if you had the families the men would not want to go away?—I would rather have young single men up to the age of about twenty-two.

409. *Acting Chairman.*] Then what you said about paying portion of the passage only applies to the young men?—Yes.

410. Mr. *Louw.*] What do you think of Kafir labourers?—I think a great many of them do very well for two or three years, but then they run away.

411. Why is that?—They are in love with their own country. They are not lazy. But the Delagoa Bay boys are better than Kafirs or Mozambiques ; it is part of their creed never to steal nor allow anybody else to steal. They are a fine, high class of men, and I never had the least trouble with them. They are quite happy and have said to me, "Let us go home and get wives, and we bring you as many people as you want."

412. Mr. *Louw.*] Have you had any experience of

Mr.
Robert Hare.
Aug. 22, 1879.

English Immigrants?—Yes ; they did well at first ; but they degenerated, and practically turned blacks.

413. Mr. *de Wet*.] Is the same scarcity of labour felt all over the Western Districts?—Yes.

414. And agricultural enterprise suffers in consequence?—Yes. The hands of the farmers are crippled ; they have to employ their own children.

415. Mr. *Myburgh*.] Even their female children?—Yes. My own daughters are sometimes obliged to drive the cart to the station because no man can be got.

416. Mr. *de Wet*.] Would the natural consequence of this state of things be a scarcity of bread stuffs?—Yes ; because we cannot cultivate the land we would if we had the labour.

417. And necessarily there is a great importation of bread stuffs?—Yes, I have much maiden soil on my own farm that I cannot plough for want of labour.

418. To what do you attribute the scarcity of labour?—There are no people.

419. Did this scarcity always exist?—It was never like it is now. When I first began farming I could get as many men as I liked at ten dollars a month. The scarcity commenced when the railways took them. Then a great emigration of people took place to the Diamond-fields ; they used to take them down by droves ; some are employed at the docks ; some at the reservoir here, and some have been sent to Zululand where they get £6 a month and food.

420. *Acting Chairman*.] If all these people were released again from their present employment would that remove the difficulty?—No. There is now a greater demand for labour than there was before, because so many farms have been sub-divided ; and if we are to cultivate our farms we must import agricultural labourers.

421. Mr. *de Wet*.] Would you not prefer to utilise the blacks on our frontier?—No, I have seen too much of them, when Sir George Grey brought large numbers of them into the colony after the cattle killing. I took sixteen of them, they were useful, industrious, good servants at first ; but, by degrees, they became restless and got away back to their own country.

422. Mr. Barry.] Do not you think that they will be satisfied here after the war?—I think they will be changed for the worse. After receiving £6 a month for doing nothing, they will not be much use.

Mr.
Robert Hare.
Aug. 22, 1879

423. I referred to the Kafirs, would not they be satisfied if they were brought here with their families?—I am against getting Kafirs, for I am thoroughly convinced that they will not remain here unless you bring their chiefs and make their kraals here, they are too near their own country for them to stop.

424. Mr. de Wet.] What kind of labourers do they make?—Very good. Some of the best labourers I have had have been Kafirs, they are not a lazy people. But they will not remain here.

425. Mr. Myburgh.] Do not you think that Government, by paying such high wages on the Railways, have caused this want of labour?—The first disturbance of our labour market was when our men were taken away and paid double the wages they had been receiving, while they only did just what work they chose. We used to work from sunrise to sunset, but on the railway they worked just as they liked.

426. Mr. de Wet.] Do you think it was wrong of the Government to enter into competition with the farmers for the labour of the country?—Yes, under the existing circumstances of the Colony, it was wrong to employ them by the day. When the Wellington line was made they were employed by piece work, and not one of my men left then.

427. What do you think of Germans?—I do not believe in them. I have had considerable experience of them; they come here to be masters, not labourers.

428. Acting Chairman.] From your experience you think that European labourers will not so well supply your wants as the class of labour you have recommended?—No, simply because they are not adapted for the country.

Hon. P. L. van der Byl, M.L.C., examined.

429. Acting Chairman.] You are a farmer in the division of Stellenbosch?—Yes.

Hon.
P. Van der Byl.

Hon.
Van der Byl.
 Aug. 22, 1879.

430. What is the nature of your farming?—Wine growing, agriculture, and a little of everything.

431. You have heard the evidence given by Mr. Hare, do you agree with what he has stated?—Quite.

432. What number of labourers do you employ?—About twenty-five on an average, throughout the year.

433. What do you pay them?—2s. 6d. a day and wine.

434. Do you feed them?—No ; but they have a house to live in, and as much ground as they like to cultivate, for which they pay 10s. a month rent.

435. Why did you have those houses erected?—To make me independent of other labour. It is understood by the occupants that they are to work for me.

436. Would you let those cottages and land to anybody else for the same rent?—No. They are erected to keep my men distant from the village. If I let them to anybody else I should want 30s. a month rent for them : I give my men every privilege. They are near the Railway Station and handy for the market, so that they make treble out of their gardens that they do by wages.

437. Do you experience any difficulty in getting sufficient labours?—No ; I am entirely independent of the labour market, because I have 300 people on my place ; and there is a school, a church, and shops. In fact I have a little location of my own. Other people see the advantage of my system and are doing the same. I foresaw the difficulty, and began this system twenty-five years ago. If I had not done so I should have either had to go away or become bankrupt.

438. Mr. *Myburgh.*] If the other farmers had done the same would they have all been able to fill their places?—That would have depended upon how they treated their men.

439. Mr. *Louw.*] Your farm being so near the Station gives them special advantages?—Yes.

440. Mr. *Myburgh.*] If everybody adopted your system there would not be people enough to fill their places?—No ; whenever a man leaves me I have another in his place immediately.

441. *Acting Chairman.*] Do you think that generally sufficient wages are paid?—Plenty.

442. Do you agree with Mr. Hare as to the class of labour that is best suited for this part?—I prefer coloured labour by all means. I would not have an English or a German labourer on my farm if they paid me. They are perfectly useless.

Hon.
P. van der Byl.
Aug. 22, 1879

443. Mr. Barry.] What kind of people are those living on your place?—I have Zulus, Kafirs, Gaikas, old slaves, and pure whites. I have only two of the old slaves left.

444. Which do you consider the best?—The Kafirs and Mozambiques. I have Mozambiques with me who came to me as long ago as 1840.

445. Do you find the Mozambique Africanders good?—They are capital. The Mozambiques get attached to the place.

446. Mr. Myburgh.] Your farm is on the banks of the Eerste river; is not that the reason you get so many people?—I have a great many facilities, plenty of water and easy access to market. Still I see the supply is gradually diminishing.

447. Is there not also a great want of domestic labour?—There is a general cry of want of labour all over the country; want of all sorts of labour.

448. Mr. Louw.] Do you agree with Mr. Hare as to the cause of the scarcity?—It is the railway and docks; about 150 go by railway every week from my place to the docks.

449. Mr. Barry.] Do you not think that if the Government were to employ convict labour on the railways as well as at the docks, instead of free labour, it would give us much more labour?—Yes, a great deal.

450. Do you think convict labour could be employed on the railways?—We made our roads with convicts, and why should we not make the railways with them? If it were not for the introduction of machinery I really do not know how our farms would have been worked at all.

451. Mr. Myburgh.] Did the juvenile Englishmen imported in 1838 do well?—Yes. I have two of them still.

452. Mr. Barry.] Do you think it would be advisable to get young Kafirs or Mantatees about 12 years old?—We could get nothing better.

Hon.
P. van der Byl.
Aug. 22, 1879.

453. Mr. *Myburgh*.] Are you thoroughly convinced from what you observe when you travel, that there is a great want of labour in the country?—Yes. Something must be done at once. There are tens of thousands of acres of land that can be done nothing with, owing to scarcity of labour.

Aaron Paarde Wachter examined.

*Aaron Paarde
Wachter.*

454. *Acting Chairman*.] What is your nationality?—I am a bastard and was born at Genadendal. I am a farm labourer and am generally employed by Mr. *Myburgh*. My wife and family live at Genadendal at the Missionary Institution. I know that Mr. *Myburgh* feels the want of labour very much; and I think the scarcity arises from the Government works.

455. Do you think the farmers pay the men too little?—The farmers do not pay them too little; but the Government pay them higher wages; but I prefer working for Mr. *Myburgh* to working on the railway. I am afraid to go to the Government works, because many whom I have known, have come back with very little in their pockets. They get on the spree at the canteens; and I know that their wives and children suffer severely on that account. I fear if I went to the Government works, I also should be led into temptation. There are forty men from Genadendal working at the docks.

456. How do the farmers treat labourers?—Very well, on the whole. They get plenty of food. I get plenty of food and wine as well; so there is no reason for me to go to the canteen.

457. Mr. *Louw*.] Could Mr. *Myburgh* get more men by offering more wages?—No. I have just been out searching for labour for four weeks; at Genadendal, *Boschesveld*, *Grey Town* and *Villiersdorp*. I offered 1s. 6d. a day and food, with wine six times a day. I wanted twelve men on those terms, and I only got one, by advancing him £2; he is still with Mr. *Myburgh*, and is a good man. What I am telling you is my own experience. This was the third time this year that I have been out for labour; and this one man is the only one I have been able to get. Mr. *Myburgh* is a great sufferer from want of

labour; and I know that other farmers suffer also; and they have sent to the same places for men without success. Before the railways were started we could get as many labourers as we liked. I believe the people of Genadendal have been worse off since the railways started; they have not improved their position; they have become demoralized by working there.

*Aaron Paarde
Wachter.*
Aug. 22, 1879

458. *Mr. Myburgh.*] What were the circumstances under which I sent you after men?—You gave me £5 and told me to ask for more if I could get men and required more; but I only had occasion to use the £2; which I advanced to the one man I got. You could not get men unless you advanced the money. I know several cases in which you have advanced money and lost it because the men left you and went to the railway.

459. *Acting Chairman.*] Do you think there are men enough in the country?—No. There is a great want of labour.

460. What do you think of the Mozambiques?—I have had experience of them, they answer very well. The scarcity of labour is felt also at Overberg, where even little girls have to be taken from school to lead plough-cattle. If the farmers could get more labour they could sow a great deal more seed; I do not see how they can go on farming if things remain as they are; and if the farmers cannot plough what will become of us poor people?

Tuesday, 26th August, 1879.

PRESENT :

Mr. MARAIS (in the Chair),

Mr. Barry,
„ Louw,

Mr. Myburgh,
„ Hockley.

Mr. *J. J. Piton* examined.

461. *Acting Chairman.*] You are a wine farmer in the Groote Drakenstein?—Yes.

Mr. J. J. Piton.
Aug. 26, 1879.

462. How many labourers do you employ?—From ten to fifteen on the average all the year round.

M. J. J. Piton. 463. Have you felt any scarcity of labour?—Very much.
 Aug. 26, 1879.

464. Could you employ more men if you could get them at a reasonable price?—Yes.

465. How many more?—A great many. I have at present only two men; and I have 20,000 vines.

466. Mr. Barry.] And you cannot get more than those two men?—No. I have a contractor working for me, whose engagement was to finish the work by the 1st August; but, owing to scarcity of labour, he will not get done by the end of September. He used to employ eighteen men; now he has only six; the rest have gone to work on the Government works.

467. Why do you employ this contractor?—Because I cannot get men of my own. I have sent about to Wellington and Stellenbosch for labour, but without success.

468. Do they prefer working for these contractors to working for the farmers?—Yes.

469. The contractors are generally black men?—Yes.

470. Would you prefer getting your own labourers to employing a contractor?—Yes.

471. What do you pay them?—I offer from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per day per man, besides wine and food; but I cannot get them at that.

472. Acting Chairman.] What causes this scarcity of labour?—I think the Government paying too much. I was told by the boys from the Mission Station, that they earn from 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. a day on Government works.

473. Would the remedy be found if the works were stopped?—To some extent; but not fully.

474. Would it be necessary to import labour, even then?—Yes.

475. Have your neighbours the same difficulty?—Yes; Some of them have not yet cut their vines.

476. Have you given attention to the subject of the best class of labour to be introduced?—The Mozambiques are the best. I have had some of the Germans imported by Mr. Berg, but they are good for nothing. As soon as they earn a little money they want to set up as masters.

477. Do you object to that?—I should not object to them if I could get their labour.

478. Then after a time they become employers and enter into competition with the farmers in the labour market?—Yes. Mr. J. J. Pitou.
Aug. 26, 1879.

479. What do you think of introducing Kafirs?—I have had no experience of Kafir labour ; but they have done pretty well as herds among some of my neighbours.

480. You are aware that a good many of those brought here ran away?—Yes.

481. What do you think of Indians or Chinese?—I think the Chinese would answer best ; if we cannot get Mozambiques. I have had no experience of them myself.

482. How many Mozambiques would you take?—Ten or more.

483. What would you pay them?—They would have to be taught for the first year, for they are very stupid ; I would pay 10s. a month with food for the first year, and raise them to 15s. or £1, and would take them for terms of three or five years.

484. Mr. *Hockley*.] How many Mozambiques do you think could be absorbed by the whole of the Western Districts?—Any number.

485. Do you think a thousand would be too many for the Paarl?—No.

486. Would you take families or single men?—I think families are as good as single men, for we can use their children.

487. Mr. *Barry*.] They would settle down and be more satisfied if they had their families?—Yes.

488. Mr. *Hockley*.] What is your opinion of juvenile European immigrants?—I do not think they would answer at all.

489. Why not?—Because we want a labouring class, and we want them at once, we cannot wait for them.

490. Do you furnish your people with a dwelling?—Yes, one room ; they can make gardens, and each has about an acre of land for his own use.

491. Are the men in these cottages bound to work for you?—Yes ; the two men I have mentioned. I can get no more.

492. What do you pay them in addition to the room and garden?—£1 a month and food.

Mr. J. J. Piton. 493. Do your day labourers work regularly?—No ;
 Aug. 26, 1879. only two or three days a week ; they earn enough to
 keep them for the rest of the time.

494. Are there any natives in your neighbourhood
 not employed?—On a mission station near me there are
 250 men ; but I do not think above 100 of them are
 employed among the farmers ; the rest come to the
 Government works at Cape Town.

495. Mr. Louw.] Could you get more labour by
 increasing your wages?—No.

496. Have the high rate of wages paid by Govern-
 ment tended to improve the condition of those employed?
 —No.

497. Do you think the Missionary Institution near
 you has advanced in morals or the reverse, since the
 men have got their high wages on the Government
 works?—The men have not improved ; but the contrary.

498. Do high wages tend to demoralise the people
 rather than improve them?—Yes ; the effect is bad.

499. Do you think that if the black population of the
 western part of the colony were turned to good account
 there would be enough labour to supply our wants?—
 No. I think it is highly necessary to import additional
 labour.

500. You are thoroughly convinced that the best
 people would be the Mozambiques from the East Coast?
 —Yes.

501. Mr. Myburgh.] You travel a good deal ; from
 what you have observed, do you think the scarcity of
 labour is felt in other parts besides your neighbourhood?
 —Yes. My brother-in-law, who lives in the Koeberg,
 is a large corn farmer. He has been obliged to come
 into Cape Town for a three-furrow plough because,
 although he has cattle for the other ploughs, he has not
 men to work them.

502. Are not the short working hours of Government
 a cause of interfering with our labour?—Yes, I have
 heard of men advising others to work for the Govern-
 ment because they work less there than for the farmers.

503. What are your hours?—From sunrise to sunset.
 I have seen the railway labourers standing still at their
 work.

504. *Acting Chairman.*] Do you know what the Government hours are?—No; but they do not begin till long after sunrise, and they leave off before sunset. A man from the Breakwater told one of my men that they do not work so much there as they do for the farmers.

Mr. J. J. Piton.
Aug. 26, 1879.

Mr. Thomas Moodie, M.L.A., examined.

505. *Acting Chairman.*] You are member of the House of Assembly for the division of Swellendam?—Yes.

Mr. T. Moodie,
M.L.A.

506. In which division you farm?—Yes.

507. Mr. Barry.] You have three farms; a mountain farm; a ruggens farm and a coast farm?—Yes.

508. *Acting Chairman.*] You heard the evidence of Mr. Piton?—Partly.

509. Are yours pastoral farms?—Principally; there is some agriculture, but that is done by persons who work on the share system with me. I myself do not cultivate.

510. Do you experience a scarcity of labour?—Yes.

511. How many men do you employ?—I have found that it does not pay to hire people to plough and sow, I let the arable land out in shares to people who do it with their own children. It answers their purpose because probably their children have nothing else to do; and they consider that they can do it cheaper than I could do it by hiring labourers.

512. Is that system general in your district?—I cannot say it is general; but a good many practice it. Mine is not what is considered an agricultural district such as the Koeberg; we are too far removed from the markets to go largely into agriculture.

513. Then there is not such a great want of labour there as here?—There is not so much labour employed as there is here; but still there is a scarcity.

514. Mr. Barry.] Farmers would do a good deal more if they could get more labour?—Yes. Before they undertake to cultivate, they have to consider what labour they can rely upon getting.

515. Do you not employ a great deal of labour in fencing and making improvements on your farms?—

Mr. T. Moodie, Yes ; and I should employ a good deal more if I could
 M.L.A. get it.

Ang. 26, 1879.

516. *Acting Chairman.*] Would the men who work your land for you employ their children if they could get labourers?—No ; they employ their children because they cannot get labourers.

517. Do you think it necessary to do something to remedy this state of things?—It is highly necessary.

518. What class of labourers do you consider best adapted for the colony?—I believe the Mozambiques that were imported some years ago were considered the best.

519. Mr. *Barry.*] Would you prefer them before any others for agricultural work?—Yes ; before any other that I am acquainted with.

520. *Acting Chairman.*] What do you think of our Kafirs?—As far as my own experience goes they answer well ; but those who were recently brought here got away so easily that one left after another till they are nearly all gone. They make good herds, and we need herds very much.

521. Mr. *Louw.*] Are they not good for agricultural work also?—I have a very good one.

522. Do you attribute the leaving of those who were brought here to bad treatment by their employers?—No ; many of them were treated too well. They wanted to get back to their own country ; that is the chief reason why they left.

523. Mr. *Barry.*] Was it not rather because we took the women away and left their men behind in one case, and in another brought the men and left their women behind and owing to their being allowed to stay in the villages if they liked, and not being compelled to take service?—I think it was wrong to allow it to be optional with them to make bargains to go to service in gangs.

524. But my meaning is this ; some of the men were sent here without their wives, and some of the women without their husbands?—I was not aware of that. I know that several families absconded after they had been only two or three months with their employers.

525. Mr. *Hockley.*] Do you think any number of Mozambiques could be induced to come here?—I am

not well enough acquainted with the state of their country to say. Mr. T. Moodie,
M.L.A.

526. Those who were introduced into the colony were prize negroes, were they not?—Yes. Aug. 26, 1879.

527. *Acting Chairman.*] Do you attribute the scarcity of labour to the large Government works?—To a certain extent; but our labour market was drained by the Diamond-fields and the people have not returned. A good many were also taken to Gealekaland last war; and more recently to Natal as mule drivers. But I believe the principal drain was to the Diamond-fields.

528. Mr. *Hockley.*] Would the scarcity cease if the Railways were stopped?—No; but that would help us a great deal.

529. Mr. *Myburgh.*] Can farmers pay as high wages as are paid by the Government?—It would not pay them to farm if they did.

530. *Acting Chairman.*] Would a large number of these people be taken up in your district?—A large number; but not so many as in the Districts near Cape Town.

531. If they were indentured for five years what wages would the farmers be prepared to pay, considering that, as you say, they would have to be taught their work?—I think 10s. a month and their food; and even more when they got to understand their work.

532. Would they pay anything towards the cost of bringing them here?—I can only answer for myself. I would.

533. What do you think of introducing European immigrants?—It does not answer to introduce them as common labourers, because we cannot keep them separate from the blacks; and at first the blacks look down upon them owing to their not being accustomed to our work as well as themselves; and in many cases they degenerate in consequence. If they could be placed separately they would do well. I believe European labour would answer better in the Eastern Province than here.

534. You believe it is very objectionable to have white and black people side by side?—It is. The better class of European labour might do to a limited extent in the Western Province. I mean just as many as could

Mr. T. Moodie. become small tenants. Such men, as in my case, take my
 M.L.A. ploughing and sowing in shares. They would form a
 Aug. 26, 1879. very useful class of labourers for us.

535. But there are not many farmers here who could afford to let them have their land on such terms?—In our part there are a good many poor farmers who live on the farms with their families, and help the owner of the farm; I mean the class called *bywoners*.

536. Do you advocate the introduction of a large number of Europeans?—No; they should be introduced gradually.

537. With their families?—Yes. The farmers are very anxious to get *bywoners*, who are generally the sons of poor farmers with very little stock of their own. They are generally assisted by the owner of the farm with stock to plough with.

538. But that system would not apply to the wine farms which, as a rule, are small?—I believe it would answer in the wine farms too. I may mention that a few years ago I got a portion of a farm under water, and I have let it to some people on shares, some white people and some black, and that land now brings in more than the whole farm did formerly; and at the same time, these people help in my farming operations during harvest and shearing time.

539. What do you think of juvenile immigrants?—I like the system because they learn the ways of the Colony better than adults. I have a man in my place who was introduced in 1841 and has remained there ever since, and my brother has another.

540. What is their nationality?—English. My man is my overseer.

541. Mr. *Hockley*.] Did all the juveniles who were brought here do as well?—Those who kept steady got on well. One of them died lately worth £12,000.

542. But generally they did not remain in service?—Some went to the bad; but I believe they would do better now than they did then, because we understand better how to manage them; neither did we appreciate them then as well as we do now. As a rule all servants are treated better now than they were.

543. *Acting Chairman*.] Would you be prepared to

pay a portion of the cost of bringing Mozambiques here?—Yes. Mr. T. Moodie.
M.L.A.

544. And also a portion of the passage money of Europeans?—Yes; under the present law one-half has to be paid; and I believe that is fair. Aug. 26, 187.

545. Would you pay half the cost of bringing Mozambiques here?—Yes; they would not cost so much as Europeans. I may state that, in the country wages are not high; but where there is a trustworthy, steady man he is given a great many advantages and privileges. As a rule the Hottentots are very good servants when looked after; but they are not to be depended upon.

546. How many men would be taken by your district?—A great many, I should say the Western district would take several thousands, but I would bring them gradually; the demand would soon increase, for when people saw that labour could be had, they would go in for more cultivation.

547. Are you in favour of making an experiment with a limited number of Mozambiques and Europeans?—Yes.

548. What do you think of Indian coolies and Chinese?—I know but little about them. I have heard there are serious objections to introducing Chinese.

549. Mr. *Myburgh*.] Have you not also heard some people in favour of them?—Yes.

550. Is there not also a great demand for domestic servants?—Yes.

551. Would not Chinese answer for that?—It is said so; but that they very soon become small dealers and independent of labour. A great many Irish were brought out by Mr. Field and they wished to remain near their priests in the towns. Most of the immigrants who come here stay about the towns. That is not the class we require; we want the agricultural class, who would take to a country life.

552. *Acting Chairman*.] Have you had any experience with Germans?—Very little. But I have generally found German labourers very good.

553. As far as the wants of the Western Districts go, the preference is given to coloured labour?—I believe that more Mozambiques would be employed than any other class.

Hon. Mr. *Hardwich* examined.

Hon.
Mr. *Hardwich*.
Aug. 26, 1879.

554. *Acting Chairman.*] Are you a farmer?—Not just now. I have been previously engaged in farming for a number of years, and I am just going to begin again, having rented a farm. I have had sixteen years' experience.

555. In what part of the country?—In Kaffraria; close to the border of the Colony.

556. Pastoral farming?—Principally.

557. How long is it since you left off farming?—About four years.

558. Did you then experience any want of labour?—No; the labour market was then fairly supplied as a rule.

559. Was it Kafir labour?—Yes, nearly all. There were a few Hottentots.

560. Your part is better situated for labour than this part?—Yes, because we are in the midst of the natives; but we are now finding a difficulty in getting labourers.

561. Do you think the Kafirs from your part could be induced to come here?—They are averse to leaving their own country.

562. Do you employ them principally as herds?—Yes; but some of them are employed on the land. They are capital servants, you cannot get better; but I do not think any amount of wages would induce them to come here. The only plan would be to tax them and make them seek for labour. At present they are not taxed.

563. They seem to be very much attached to their chiefs?—Yes.

564. Do you employ any European labour?—Yes. I have a lot of brick-making machinery which obliges me to employ skilled overseers. But I do not believe in Europeans; their wages are too expensive; 6s. to 7s. 6d. a day. I find the Kafir labourers, although rather rude, are many of them quite good enough for ordinary work, such as driving waggons, and so on. They are mostly herds. The worst of them is they are very rarely honest.

566. From what you have heard of the wants of these parts, would you think coloured labour is the best

adapted for us?—Most decidedly. I have an idea that convict labour might be utilised in the Western Districts. Any one who knows the Kafir character has just as high an opinion of the Kafir who is a convict as he has of one who has not been convicted; they are a nation of thieves, and a convict would be just as honest a servant as a Kafir who was never inside a prison. They are not cut-throats nor burglars. You might have fifty convicts on your farm and leave your doors unfastened; they would never attempt to get into your house.

Hon.
Mr. Hardwick.
Aug. 26, 1879.

566. But the difficulty would be to keep them here?—I do not think so. If they are sentenced for a term, they know they would be punished if they attempted to escape; and so they would stop.

567. Do you mean that they would be glad to be hired out as servants rather than be kept in prison?—Yes; I am sure of that. If they get away they become outlawed for life, and they fear that.

568. Have you had any experience of the Mozambiques?—Only on board ship. I have seen them at Mauritius. I believe they are a very strong, honest race, and good workmen. In Bombay they do all the loading of ships, screw down the cotton, and so on, and they are much more powerful than our Kafirs.

569. Can you recommend any other class?—No. It would take about six Indian coolies to equal one Kafir. I believe the Chinese would want to keep shops on their own account before they had been here any time. That is what they do in Australia, where they begin on their own account with a basket of oranges, or something of that kind.

570. The want of labour is not so much felt in the Eastern Province as it is here?—No; but lately we have been very much in want of it. The natives will not work; they prefer squatting. I think the location system is very bad for labour. I would suggest that all the Kafirs within the limits of the colony should be taxed moderately; say £5 a year for squatting on the locations. They pay that for squatting on the farms of private individuals and make their sons go out to work. I do not think there is need for any Chinese or Mozambiques there. There is an abundance of labour in the Eastern Districts if it could only be utilised.

The Hon. *Thomas Heatlie*, M.L.C., examined.

Hon.
T. Heatlie,
M.L.C.
—
Aug. 26, 1879.

571. *Acting Chairman.*] You are a farmer in the Worcester District?—Yes, agricultural and pastoral.

572. How many men do you employ on the average?—About twenty-five all the year round.

573. Are they all agricultural labourers?—Some are herds; but I am a wine and grain farmer as well as a pastoral farmer. About six are herds, the others agriculturists.

574. What do you pay them?—An average of about £1 a month and food, wine, a cottage, the run of the garden for fruit, and as much ground as they like to garden themselves.

575. Do many of them avail themselves of the right to cultivate?—Yes.

576. Do you experience any difficulty in getting the necessary supply of labour?—Yes; labour is now very scarce.

577. When you employ day labourers what do you pay them?—1s. 3d. a day with food, in ordinary seasons, but in harvest time I pay from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. with food, and wine, or coffee six times a day. They get about two bottles of wine a day during harvest, and one bottle at other times.

578. Could you employ more men if you were sure of their labour?—I could employ 100 on my farm if I could make sure of them, so as to put more ground under cultivation. If there were a steady supply of labour there are plenty of farms on which from 100 or more could be employed all the year round.

579. *Mr. Myburgh.*] You cannot fully work your farm on account of the scarcity of labour?—No.

580. *Acting Chairman.*] What class of labour do you think Government should endeavour to bring into the Colony?—Some ten or twelve years ago a large number of Mantatees came into the Worcester District, and they have proved to be the most useful class of servants. They are fond of dress, of learning to read, and they work well, and are proverbial for their honesty. I have one who has been with me for eighteen years; he has married a German woman. He has charge of one of

my farms, and has a great many men working under him. I have another whom I send on long journeys and entrust him with valuable property and large sums of money. They are very sober and trustworthy. If Worcester were to lose the Mantatees it would be a very serious thing indeed. I think an influx of them would have continued had it not been for the Diamond-fields. If Government were to send Agents into their country to induce them to come here, they should send some of those already here. I believe that many would come. Many have come all the way from Magaliesberg at their own expense, and I think many more would come if assisted by the Government.

Hon.
T. Heathie,
M.L.C.
Aug. 26, 1879.

581. What do you think of the Mozambiques?—They make the best domestic servants, and are very trustworthy; but I have not found any like the Mantatees for agricultural servants. The Mozambiques are very stupid with cattle; but the Mantatees are worth their wages at once because of the knowledge they have of cattle. I have a Mozambique who has been in my place for thirty-three years, having been my father's servant.

582. Do you think it would be desirable to introduce some of them?—Yes. I would get Mantatees and Mozambiques too, if I could.

583. What wages would you pay?—I would pay Mantatees 10s. to 15s. a month to begin with; but the Mozambiques are not worth that at first, I would begin them with 7s. 6d. to 10s. a month.

584. Would you, in addition, to food and wages, give them the advantages of a garden to cultivate, the same as you give the others?—Yes.

585. Would you pay any portion of the expense of getting them here?—Yes. I would be agreeable to pay from £3 to £4 each towards getting them here.

586. How many such men do you think would be taken in your district?—400 or 500 would be taken at once.

587. Mr. Hockley.] Do you think that if 500 were introduced to begin with it would lead to more being required?—Yes. I like Mr Moodie's idea of introducing them gradually. I would like ten or twelve at once, I have no doubt that there would soon be room for 2,000.

Hon.
T. Heatlie,
M.L.C.
—
Aug. 26, 1879.

588. What do you think of Europeans?—There are so many facilities for squatting, idleness, and drunkenness, that the more of them we have the worse they make matters. The laws of the country encourage this sort of thing. The lazy, drunken people are allowed to squat on Government ground, and in the missionary institutions, villages, and towns, where every facility is given for all kinds of vagabondage; and I believe these places are among the chief causes of the want of labour. If it were not for them, and the protection they give to lazy vagabonds there would be plenty of labour, for there are plenty of people.

589. Do you prefer the coloured labourers?—I do not think it would be a bad thing to have juvenile English immigrants; but we find a difficulty in feeding whites apart from the blacks, they must be put on an equality, and they then take black women and go back.

590. Mr. *Louw.*] You think that, because we cannot afford to treat the European immigrants as they should be treated they get dissatisfied and degenerate; do you think it would be preferable to import blacks or utilize the blacks within the Colony, rather than to introduce English labourers?—I am very much in favour of introducing poor European farmers where there is land on our border that could be made available for them. But that would not help us out of the labour difficulty; and I would prefer blacks to Europeans, as labourers.

591. Mr. *Myburgh.*] Did not you farmers suffer greatly through the labour being taken to construct the railway?—Yes.

592. Have the high prices paid by Government improved the condition of these labourers?—No. They get demoralised. All the money they get goes into the hands of the Tommy shop-keeper, for drink consumed before pay-day. In reality the farmers pay them a great deal better than the railway.

593. Mr. *Louw.*] Giving them steady work on a farm is more likely to improve them than working on the railway?—Yes; it keeps them at home with their families.

594. Mr. *Myburgh.*] Do not you think the short hours Government work them spoil the labourers?—Yes, very much.

595. What are your working hours?—From sunrise to sunset. Government labourers leave work at midday on Saturday, and do not begin again till midday on Monday.

Hon.
T. Heatlie,
M.L.C.
Aug. 26, 1879.

596. Do farmers in your part suffer much from Government taking the labourers away?—Yes.

597. Would it not be better for Government to employ convict labour on the railway?—I should think it would.

Tuesday, 2nd September, 1879.

PRESENT :

HON. COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS AND PUBLIC WORKS
(Chairman),

Mr. Marais,
„ Louw,

Mr. Myburgh,
„ Hockley.

Mr. *William Coates Palgrave* examined.

598. *Chairman.*] You are Special Commissioner for the Government in Damaraland?—Yes.

Mr.
W.C. Palgrave.
Sept. 2, 1879.

599. Perhaps you are aware that this committee has been appointed for the purpose of enquiring into alleged difficulties in the supply of labour in the Western Province?—I am.

600. I am given to understand that you are able to give the Committee some information as to the possibility of securing the services of some Berg Damaras, for the farmers of this part of the Colony?—Yes; I shall be glad to do so.

601. In case the Government should decide to entertain the proposal to introduce Berg Damaras, the Committee would be glad if you would be good enough to describe in what way that suggestion can, in your opinion, be best carried out?—The better way would be for the Government to act in co-operation with what I believe will be the Government plan with respect to the Berg Damaras in their country. At the present time these people are in a very impoverished condition; indeed, I may say they are in a state of starvation; and yet are

Mr.
W.C. Palgrave.
Sept. 2, 1879.

in such fear of the neighbouring tribes of Namaquas and Damaras, that little can be done with them. One of my objects would be to induce these people to come down out of the mountains, where they are now living, on to the plains, where I shall endeavour to locate them, and where mealies and corn could be grown by them; and thus the cost of their support would be reduced as much as possible; then you could co-operate with this plan by drafting the people down to this colony, so soon as they may be induced to volunteer for service, which would not be very long. That period would be materially shortened if a few could be brought here first as an experiment, and then sent back to communicate their experience to those remaining in their country. The chief difficulty in my plan is their natural prejudice against leaving their country. They are a race of people with whom we have had very little to do; but although that is a difficulty, I think it is one that may be easily surmounted. I have had a good deal of experience of Berg Damaras, and I consider them admirably adapted for colonial service. By that I mean that they are much better adapted for that service than any natives I have ever met with here. They have lived very hard lives; not having possessed herds of cattle, they are qualified for other service than cattle farming, as their habits have made them rather agricultural than pastoral; they dig up roots, &c., which has familiarised them with the use of the spade. I have here a map showing the position of the stations and localities of the various tribes, published for the Special Commissioner in 1876, and it will shew approximately how these Berg Damaras are located at the present time. In one range of mountains there are 5,000; in another location there are also 5,000; and northward of that another 5,000.

602. All told, including women and children?—
Yes. Then in another part there are 10,000. These latter 10,000 are in the best part of the country. They live altogether and are better able to hold their own than the rest; but even from them I should expect to get a considerable number. They are the most independent of the Berg Damaras, but still are

exceedingly anxious that the Government should take them in hand and locate them. The two lots of 5,000 each, below, are at the mercy of every one; but the 10,000 are in a better position; they have strong waters, and they would like to have their right to these waters acknowledged by the Government. There is very little doubt that a great number of them could be induced to volunteer to come to supply the colonial labour market. With respect to the Southern Berg Damaras, they lead a predatory life, preying upon the Bastards and others, descending from the mountains, and stealing their sheep and oxen. They are driven to that by starvation; and when they are caught the usual punishment is to make them work under a sort of slave system, or sometimes to beat them. It is a modified form of slavery, and they get a little payment. I am quite sure many of these 5,000 could be got; and so could many of the other 5,000. Besides these there are Berg Damaras living amongst the Damaras and Namaquas, who consider them their property.

Mr.
W.C. Palgrave.
Sept. 2, 1879.

603. What is the difference between a Berg Damara and a Damara?—The Berg Damara is more of a negro than the other. The "Cattle Damara" or "Beast Damara" is a Kafir. The two speak different languages.

604. How far are these locations from Walwisch Bay?—The nearest one 150 to 200 miles, and the furthest 400 miles.

605. Would it be difficult to get them down to the coast?—Not at all. I think the best place to ship them would be Fort Rock Point.

606. Should we be able to get single men to come?—A few. But my hope is that you will find it convenient to take families.

607. But there is rather an objection on the part of the Western farmers to take families?—That is a pity; because if you get single men they will naturally want to go back to their families.

608. Are they polygamous?—To a very slight extent. It is an exception to find a man with more than one wife.

609. You think we could get a fair number of men with one wife only?—Yes.

Mr.
W.C. Palgrave.
Sept. 2, 1879.

610. Mr. *Myburgh*.] Would their wives work?—Yes, they are a very hard-working people; both the men and the women. I think it would be necessary to keep the old people and the children on the locations there; that is a part of my plan, and there must be a sufficient amount of labour kept there to provide for their support.

611. Do you think Government should look after these old people?—Yes; it should be part of the Government scheme, to put them down in places where mealies and corn can be grown, and where they would be under the supervision of the Government. There are many people now whose circumstances compel them to steal. I would place them on these locations and make them work, and a part of the produce of the land would go to themselves and part to the support of the old people.

612. What is the average number of a family of those who could be brought here?—The husband, wife, and, say, three children between the ages of 8 and 12. The younger children would be left in the country and the older ones would go out to work independently of their parents.

613. Mr. *Louw*.] Would the parents consent to an adult girl going out to work independently of them?—Yes, I think so. In many cases the parents would probably come with them.

614. But if, after a while, the parents went to one place and the children to another, would not they, like the Kafirs get dissatisfied?—I think not. They are not able to keep together now; for they are in a state of starvation.

615. *Chairman*.] Do you think they could be induced to enter into a contract for a number of years?—Yes.

616. But they would wish to live together?—Yes.

617. What amount of pecuniary remuneration do you think they would require?—I think for an adult man £1 a month, and for a woman 10s. or 15s. a month. You may consider that rather high; but in their country they are accustomed to get very high wages. Mr. Erikson, who is present, employs a large number at 1s. a-day, besides food and clothes. Perhaps when they get to understand the whole matter they would accept less.

618. Would their children have to be fed?—Yes. There is a great difference between those who have to be taken out of the mountains, and those already in the service of the white people of the country. Those in the mountains are not accustomed to service, and cannot be said to be accustomed to wages. Perhaps they would be satisfied with 10s. a month.

619. Mr. *Louw.*] The Berg Damaras who do not work but live by theft; do you mean to bring them?—No, I mean to locate them in the country, and give them a part of the produce they raise. They cannot grow anything now, and when they can I am sure they will leave off stealing.

620. Are the ten thousand you pointed out agricultural or pastoral in their habits?—They are not pastoral because they do not possess anything. They are more agricultural because they depend upon the slight produce of the earth, the roots, &c. ; but if they cultivate a little tobacco or mealies, the Damaras or Namaquas take it from them. The Cattle Damaras are exceedingly rich. The Coast Damaras are negroes, and make very good servants, and are quite as honest as most other natives.

621. Mr. *Myburgh.*] Do not you think £1 a month too much to pay for men who do not understand their work?—I think it is a great deal.

622. Mr. *Marais.*] Do you know the sort of labour that is required in the Western Province?—I know you do not want cattle herds.

623. We want hardy men to cultivate the land. Do you think these Damaras would make such good agricultural labourers as we require?—I think they are exactly the kind of labourers you require. They are strong, firm, compact men.

624. I have been told that they are very much given to thieving. Have you heard that?—Not more so than the other natives; nor have I found that they will steal unless they are driven to it. They do not steal as Kafirs do, for the sake of keeping cattle, but only when driven to it by sheer hunger.

625. Several are employed at high wages there you say; higher than the farmers here can give to men unacquainted with the work. Is there not sufficient em-

Mr.
W.C. Palgrave.
Sept. 2, 1870.

Mr.
W.C. Palgrave.
Sept. 2, 1879.

ployment for them there if wages are so high?—I do not think there are more than 150 Europeans in the country.

626. What causes the high wages then?—I fancy it arises from people having more money than they know what to do with ; and they thus compel other people to pay the same rate of wages as themselves.

627. *Chairman.*] For how many years would these people engage?—They might be engaged for long terms without being able to understand what the term was. They are exceedingly ignorant.

628. Would it not be well that they did understand?—As far as possible.

629. Would they engage for three or five years?—I feel certain they would for three years. In order to make them understand what three years meant you would have to refer them to some event that happened that time ago. They would not take much time to learn to dig.

630. What clothing do they wear?—Very little. Skins for their clothing ; but game is disappearing very fast and they can scarcely get clothing.

631. *Mr. Hockley.*] Have they a strong love for their country?—I can scarcely answer that.

632. If they settled down here for three or five years, would they wish to return?—I think 50 per cent. of them would ; but I think when they get accustomed to the life down here they would wish to stay. It would not be love of country, but their relatives, that would take them back.

633. Have they a great dread of the sea?—A very great dread ; but I think it could be overcome. I think they would prefer the sea journey to the long overland one.

634. *Mr. Marais.*] Does not your recommendation to introduce these men arise, to a large extent, from your desire to rid that part of the country of their presence and relieve their distress, rather than from a wish to meet the want of labour here?—Not rather. I am of course very desirous to ameliorate the condition of these people ; and it would assist my plan if they could be drafted to the Colony. But I can state, with the greatest confidence, that they are a better class of labourers than those you have here.

635. Apart from your scheme can you recommend them as labourers?—Yes; quite. If they were a free and independent people I would still advise you to send your agents for them, for they are just the class of people you want.

Mr.
W.C. Palgrave.
Sept. 2, 1879.

636. Mr. *Myburgh*.] There is a great want of domestic servants; would they answer for that?—I think so. They make very good servants there, where they are scarcely under any restraint. The only complaint there is that they get tired of service and want to go away. I find the best way to keep them is to give them a holiday once a fortnight or once a month.

Mr. *Andries Godfried Watermeyer* examined.

637. *Chairman*.] You have resided in the Transvaal? —Yes.

Mr. A. G.
Watermeyer.

638. And are acquainted with the countries north of the Transvaal?—Yes.

639. You expressed an opinion to me the other day, to the effect that the Mantatees would be a suitable people for the farmers in these parts?—I believe they would. Very large numbers of Mantatees annually leave their country to seek work. Thousands of them go to the Diamond-fields, and several thousands go through different parts of the Transvaal to the adjacent territory. The wages they get at the Diamond-fields are somewhat high in comparison with what are paid in the other parts of the country. They generally get 10s. a week and rations of mealies at the fields, while in the Transvaal the highest wages they get are 1s. a-day and mealies. That refers to the day labourers, those who work for lengthened periods among the boers, as a rule, get a heifer a year and their daily allowance of mealies, and perhaps a little meat sometimes, but they are satisfied with mealies. They are a very sober class of people, and are not given to stealing as a rule; and, though somewhat stupid at first they soon learn to use a spade. And would be useful for cutting water-leavings, ploughing, and cutting corn. Several of their chiefs, particularly Magata, are in the habit of receiving a small premium upon each man he sends

Mr. A. G.
Watermeyer.
Sept. 2, 1879.

down, and he sends down large numbers. It has been estimated that about Waterberg and Zoutpansberg and the territory adjacent to Secocoeni's country there are about 200,000 natives.

640. Do you think they could be induced to come here either single, or in families? And, if so, upon what terms could they be had, and for what period?—They do not go in families; but the single men go out for a year at a time.

641. Would single men in numbers be willing to come here?—If sufficient inducement were held out to them. If they were treated fairly and paid a little more than they are in the habit of receiving there. I think they might be got for 1s. 6d. a day, and food, and would consider themselves well paid.

642. Mr. *Myburgh*.] Don't you consider that high?—I was told this morning that people here would be glad to get them at 3s. 6d.

643. They get meat as well here. Their food costs more than their wages?—They would not want meat, but they would be satisfied with mealies. They are very quiet and docile.

644. *Chairman*.] You think they could be obtained?—Yes.

645. Mr. *Marais*.] Would it not be a good plan to send some of those who have been here some time to get others to come?—Yes, it would; because they would be able to explain matters to them, and convince them that there is no danger in coming here. They have an idea of that sort which is a great difficulty sometimes.

Mr. *Thomas E. Fuller*, M.L.A., examined.

Mr.
T. E. Fuller.

646. *Chairman*.] You are aware of the object of this Committee?—Yes.

647. I understand that you can furnish some information with reference to the prospects of getting supplies of labour from the East Coast; please be good enough to favour us with any information you may possess?—My suggestions relate both to England and the East Coast. With regard to the latter I may say that natives

have been brought here by me from Zanzibar, Mozambique and Delagoa Bay, both for my own use and as Coolies to work at the docks and on ship-board. I have also brought them for certain persons in the Colony, farmers and others. Two years ago the Messrs. Cloete had, I believe, a number. Their labour is also very much used in Natal. I think 200 were ordered by the Messrs. Cloete; but the immigration stopped, I believe, in consequence of the war, and orders were not all executed. They are always under an agreement to be taken back; and, as the men I brought out for Messrs. Cloete and others have not been sent back, I believe they are still here; and as the first of them came in November, 1876, I think their time must have expired. The terms of their contract were, I believe, £1 a month, with mealie rations.

648. Mr. *Hockley*.] And clothing?—I do not think so. I am not sure. The cost of bringing them here was divided on the principle of the assisted immigration from England, the applicant paying half and the Government the balance. The passage from Delagoa Bay was £3 3s. each, without food; but I think they were fed with mealies and scraps of food, for which I believe 1s. a day each was paid. Those from Zanzibar cost £7 or £7 10s. each, including food. In Zanzibar there are a limited number of liberated slaves, who make exceedingly good workmen; but they are very limited, and the demand for them exceeds the supply. The Kafir emigrants are sections of the Amatonga people. At Imhambane and Delagoa Bay there are immigration agents. I have considerable difficulties with the East Coast coolies, because we cannot lodge them in Cape Town. They would do much better on a farm where they could be kept together. They work admirably on board ship, and some of the captains take to them. Captain Garrett always spoke very highly of them. Owing to our difficulty in housing them they are as costly as our ordinary dock coolies.

649. Would there be any difficulty in securing these people from Delagoa Bay in large numbers? Single men, for terms of two or three years, for wages at £1 a month, to be brought here and sent back?—No difficulty at all.

Mr.
T. E. Fuller.
Sept. 2, 1879.

Mr.
T. E. Fuller.
Sept. 2, 1879.

650. Do you think they would remain here?—Yes, I think a good percentage would.

651. If you were convinced of the necessity of adding to our labour supply, would you select the Delagoa Bay people?—To a certain extent I would, for the kind of work you require on your farms; of course I think an influx of Europeans desirable, in consideration of the present and future wants of the country, but for outdoor labour these people are particularly suitable.

652. Mr. *Myburgh*.] What do you think of juvenile Europeans?—I think you could get a fair number. When I was Emigration Agent I sent out several, who have answered very well. I think that just now there is a golden opportunity of getting agricultural labourers from England of a very good class. I think Cornish youths would be available. There is great distress among the Cornish miners; the Cornish miners and other tradesmen who were sent out by the Emigration Commission were among the best immigrants you have had.

653. *Chairman*.] Do you think they could come here at such wages as the farmer could afford to give?—Just now they are greatly distressed. They are used to working in the earth, and are hard-working-steady people, many of them being religious men. I believe I could find a hundred here now whom I sent out; and they are quite examples. They are now emigrating from England to New Zealand and Australia, and I think there is a good opportunity to get them here as there is no Emigration Agent in a better position to get them than ours. We have an Agent in Cornwall, a Mr. Hopley, who knows the men well, and is trusted by them.

654. On what terms would they offer themselves to the farmers?—The Gloucestershire youths that were sent out were about eighteen years old. They were paid 25s. a month and food; but not simply mealies like Kafirs.

655. Mr. *Marais*.] Would those people expect a house in addition to 25s. or 30s. a month and food?—I should think they would expect quarters on the farm. Some of the youths I mentioned were treated kindly; were allowed to keep ducks and so on, and they sent home very good reports to their parents.

656. Mr. *Louw.*] Do not you think there would be a chance of getting juveniles?—Those I referred to were young men. I sent out a couple of men as overseers at £70 a-year, and they took with them seven or eight youths each. We sent out 40 or 50 youths from an industrial institution at Birmingham where they take any waifs and strays, such as children born in the work-house. I think there is also a serious want of artizans in the country.

657. *Chairman.*] But if the railway works are stopped a great many of that class will be set free?—Yes.

658. Mr. *Myburgh.*] Would these youths do well as domestic servants?—Yes. But I do not think English boys are much accustomed to inside work.

659. Mr. *Louw.*] Do you think English labourers could be got to work from sunrise to sunset, as we do, instead of the hours they work in their own country?—I think so. They work as long in England as they do here.

660. Here they get lots of rest during the day; half-an-hour for breakfast, an hour-and-a-half or two hours perhaps in the middle of the day, and another rest in the afternoon. With these rests would they work from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m.?—I think so.

Mr. *Axel Wilhelm Erikson* examined.

661. *Chairman.*] You are engaged in trading in Damaraland?—Yes.

662. How long have you been there?—Thirteen years.

663. You are therefore well acquainted with the Berg Damaras?—Yes.

664. Do you agree with or dissent from the evidence of Mr. Palgrave?—I agree with it.

665. You think the Berg Damaras would be suitable for agricultural labourers in this country?—Yes; but they will have to be fed up a little; and the wilder ones from the mountains will have to be trained. Those we have are very good servants.

666. How many do you employ?—Myself and my people who are out trading and hunting employ several hundreds all the year round. I have sixty wagons, and

Mr.
T. E. Fuller.
Sept. 2, 1879.

Mr.
A. W. Erikson.

Mr.
A. W. Erikson
Sept. 2, 1879.

three of them go with each wagon to look after the cattle, &c. We employ quite 200 every year.

667. What do you pay them?—Good men get £1 a month and their mealies.

668. Mr. *Marais*.] And the ordinary men?—Those who come starving from the mountains get only their food.

669. Mr. *Myburgh*.] They are glad to work for their food?—Yes, at present; but when we get rain there are lots of roots which they eat, and they will not work when they can get them.

670. *Chairman*.] Are they sharp people?—They are not very stupid, neither are they very intellectual. If they were they would not submit to oppression on all sides as they do. They learn work readily. Those we employ in the gardens are very good after a little training, and work hard.

671. Do you think we could get a few hundred to come here on trial on the terms named by Mr. Palgrave?—Yes; for now they must die either of starvation or by the bullets of their enemies. These Beast Damaras are so wealthy, their cattle is increased to such an incredible extent, that they require a great many people to get water and look after their cattle, that they make up commandoes and shoot men and women, bringing such as they can to work, and they make slaves of them.

672. Mr. *Marais*.] Do you think they might be induced to come for 10s. or 15s. a month with their food?—They do not know what a pound is, but they see those who have been employed by white people, and they tell them that 18s. would be too little while they are getting £1 there.

673. But you say they are starving?—Yes; and they will work for their food at present; but if it rains they go to the roots again.

674. Mr. *Louw*.] What do you pay for the raw material?—What we please. Sometimes 10s., sometimes a little clothes.

675. Do you think we could get them here for 10s. or 15s. with food and clothing?—Yes, at present.

676. Would they enter into a contract for three or

five years?—I think they would like to go back again unless they had their families. But if you get their families with them very few would care to go back.

677. Mr. *Marais*.] Are they honest as a rule?—I never saw honesty in black men. They are all born thieves ; and these people are not an exception.

Mr.
A. W. Eriksson,
Sept. 2, 1879.

The Reverend *George Brown*, M.L.A., examined.

678. *Chairman*.] You reside near Alice?—Yes.

679. Have you heard it alleged that there is a great want of labour, especially in the Western Districts of the Colony?—Yes, and in the Eastern Districts as well.

Rev. G. Brown,
M.L.A.

680. Can you account for that scarcity of labour, and suggest a way in which it may be remedied?—There has been an increased demand for labour on our public works, and that has diverted labour from its usual channels ; a great many of the natives who used to work for the farmers, are now employed on the public works ; and it is to that cause I attribute the diversion of labour.

681. When public works are brought to a close may we expect a change in this state of things?—We hope that will bring an amendment of things ; but the farmers will not be able to pay the same rate of wages as the labourers are now receiving from Government.

682. Is this want of labour felt a good deal on the Frontier?—Yes.

683. Can you propose any remedy?—I do not see how it can be remedied.

684. Do you think we should leave things as they are and wait for a happier dispensation?—I should like to see a large increase of intelligent labourers, such as would develop the resources of the country. But perhaps that class would not remedy the present difficulty much, as they probably would not work much for others.

685. Mr. *Marais*.] Is not native labour plentiful on the frontier?—Not so plentiful as it was ; as I said, the public works have diverted a good deal of it ; but there are plenty of people if they could be made to work. I would lay greater necessity upon the natives to labour,

Rev. G. Brown, either for themselves, or for us, by making them pay a larger share of taxation, and a fairer rent for their lands.
 M.L.A.
 Sept. 2, 1879. I think Government give them land upon too easy terms.

686. I believe you reside near a Native Industrial Institution. Is not that a source of supply?—Oh! dear no. I do not think it is intended to be so.

687. How is that? We are spending a lot of money upon these institutions?—I can only say that it is not a source of supply. I would not be fond of employing persons trained at any of these institutions; I have had one or two of them; but do not wish to have any more.

688. Would not they supply skilled labour?—I do not know of any skilled labour being supplied by them except in one or two cases. They do not seem to prefer working at a trade after their term of apprenticeship has expired. I know one case, a blacksmith in my neighbourhood, who earns ten shillings a day. This is the only instance I know.

689. *Chairman.*] You think the way to make them work is to compel them to contribute more to the revenue of the country?—Yes. Government gives them as much land as they can graze and cultivate for ten shillings a year, while other people have to pay three pounds for land of the same description.

690. Then you do not think there is any reason for introducing labour from beyond this country, if that we have could be utilised?—No, not merely manual labour.

691. *Mr. Marais.*] But from the evidence we have heard there is no doubt that there exists a great want of labour. How is that to be supplied until you can make these people work? Even in your part you say there is a difficulty in getting native labour. If we do not import labour, what do you propose?—No man will labour, at least at the lower class of labour, unless necessity is laid upon him. People of that sort do not work for the mere love of it. I think that if a greater necessity were laid upon these people they would work more. They go regularly enough for short terms of service, such as sheep shearing and reaping, a long way into the colony; because they get high wages for that.

A properly organised effort might be made to induce them to come into the Western Districts. The further they are removed from their home, the better they work.

Rev. G. Brown,
M.L.A.
Sept. 2, 1879.

692. *Chairman.*] Then your opinion may be summed up thus; there is plenty of the raw material, and the way to utilize it is to make the natives contribute more towards the revenue of the country?—That is it.

Mr. H. Ruperti examined.

693. *Chairman.*] You are a merchant in Cape Town? —Yes; I am also owner of an extensive farm in the district of Malmesbury.

Mr.
H. Ruperti.

694. Do you feel a want of labour?—Very much. I have had a great deal of experience, having been twenty-two years in this country; I was for a long time engaged in a very large business here, Messrs. Collison & Company's. We had wine and distillery works in Stellenbosch. Thus I have come in contact with a good many people in the country, and have had a good deal of experience in these matters. My farm is near the Mission Station of Mamre, where there are 2,000 people located; still there is a continual difficulty in getting labour, although they have agents at my place. They can go home too easily, and their mode of living costs them nothing; that I take to be the reason of the difficulty. They will work only three or four days a week. If they were made to pay taxes they would be compelled to work. We have had some of the war prisoners, Kafirs, but I am afraid they will not stay in this country. There were some very good people amongst them. I have two of them at my residence at Kalk Bay, whom I got from Government for a term of three years. They are well behaved; but they say they would like to go back as soon as possible. I have just returned from a trip of nine months to Europe, and during that time these people have behaved admirably, notwithstanding my absence; but they will not stay. Some years ago Mr. Fuller went to Europe to send emigrants out. I have seen a lot of these people, and had some of them. I am sorry to say that there was not enough care taken in the choice of

Mr.
H. Rupert.
Sept. 2, 1879.

them. I have lately been in Germany and other parts, and have traced where some of these people came from. I believe there were some very good men amongst them ; but they were not the proper stamp of people for farmers. I would advise, if you cannot get coloured labour, that you should get the right sort of people. There are hundreds in Germany and Belgium who would be glad to come. We want Germans out of the heart of Germany ; men who have learned a trade at which they work only in the winter, and who are excellent agriculturists and work for the farmers in the summer. They would be a very useful class here upon our farms and villages.

695. Mr. *Marais*.] At what wages could they be got ? ---I think they would be satisfied with £1 or 30s. a month with food. I mean the better class. But they are people who like a place of their own ; and I would recommend that the Hottentots on the Mission Stations should have titles granted them to the land, they would soon sell them, and then these people could get them.

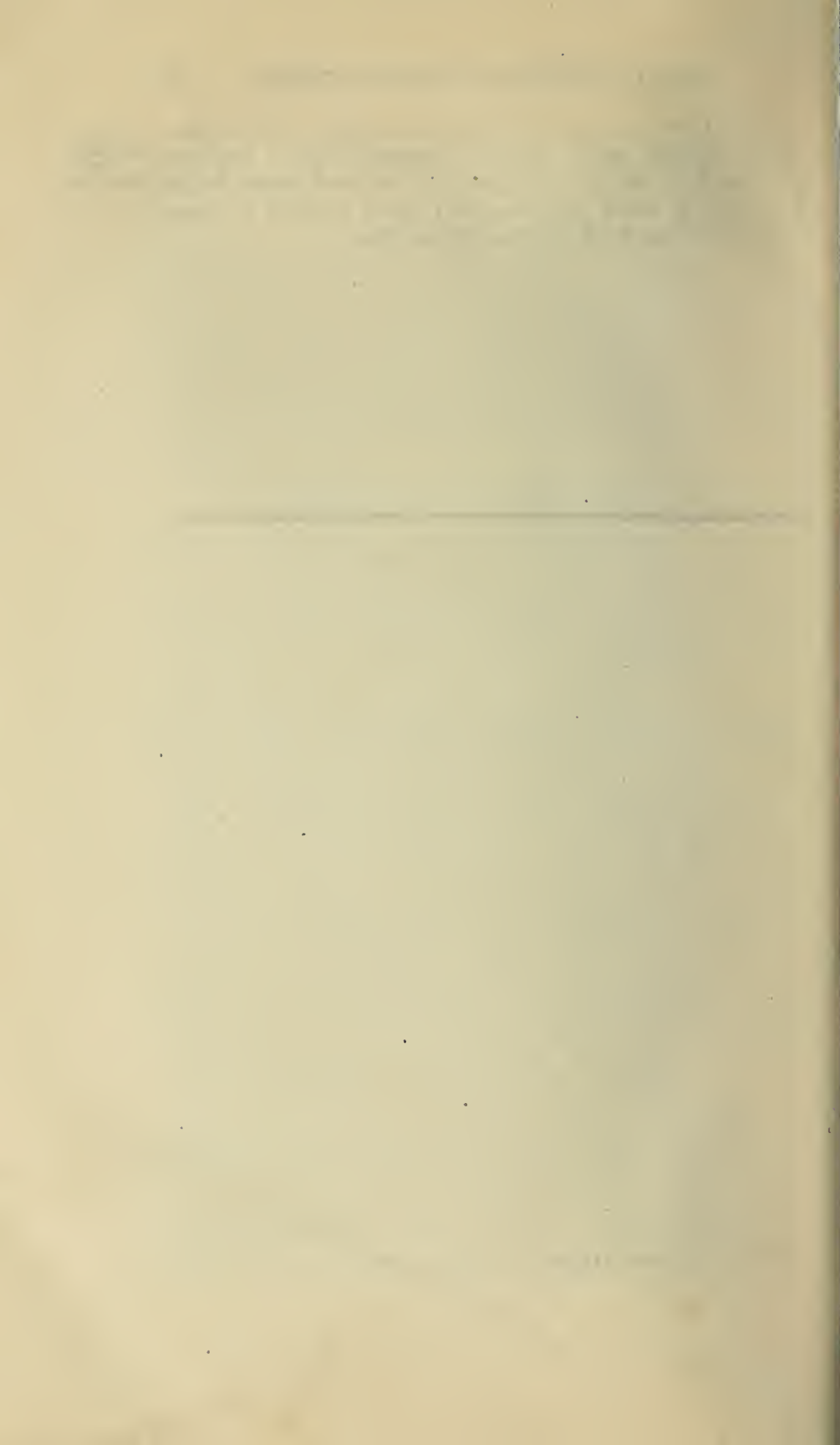
696. Suppose they got a house to live in, would they come?—Yes, if you paid them £1 a month. I prefer white labour to coloured ; because we must look into the future of the country. If you bring Chinese labour here, what will become of the country afterwards ? What kind of population will you have. If you bring a white race here, in three or four generations they may sit in this very House. You must get proper people to make the selection, and not leave it to the agents of vessels.

697. Mr. *Myburgh*.] The object of this Committee is to get labour. Do you know that three or four years ago labour was imported from Europe ?—They were not the right class of people. They were got out of the towns. You should get these agricultural tradesmen from the interior of Germany, such as I have described.

698. But farmers here work for the whole year. It would not do to have people who work half the year at a trade?—If you can get good black labour why don't you ! If you can make Hottentots work they are clever enough ; but they have nothing to pay, so they idle about half their time. I think the sooner these missionary stations are done away with the better.

699. How do you account for the scarcity of labour?—
Many people went to the Diamond-fields. But we
pay too high wages. People will not work more than a
few days a week because they earn enough to keep
them in idleness for the rest of the time.

Mr.
H. Rupert.
Sept. 2, 1879.



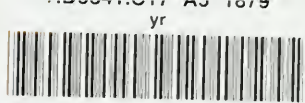
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY

Los Angeles

This book is DUE on the last date stamped below.

Form L9-Series 4939

UNIV. OF CALIF. LIBRARY, LOS ANGELES



L 009 504 562 1

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THIS BOOK CARD



University Research Library

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54
1844352923

CALL NUMBER
H05041 01784 1079

SER VOL PT COP

AUTHOR

CAPT. DE. LIPP. HOPE PART I

