

MEDICAL BILL.

In Committee of the Whole,—

Dr. BOWKER moved,—

That it is expedient to bring in a Bill to amend the law respecting the qualifications of medical practitioners.

He said that the measure was an important one, such as it had been found necessary to adopt in other countries, but as he did not anticipate that the House would refuse to pass the motion, he would defer his remarks on the measure until he moved its second reading.

Question put, and passed.

Resolution reported to the House, and agreed to.

Bill presented, and read a first time.

STANDARD WEIGHT OF GRAIN BILL.

In Committee of the Whole,—

The amendments made in this Bill by the Legislative Council were agreed to.

JOADJA CREEK RAILWAY BILL.

Mr. GARRETT moved the second reading of this Bill. The object of the Bill was to empower a private company to construct a line of railway for their own use branching off the main Southern line, at or near Mittagong. The Bill had been carefully considered by a select committee of the House, and it contained the usual provisions for protecting the public interests. By passing the Bill the House would be doing something towards the development of what promised to be a large industry.

Mr. LACKEY said it was not the intention of the Government to offer any opposition to the Bill. In Committee he would propose some amendments in detail.

Question put, and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Bill verbally amended in Committee, and report adopted.

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. WATSON moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. McELHONE took advantage of the opportunity to call the attention of the Government to the action of the Executive Commissioner of the Exhibition, Mr. Jennings, in dismissing gate-keeper

Macdonald, who had refused to admit Mr. d'Avigdor and Mr. Wardell to the Exhibition without the production of their passes. Mr. Jennings had publicly alleged that his reason for dismissing Macdonald was that the man had been guilty of insolent behaviour to Sir Alfred Stephen. The honorable member read a letter from Sir Alfred Stephen in which he completely exonerated the gate-keeper. Mr. Jennings' statement put into the mouth of the Colonial Secretary in answer to a question asked in this House relative to Macdonald's dismissal was thus shown to be absolutely untrue; and he felt that, in justice to the injured man, Sir Alfred Stephen's version of the alleged offence should be made public. He contended that Macdonald ought to have been commended for the zealous performance of his duty, and that d'Avigdor ought to have been dismissed.

Mr. BARBOUR suggested that Macdonald, who, he understood, was to be reinstated, should receive the full wages due to him for the period of his suspension.

Question put, and passed.

The House adjourned at 10 minutes after 9 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 3 February, 1880.

Vacant Seat (Mr. Sutherland)—The Sydney Infirmary—
Mr. Charles Brown—Tramway and Omnibus Company's Bill—Joadja Creek Railway Bill—Immigration.

Mr. SPEAKER took the chair at half-past 4 o'clock.

VACANT SEAT.

MR. SUTHERLAND.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received a letter from John Sutherland, Esquire, resigning his seat as member for the Electoral District of Paddington.

Sir HENRY PARKES moved,—

That the seat of John Sutherland, Esquire, member for the Electoral District of Paddington, hath become, and is now vacant, by reason of the resignation thereof by the said John Sutherland, Esquire.

Mr. FITZPATRICK said he was aware that in the course he was about to take, he was departing from what was usual on receiving the resignation of a member of the House; but he found it impossible for him to let the motion pass without saying a word in reference to the honorable member whose resignation had just been announced. Mr. Sutherland, as honorable members were aware, held a seat in this House uninterruptedly for twenty years, and, he thought, always represented the same constituency. Mr. Sutherland was a member of at least four Ministries, and he thought it was generally acknowledged by the House that he displayed considerable ability and honesty in the performance of his public duties. He did but express the opinion of the country when he said that this House might have well spared—he would not say a better, but a bigger man, and he hoped it would not be long before Mr. Sutherland again occupied a seat in this Chamber.

Question put, and passed.

THE SYDNEY INFIRMARY.

Mr. R. B. Smith moved,—

That there be laid upon the table of this House a return stating the following particulars respecting the Sydney Infirmary during the years 1878 and 1879, distinguishing each year:—

(1.) The amount received from the Government towards the support of the institution.

(2.) The number of annual subscribers, and the total amount of their subscriptions.

(3.) The number of subscribers who voted for the Board of Directors.

(4.) The number of subscribers who voted for the Honorary Medical Officers.

(5.) The total amount expended during the year 1878 and the year 1879 in carrying out the objects of the institution, namely, the relief and cure of the sick.

(6.) The total amount of money now standing to the credit of the Infirmary, as derived from all sources.

(7.) The total number of persons who received medical treatment from the commencement to the end of the year 1878 and the year 1879, distinguishing the number of males and of females, of in-door and of out-door patients.

(8.) The number of deaths which occurred among the in-door and the out-door patients up to the end of each of the said years, specifying the causes of death, commencing with those causing the highest rate of mortality, and proceeding *gradatim* to the lowest described in their English and scientific names.

(9.) The number of resident and of non-resident medical officers, their names and the amount of each of their salaries and emoluments.

(10.) The names of the Honorary Physicians and Surgeons, and the number of times each has attended the in-door and out-door patients during the year 1878 and the year 1879.

(11.) The number of attendants and of non-medical persons employed in the Infirmary, their designations, and the several amounts of their wages, salaries, and emoluments.

(12.) The names of the General Committee of the Board of Directors, with the number of their meetings during the year 1878 and the year 1879, and the number of times each director has attended such meetings.

(13.) The annual average cost per head of the in-door patients and of the out-door patients respectively.

(14.) The number of in-door patients and out-door patients who have paid for medical treatment, and the total amount received from them on that account.

(15.) The sum charged weekly for persons entering the Infirmary and prepared to pay for medical treatment therein.

(16.) The number of students now pursuing the study of the medical profession in the Infirmary, and the amount of the premium or fee required from each for that privilege.

Question put, and passed.

MR. CHARLES BROWN.

Mr. McELHONE moved,—

That an address be presented to the Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid upon the table of this House copies of all papers, correspondence, Executive, and other minutes, in reference to the removal of Mr. Charles Brown from the office of head clerk in the Pre-lease Branch of the Lands Office.

Question put, and passed.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS COMPANY'S BILL.

Mr. DRIVER (*by consent*) moved, without notice,—

That the report from the select committee on the Sydney and Suburban Street Tramway Bill, brought up on the 19th December, 1873, and the report from the select committee on the Sydney Tramway and Omnibus Company (Limited) Bill, brought up on the 20th March, 1878, be referred to the select committee now sitting on Sydney City and Suburban Tramway and Omnibus Company's Bill.

Question put, and passed.

THIRD READING.

Joadja Creek Railway Bill.

IMMIGRATION.

Mr. CAMERON rose to move,—

(1.) That, in the opinion of this House, the depressed state of the labour market, and the financial exigencies of the colony, require that all assisted immigration should be absolutely suspended during the present year.

(2.) That the foregoing resolution be communicated by address to His Excellency the Governor.

He did not submit this motion with the intention of arguing the question as to whether, under any set of circumstances, the importation of people to this country at the public expense was a wise or an unwise policy; but he wished the House to affirm that, in the exigencies of the present time, the immigration which had been carried on hitherto should for a while be stayed, in the interests of the producing classes of the country. He unhesitatingly asserted that, for the last fifteen years, we had never passed through a period of greater depression, so far as the working classes were concerned, than the present. This might be accounted for by many reasons—amongst others by the influx of unemployed from the adjacent colonies, and by the unnatural spurt given to the building trades by the International Exhibition. In fact it was notorious that the gentleman who supervised the construction of the Exhibition building advertised in all the adjacent colonies for additional labour, in order that he might get the building hurriedly completed. The employment thus given was, it should be remembered, of an exceptional character, and not likely to occur again for a time at least, so that the workmen who came here expecting that they would be fully employed after the building was completed, remained among us and were now parading the streets. If we looked to the pastoral and to the agricultural interests, it would be found that from adverse circumstances they were not able to afford employment to the same extent as that they had given in the past. The pastoral tenants and the free selectors were not so well off as they were a year or two ago. If the selectors were doing as well as could be desired they would undoubtedly be able to employ a very much larger amount of labour than they were employing at the present time; but such was their condition, that, instead of being able to employ other people,

they had occasionally to leave their selections and search for odd jobs by which to eke out a living. This was a state of affairs which every well-wisher of the country regretted to see, but it was the result of that general depression from which every country of the civilised world had been suffering. He had no desire to hold up this colony as being in a worse condition than any of the adjacent colonies. So far from that, he claimed for the colony of New South Wales that it was the best place for any man to reside in who wished to make his way in the world. It must be borne in mind that the neighbouring colonies had undergone the same depression in trade, and that as a consequence they were staying their hands with regard to immigration,—this was notably the case in South Australia and Queensland. He, for one, would not be inclined to interfere with the influx of people from the mother country, even under adverse circumstances, and though a temporary amount of hardship might accrue to those who came here, if he were convinced that the system under which we were bringing them to our shores was such as could be satisfactory to those who desired to see our population rapidly increase. But what sort of people were they who were being brought into the country? He did not wish to speak in a manner at all derogatory to the character of our immigrants, the majority of whom were no doubt very estimable people, but what were they from a colonist's point of view? If we imported labour into the large centres of population at the time when the labour market was dull, we were bringing in a class who could be of no service to the colony; whereas, if the immigration system were so organised that the bone and sinew of the mother-country could be imported and settled on the land, there would be very little to complain of. We had been bringing to the colony carpenters, engineers, moulders, tinsmiths, and other artisans who could find no home under existing circumstances in the vast interior. It was of no benefit to bring a man here who had been working all his life in a cotton factory to put him in the bush. What could a man do on the land who had been taught to make only cotton reels or brass buttons? Yet, these were the sort of men who had been

brought to the country, and the consequence was, that, instead of having a class of people capable of swelling the national prosperity, we had brought large numbers into the country who were obliged to reside in the chief centres of population and to hang about the streets in search of employment; and the effect of their presence here was to lower the price of labour. Those people often had to take any description of work whatever, or to beseech members of Parliament, by application at their doors, to get them, if possible, into the Government service. He did not know how other honorable members were situated, but he believed that he was warranted in saying of them what he could say regarding himself—that his house was almost like a registry office from the number of poor deserving men who were constantly waiting upon him in their search for employment—men who were anxious to get work at a shilling or two more than was absolutely necessary to put bread into the mouths of their families. He declined to argue the question in the spirit very often adopted by the public Press of this country, though he must say that the Press of late had adopted an extremely modified tone with reference to immigration. He saw that two of our daily journals admitted the necessity of so regulating immigration as to meet the requirements of the labour market; but an evening newspaper exclaimed “Here we have a large country with only three quarters of a million of population! We have 200,000,000 acres of land; we have erected so many thousand miles of telegraph wires; we have so much annually provided on the estimates for public works; and is it to be said that the country can not support more than the present number of its population?” No man had been idiotic enough to say that the country would not support more people, and those who argued thus were simply begging the question. The question was—had we, under our existing land laws, the necessary facilities for affording employment to the immigrant population? Or were we justified in bringing people here who only went to swell the ranks of certain classes who already could not find enough to do? He unhesitatingly asserted that the class of immigrants who were coming to this

colony were doing little else than swelling the ranks of the unemployed. In the city of Sydney, which contained about one quarter of the whole population, there were at the present time more men unable to obtain employment than had been known before during the last ten years, and many of these were men who had been induced to come here on the representation that they would find better and more constant employment than they could obtain in the mother country. We found that engineers and artisans of various classes, whom we ought to be proud to welcome to this country, had arrived at a time when they were glad to earn a few shillings at pick and shovel work. He heard a member say a few weeks ago that the question was one that would not stand discussion; but he asked any sensible man who knew what it was to labour whether the present system of immigration could be justified for a moment? Was it not deplorable that men upon whose industry the future welfare of the country so much depended should be walking our streets without anything to do during two-thirds of their time? Was it not deplorable to find, as he had seen, a man who had had a University education glad to take any light occupation at which he could earn 5s. or 6s. a day? Honorable members who represented metropolitan constituencies would bear testimony to the extent to which the working classes were in want of employment. They would recollect the numerous demands made upon members of Parliament to obtain passes for men who wanted to go up the country. What had been the result? Men who had gone into the country—not tender-fingered people afraid of work, but men prepared to take the axe in their hands or to follow the plough—had found in hundreds of cases that new-chums, who did not know the ruling rates of wages, had been employed to the detriment of old hands in order to save 6d. or 1s. a day. We had heard the argument before, that immigration was a thing that must not be looked at solely from a labour point of view. We had heard from the honorable gentleman at the head of the Government that he would not be a party to a discussion of the question from a merely labour point of view—that he would not be a party to any system the object of which

would be to reduce the rate of wages. But so long as we imported men who had nothing but the skill of their right arm to depend upon, those men must go into the labour market, and the number of those whom the wages fund of the country was to support must be increased. Take the iron industry. If 1,000 men were employed in that branch and 200 or 250 immigrants were brought in without any additional capital to employ them, was it not reasonable to expect that wages would be reduced? He denied that the State had any right to subsidise capital at the expense of labour. He denied that the State had any right to regulate immigration in the way which had been adopted in past years, only one class being brought here. Were not our immigrants all poor men? Could any one tell him of any case in which by virtue of a bonus or assisted passage any tenant farmers had come out here? Certainly not. No immigration of that description had occurred since our immigration policy was commenced. If we told the people in the mother country, who intended to come out to the colony, that we had passed land laws, under which any poor man who was thrifty and industrious could soon acquire a homestead, we were deceiving them. What was the position of one of these persons when he landed, presuming he came—as most immigrants did—with very little money at his command? He could select 40 acres, the smallest area allowed by our land laws. If the honorable member for the Upper Hunter were present he could tell the House how utterly impossible it was for a man to keep a family upon the produce of that acreage. The man paid a deposit of 5s. an acre, or £10 in all, for this land; and presuming the Government carried him to his place of residence, he had immediately to commence an expenditure upon improvements, procure necessaries for his family, and sufficient stock to carry on the cultivation of the land. This could not be done with less capital than £300 or £400. Furthermore, he had to wait a long time before his produce would yield him any return. He granted honorable members this argument—that if they found an avenue for our imported labour in the vast uninhabited lands of our interior, they would be doing

[*Mr. Cameron.*

great good to the country. But were we encouraging this desirable state of things by pouring mechanics into our centres of population, where large numbers of men were at the present time out of work? He denied the right of the State to do anything of the sort; and any one who gave the subject a moment's reflection would see that by so doing, whether we intended it or not, we were playing into the hands of the capitalists by reducing the labourers' wages. A member of the House told him, in conversation a few nights ago, that he would not support immigration to bring about a reduction of wages; and the same gentleman added, "You cannot get a man under 6s. per day now; and you cannot get more than 7s. a day out of him." This was the light in which that honorable member regarded the immigration vote. He denied the right of the State to bring any labour to this country, unless more was done than had been done in the past to provide a means of livelihood for the new arrivals. Some time ago he put several questions on this subject to the Colonial Secretary. They were as to whether the Government had taken any action to place expected immigrants in the country districts, and if so, what was the nature of the replies to the communications of the Government from the authorities in the districts in question. The Colonial Secretary answered, in effect, that very little had been done in the matter; and, as nearly as he could remember, that only two replies had been received, namely, from the police magistrates at Orange and Blayney. The answer from Orange was to this effect—"There is plenty of room for additional labour here—only not at present. The money market is too tight;" while the reply from Blayney was—"There will be plenty of room here by-and-by; but not at present. Many men are walking about doing nothing." Now, given this position, he asked any reasoning man if it would be fair to place immigrants in these particular districts to compete with and undersell the semi-employed people already located there? The question would hardly stand argument. He had no doubt he would be told—because he had heard it before—that the more people we had here the better would it be for the country; because more people meant less taxation

per head and more economical Government. He had heard this sophistical kind of reasoning times out of number, but to what result did it bring us? Were the expenses of Government less than they were ten years ago? Instead of the population being less dependent upon the Government, was it not a fact that our Government service was out of all proportion to our population? A year or two ago the *Sydney Morning Herald* sent a gentleman, who wrote under the *nom-de-plume* of "The Vagabond," into the country to inquire as to the way in which immigrants were being employed. He went in the guise of a railway labourer or navvy and more than a week sought for employment. What was the result of his inquiries? He found that the Government had made no preparations; that there was no work to be obtained, and that he could obtain unlimited cheques upon the bank of sympathy from dozens of people who had been indiscriminately sent away from the city, ignorant as to where they were going and as to the description of employment for which they would have to seek. "The Vagabond's" article appeared in the city Press, but did the capitalist and commercial organ, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, when it found its own emissary sending such damaging reports about the system—or rather, want of system—admit anything of the sort? No. That would not have suited the interests of the capitalists, and of the majority of its subscribers. The letters of "The Vagabond" pointed out the way in which women and children of tender years were sent up the country, and after travelling day after day upon bad roads, and enduring great fatigue, were compelled in many instances—he said this from his own knowledge—to come back to Sydney, and mix, in search of employment, in a centre of population where the supply of labour was already greatly in excess of the demand. This had been the constant result of our immigration system. It had been carried out with no more regard for the interests of the people most directly concerned than a gentleman stocking his run would display in respect of the sheep and bullocks he purchased at so much per head. The interests of these people had never been thought of by the Government. The

system had been carried on and persisted in without any regard for the interests of either the people already here or for the interests of the people to come; and in all its ramifications it exhibited such thorough carelessness as to the well-being of the people, as a whole, that it ought to cover with shame the Government who perpetuated it. Look at our coal-mining industry. Would any one say that that was in a prosperous condition? Some capitalists of course would say, "That is because the men will not work for so much less than they are demanding; because they are asking a higher price for their output of coal." He asked, what right had we to employ the public funds of this country to interfere between these men and their employers? There were hundreds of families in the Northumberland District in a state of absolute distress; and much of the money which was being sent to relieve distress 16,000 miles away—although he did not wish to say anything against the laudable benevolence prompting that movement—might have been spent in affording relief nearer our own doors. He would not only be told that this state of things resulted from the men's own fault, but most probably the bugbear of trades unionism also would be brought up again. This was an old capitalist cry which ought no longer to be heard.

MR. CHARLES: Nevertheless true.

MR. CAMERON: Admitting for the sake of argument only that it was true, still he asked the honorable member if any representative of the people would be justified in voting public money to interfere between the miners and their employers? Was that the honorable member's object? Honorable members might vote in this House for such a proposal, or for the importation of people without any regard for their individual welfare, but who of them would be so foolhardy as to admit that intention before their masters—the people? He looked for an answer to this immigration question somewhat different from that which it had received in the past. We had heard all kinds of generalities and beautiful theories as to the peopling of our vast domain with a healthy, thriving, industrious population. Could any honorable member point out to him an avenue of

labour in which the supply did not greatly exceed the demand? Perhaps he would be told that people could not obtain servant girls. He believed the scarcity of this description of labour was mentioned in this evening's paper. But the popular cry as to servant-girl-ism existed as much in overcrowded places such as London and New York as it did in the city of Sydney; and perhaps the reason was not far to seek. We must bear in mind that the past twenty or thirty years had made a great alteration in the position of young women, many of whom now naturally preferred to learn a trade rather than seek domestic service, on account of the greater freedom afforded them in the former walk of life. We might import them by shiploads, by hundreds—as we did sixteen years ago—until our streets were swarming with poor girls driven to desperation; and the probability was, that there would still be great difficulty in supplying the demand for domestic servants. In preferring trades to domestic service, girls might be taking a mistaken view of their real interests; but we must remember that the caprice of the mistress had often as much to do with the paucity of servant girls as anything else; and when ladies did not think it any more beneath their dignity to cook a dinner or to darn a shirt than to trifle with crochet or to play on the piano, we might expect to hear far less of this outcry as to the want of domestic labour. If a man entered into a speculation and was fool enough to do so when he knew that he could not find the requisite amount of labour here, it was his duty to study the state of affairs so as to see whether it would pay him to introduce the labour at his own cost. He denied the right of the State to bring out labour for any man or organisation of men. If a man wanted labour the Legislature had passed an Act enabling him to enter into agreements with those he brought out, which ensured their faithful service. He granted that the money voted for immigration was the proceeds from our lands and not of taxation, but he denied that we had any right to take one shilling of that money to import people for the benefit of capital as against the interests of labour. We had heard it said that the people of England had a

[*Mr. Cameron.*

legitimate claim on our land fund. He denied that the people of Great Britain had any right to a single inch of the lands of the colony until they came here and took up their abode, and we had no right to pay them to do that. If we admitted the doctrine that the people of any other country—he did not care how closely it was allied to us by blood or by political ties—had a right to the lands of this country, where were we to stop? If, for example, we admitted the right of the English people to a share of these lands, we must admit that the Government of that country had some right to a voice in the administration of these lands. What then became of our free constitution and of our vaunted liberty? We might as well give up Responsible Government altogether, and allow ourselves to be governed by the dignitaries of Downing-street. He could never give his assent to such a doctrine. The moment the Constitution of New South Wales was granted, that moment the lands became the property of the people resident here, and not that of people resident in any other part of Her Majesty's dominions. We might as well say that the people of Canada or of New Zealand had a right to our lands, as that the people of Lancashire or Carnarvonshire had. He denied *in toto* that we were under any obligation, expressed or implied, legal or moral, to give the people of the mother country any interest whatever in our lands; he denied them any interest until they cast in their lot with us, and became part of the future Australian nation. He should doubtless be told, as he had been told hundreds of times, that he was trying to do something to retard the progress of the country—that he wanted to keep people from coming on to our lands. He gave such an assertion his most indignant denial. He wished to keep no man from coming here. In God's name let every man with an honest heart, a strong arm, and a pound in his pocket, cast in his lot with us and be welcome. But in using the proceeds of our lands to bring out a particular class of people at the expense of our existing labouring population we were doing a monstrous wrong to them. He asked those gentlemen who believed in free trade—who maintained that it was better to trade with the whole world than exclusively with

ourselves—who believed that our ports should be open to everybody—what they meant by this subsidising of capital at labour's expense? Was it not a fact that through our policy of immigration we had produced a state of things in the labour market which had been unparalleled during the last ten years? Where was the avenue in which we could absorb any addition to our mechanical population? Could any man point to a trade or calling which could employ another hand? He would go further and ask,—could any one point to any squatters—with their vast dominions, many of which were far too vast—who, at the present time, if they were put to the pinch, could employ twenty additional men? At harvest time we heard of the want of hands, but that was only for a few days. The employment was of a temporary nature; and when it was finished the men had to go elsewhere in search of work. The other day he saw a paragraph in the *Dubbo Dispatch* in which it was stated that a party of men had passed through the district with swags on their backs looking for employment which they could not get. The paper stated that these men were not idlers or loafers, but thorough bushmen who were willing to labour, and some of them were in want of food. He asserted fearlessly that there were dozens of men—aye, hundreds—in this city to-day who hardly knew where their to-morrow's dinner was to come from. There were dozens of men in the city who would come to you and ask you for the sake of their wives and children, to get them something to do, even at 2s. 6d. or 3s. a day. These were able-bodied men, men who could not be accused of drinking habits, who did not lead licentious lives, who were an honour to the country which gave them birth, and to that in which they were located, who were willing to take positions as night watchmen, gate-keepers, or any employment which could be offered them. He would ask honorable members—no matter what reply was made to his statements—to consider whether this meant nothing? Should we improve matters by bringing out more of the same class of people at the public expense? Should we, by the introduction of 5,000 artisans or labourers, open one avenue more to employ them unless we intro-

duced a corresponding amount of capital? We should no doubt be told that capital was now locked up in the banks for the want of labour; we should be told that there were men who wanted to invest capital but could not do so because labour was not available. Any man acquainted with the state of the colony knew that that was not so—that the money, which had been advanced to pastoral tenants by our monetary institutions, much of which was locked up in the banks through our pernicious financial system, had been expended, and in many instances had been expended in such a manner as to do away to a large extent with the necessity for labour which existed a year or two ago. Whatever might be thought of his motives in this matter he could assure honorable members that he had no wish to do anything which would retard the progress of the colony in which he was proud his lot was cast. He was desirous that this country should become the great nation which it was ultimately destined to be; but no matter how honorable members might talk in generalities as to the advisableness of the expenditure of our public funds for the purpose of bringing people here, he denied that we were doing that under a wise or proper system when we produced so much individual hardship and distress as existed at present. Let us by all means make our country attractive, let us open up our lands, let us tear ourselves away from the beaten track we had hitherto pursued, and by a more liberal land law attract people with money to our shores. We should find that labour would naturally follow them. But do not let us, under the guise of conferring a benefit on those already located here and those who were to come, pursue a policy of immigration which made us the laughing-stock of the world; a policy which was only distinguished by its want of system, and which hitherto had acted perniciously by bringing out one class to the detriment of many; a policy which subsidised an already privileged class, who seemed to get the affairs of the State wielded chiefly for their own benefit.

Motion made, and question proposed.

Sir HENRY PARKES: A stranger listening to the speech just delivered, and who also had opportunities of listening to other speeches within the last few weeks, would be driven to the conclusion, supposing

he had no other sources of information, that this was the most ill-favoured, poverty-stricken country in the world. According to the honorable member, all the people who are settled in a new country want is to resist the incoming of anybody else—

Mr. CAMERON : I did not say that.

Sir HENRY PARKES : And the doctrine we heard the other day was that what we most wanted, was to resist the introduction of the wealth of other countries. These two doctrines would amount to the erection of a stone wall round the colony—to bidding the whole world to stand off with all they can produce—bidding them to stand off so far as the greatest of all powers, the power of production, is concerned—bidding them to stand off with their industry and their intellect. In introducing this motion, the honorable member has supported it from first to last entirely upon a false basis, and has been raising an entirely false issue. Time after time he told us that we have no right to spend public money to introduce persons for the benefit of capital at the expense of labour. I should think that the honorable member laid down this doctrine a dozen times in his speech. I should like to know where this doctrine was ever propounded. Most assuredly it is not propounded, nor is it acted upon in the appropriations of Parliament for the introduction of British emigrants. I have never heard yet, except from the honorable member and his friends, that any person publicly advocated immigration for the sake of reducing the price of labour, and I have never heard any one, even in his unguarded moments, advocate immigration for the sake of benefiting capital.

We know the country itself is made by men and women;—we know that there are very few capitalists in the country who have not risen from the ranks of labour, and not a single shipload of immigrants has ever arrived here but has brought some one, two, three, or probably a dozen persons who have speedily become employers and absorbed labour so as to make the demand much greater than it would have been if they had not come. I need go no further than this Chamber in support of this statement. Nearly every man of wealth who has sat here is a man who has sprung from the labouring classes; they have acquired the capital they have from their own labour; and when we have

a country which from one end to the other is abounding in wealth, and every field of that wealth in a state that it would be richer if we could get more labour employed on it, it is preposterous to talk of an expenditure of £75,000 per annum injuring anybody. I firmly believe that the state of the people now, speaking with reference to the labouring classes and to all other classes, is much more prosperous than it would have been had no immigration taken place within the last few years. Why, when I arrived in this country forty years ago—in the year 1839—the population of the whole colony, which then included Queensland and Victoria, was only 114,000, and there were then more people out of work than there are now. The working classes were in a condition of great distress—such a condition that the first thing I noticed was a public meeting convened to raise subscriptions to relieve the distress of the working population; and at that time instead of a population of a million and three quarters which now occupies the three colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland, there were, as I have said, only 114,000 men, women, and children. If the argument as to the fewness or largeness of numbers coming to the colony has any bearing on this question, how was it that there was so much distress when the three colonies I have mentioned had only one-seventh of the population this colony has at present? The fact is that if persons of the right character come to a country, so capable of increased productiveness as this is—if they do not come in too large a volume—they can have none other than a beneficial effect on the whole colony. It is extremely difficult to trace the course of any given number of immigrants; but I know it is not true to say that they are not absorbed. I took special care to ascertain what became of the immigrants by the last vessel, the “Northampton.” Seeing this motion on the paper, I asked for a report as to the character and suitability of the immigrants by that ship, and of the manner in which they had been absorbed.

Mr. CAMERON : What do you call absorbed? Does it mean that some people are displaced in their employment by others who are employed at less money?

Sir HENRY PARKES : I do not think it right that I should be interrupted

[*Sir Henry Parkes.*]

with questions it is impossible to answer. It is impossible to reply to such questions as this, which is like the other the honorable member asked when he called on any one to point out any avenue where labour is required and where there is not sufficient labour to supply it. It would probably be difficult for any honorable member to point to any particular avenue in which labour is now required; but if this be shown—that immigrants are employed at good wages, and disappear in the ordinary avenues of industry, and make no complaints—the honorable member's question is answered. That may fairly be said of those who came by the last ship, the "Northampton." The number of immigrants who arrived was 426, men, women, and children. Of this number, the very large proportion of 260—more than one-half—was sent for by their friends, who are resident in the colony, and immediately on their arrival they joined them. Would their friends have sent for them if they were not wanted? With regard to the others, honorable members acquainted with the classification possible in such cases will see that it is very fair. It is as follows:—Farm and other labourers, 91; painters, 5; carpenters and joiners, 7; brickmakers, 6; masons, 6; miners, 4; chairmakers, 2; bootmakers, 3; saddler, 1; railway guards, 2; plumber, 1; coach-smiths, 2; cooper, 1; bookbinder, 1; baker, 1; making a total of 132 able-bodied men. Of this number, 91 are farm or other labourers, which honorable members say are required. Fifty of these 132 never asked for railway passes or tickets for steamers, which they could have done had they needed them; all the others went at once into the interior of the country, and shifted for themselves. These latter engaged at wages averaging, for single men, £30 to £40 per annum with board and lodging. Well, I say fearlessly, that when strangers in the country, farm labourers, can find employment at that rate, it is the very best answer that the country is not in the state of distress depicted by the honorable member. The married couples engaged at £50 to £60 and £65 per annum with board and lodging. All persons fitted for country work, and whose services were available, readily engaged at these rates. This certainly does not afford evidence of

want of employment, or that the country is overdone with immigration. The single women readily found employment at an average of 9s. per week, some earning considerably more than that rate, some less. I hold in my hand a special report, which I will lay on the table, and it relates to the immigration of the past year. The total number of immigrants who arrived in 1879 was 5,731, which relatively is not a very large number. Of that number—and I call attention to these figures—there were deposits sent from this country for 3,685. Surely if persons in the colony thought the country in a state of distress, such as it has been described to be in—if there is no employment, nothing for people to do—they would not to this extent send to England for their friends and furnish in part the means for bringing them here. As I have stated, 5,731 immigrants arrived in the course of the past year, and of these nearly 4,000 were nominated by persons in the colony. There were 3,146 nominated who had yet to arrive, and if you refuse the vote you cannot keep faith with those persons who have sent for their friends. The vote of £75,000 would bring to the colony but few more than 5,000 immigrants. These, according to the usual practice are selected as far as selection can operate; and it should always be borne in mind that the Agent General has no choice with respect to the immigrants nominated from this side, beyond seeing that they conform to the rules which require that they shall be healthy and not exceed certain ages. But, as far as the range of selection extends, they have been selected with so much care that I venture to say that on the whole they will be a very suitable body of persons as colonists. The fact that the immigrants by the "Northampton" have disappeared in the country, having obtained employment at fair remuneration, is confirmation that they also were persons fitted for the circumstances of the colony. Now, in this matter of immigration, the Government is not so much concerned as are the representatives of the people and the Parliament. It cannot for a moment be said that the country could not be governed without resorting to immigration as a part of the scheme of Government; it appertains more particularly to the function of the representative branch of Parliament than to the

Government. If the Government proposed it as a measure essential to the management of public affairs, and as a part of their policy, they must be seriously concerned about the vote; but that is not the position of affairs here. It is, however, a different thing with the representatives of the people who have to look to the material interests of their constituents—to look beyond meetings got up by one class, with a class object—who have to look to the general welfare and advancement of the prosperity of the entire population. It is to them quite a different thing; they having to look to the development of the natural resources of the country, to the opening of new fields of industry, and to that ultimate prosperity which can only be brought about by a union of intellectual power with physical industry. I have already stated that the whole of the important men in the country have sprung from the ranks of the working classes. There is scarcely a single person in the colony to my knowledge who has formed around him a large establishment, who gives employment to a large number of his fellows, maintaining extensive industries, who has not risen directly from the working classes. If it has been so in the past and is so now, is it not likely that our most successful colonists will in the future spring from that class? It is easy to see indication of this in the case of those who arrived in the course of the past year; one must perceive that there will, in that number, be a considerable portion who will very speedily become employers, and find new fields of industry where, perhaps, others never discerned them, and will thus offer more employment to those who were here before them, as well as to new immigrants, thus creating wealth, increasing consumption, and tending to improve the condition of our people in general. The doctrine propounded by the honorable mover—that it is no use bringing labour unless you bring capital to employ it—I must say, without desiring to be uncomplimentary, is incapable of being sustained as an argument. Labour creates capital to employ itself; and where those of feeble discernment may see no field for industry, others may create large industries where none previously existed. I am sure there is scarcely a man who is

[*Sir Henry Parkes.*

listening to me who has not seen this in his own everyday experience—who has not seen that persons will reside in a district for a number of years and eke out a very scanty and unsatisfactory subsistence, when by some chance a man of a different stamp goes among them and sees a source of wealth which none of them ever saw, and fields of employment which none of them ever dreamt of; and not only is employment provided for them but others are attracted to the district, which in its interests becomes larger and more important. In a new country that is seen every day, simply by the introduction of some man of more vigorous energy, of clearer discernment, of greater enterprise, and altogether better adapted for colonising purposes. There is one thing which appears singular to my mind, and that is that this motion should be made by an honorable gentleman who went out of his way on his introduction to public life to proclaim himself an advocate for immigration.

MR. CAMERON: It is not so; the honorable gentleman has repeatedly stated that; but he is labouring under a delusion.

SIR HENRY PARKES: I am not much accustomed to being deluded by my own ears, and I certainly heard the honorable gentleman declare that he was in favour of a well-ordered system of immigration.

MR. CAMERON: I never at any period of my life said so.

SIR HENRY PARKES: I accept the honorable gentleman's disclaimer; but I must have been remarkably deluded, because I am under the strong impression that I heard it with my own ears.

MR. CAMERON: I would call it a well-ordered system if you brought capitalists here.

SIR HENRY PARKES: The honorable gentleman did not defend his motion on the ground of his opposition to immigration altogether, but he said that it was not right to expend public money at this particular time; first, because of the dearth of employment, and secondly, on the ground of the financial condition of the country. Now, I venture to say that the financial situation of the country is not very distressing. The citizens of most other countries would think they were very fortunate if they could enjoy such a comparative immunity from taxation as

we do. The financial position of the country is this, that, notwithstanding undue extravagance—I will not use a stronger term—in the expenditure of money, often for ill-considered improvements—I say ill-considered improvements, because money can hardly ever be improperly expended for well-considered improvements—a very small measure of additional taxation is quite sufficient to make both ends meet, and then the country is more lightly burdened than any other of equal importance in the world. Then is our state such that it should be proclaimed to the world that we are financially embarrassed, while we have the power of doing anything within reason that we require for the Government of the country! I am one of those who believe that the true principle on which Governments should act is to ascertain what is necessary for the advancement of the country, and to raise the money to meet the expense if it be really necessary, and not to cut down real and valuable and required improvements in order to curtail expenditure. Our position is so elastic, so sound, that we could meet any reasonable expenditure without any burdensome taxation, and that is a condition of which any country might well be proud. It may be asked whether it would be possible for us to be in that condition if the country were distressed in regard to the relations between labour and capital. But upon the whole, although, as is very natural in a new country, the relations between labour and capital are faulty in many particulars, there is now a large field for employment. And if it really were the case that honorable members' houses are swarmed by persons who cannot find any kind of employment, I should think I am myself in a situation to hear something about it. I have been a long time before the public; I am a member of Parliament, as are other gentlemen here, and I should think some of these applications would be made to me.

MR. CAMERON: They are afraid of you.

SIR HENRY PARKES: I do not know why they should be afraid of me. Those who know the manner in which I receive any applications made to me will not say that they need be afraid of me. These applications have not been made to me either at the Colonial Secretary's Office

or anywhere else. Whenever I have been accosted by any person, it has been by some one who has lost his way—that is, some person who has missed his chance in life, and has got into that position in which we find hundreds in all large communities. I can say safely that not seven individuals seeking employment as labourers have applied personally to me, and as it has been interjected that they are afraid of me, I may say that I have given some encouragement to such applications, for in each of those cases I have in some way or other assisted the applicant. I reside on a main road, and there is not an unusual number of persons seeking employment around me, although employment is often offered. Upon one occasion—and I am tempted to tell this little anecdote for the benefit of my honorable friend the member for East Sydney (Mr. Macintosh)—two men did apply to me for employment in clearing land on the Blue Mountains, where I reside. I happened to want two or three men, and they were told that they could have employment. But they answered that they would rather go on to Sydney, and they did go on to Sydney. They met me in the street about a fortnight afterwards, and asked me whether I could give them the same employment then. I did not recognise them, but when they mentioned the circumstance of their previous application, I remembered them, and I said, "But you wished to come to Sydney; did you not get employment?" They said, "No; and we have spent all our money." I said, "Then, even if I could give you employment, how could you get back to my place?" They replied, "Mr. Macintosh will give us free passes." This incident occurred in the manner I have related, and as it is pertinent to the question before the House, I hope I may be pardoned for making the personal reference. Of course I shall support the proposed vote for the expenditure during this year of £75,000 for the purpose of immigration; because, while I admit that there is some distress in the country, I do not believe it is so sweeping and great as has been represented. I see no evidence of it; but I admit that there is distress in the country, which I venture to say is felt by all classes pretty equally. Notwithstanding that admission, I still think that the continuance

of immigration is beneficial to the body politic—that it is beneficial to the growth and enterprise of the country—that the infusion of new blood is, in itself, a good thing—and that, removed as we are from contact with the great centres of civilisation, we cannot afford to shut ourselves up, and separate ourselves from our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world. I believe, also, that though there may be cases of distress it is distress which is incidental to immigration in all countries and in all ages, and inevitable under the circumstances of men choosing a new lot; for men cannot go into a strange country and carve out a new course of life, and form new associations, without, in many cases, suffering severe disappointment and great distress. Those who have read of the early emigration to America know what bitter severities the old American colonists endured before they succeeded in founding happy and prosperous homes. This kind of distress is incidental to the removal of population from one part of the world to another. It cannot be avoided; no system can obviate it, and it will exist do what you will. Notwithstanding that, I believe most of our immigrants do well in the country; that they find places in our industrial economy, and that they are of advantage to those around them, I believe they do well for themselves, and that immigration is really necessary to the progress of the country. As an evidence of this, I would instance the cases of all those colonies where immigration has been continued. They are all in a sounder state of prosperity than the colonies where there has been no immigration. That cannot be denied for a moment. Whoever knows anything about the condition of the colony of Victoria must know that it is not anything like so prosperous, happy, and contented a State as South Australia, Queensland, New Zealand, or New South Wales. But I shall support this vote, because a large proportion of the expenditure is necessary to keep faith with the persons who have already deposited their money to bring out their friends and relatives. There are 3,000 of these nominated immigrants to be brought out, and if we stop immigration to-morrow we must provide some means for the introduction of these persons. But

[*Sir Henry Parkes.*

there is another reason. If you are going to continue immigration at all it is a serious thing to break up your connections in England. If your policy is to stop it finally, that is another question; but to stop immigration temporarily is a most mischievous course. You break up all your connections and agencies; it is spread abroad from one end of the country to the other that immigration has ceased, and it will take years to bring the arrangements again into the same satisfactory condition. Nothing would be more unwise than to stop immigration for a year; far better to stop it altogether, and let people know that they are not to get assistance to move to this part of the Empire. With regard to the question of cost, the honorable member has admitted that the expenditure comes out of the land revenue and not out of taxation; and so long as taxation is not sufficient to meet the ordinary civil expenditure it cannot be contended that a single penny of the people's money is expended for this purpose. But I should like to know for what higher or better purpose you could expend a portion of the land revenue than in increasing the population without which the land is of no value? I do not hold the doctrine which the honorable member seems to hold, that we might introduce people if we had some system by which we could put them on the land at once. I should say that of all the devices of cruelty that would be the greatest—to bring strangers into this country without any knowledge of our requirements or conditions of life, and to put them at once on the land in the interior. It is better, even for persons who have money, to enter into the ordinary pursuits of life to gain experience of the colony. They stand a much better chance of ultimate success by doing so. As the honorable member who made this motion has stated that immigrants come here without money, I may mention that nearly the whole of the immigrants by the "Northampton" were possessed of sums of money. The captain himself had nearly £300 in small sums which he had been asked to take care of by the immigrants. One person had £40 in gold which he carried about with him; and I believe it is the case that immigrants who come out to New South Wales are not only on

the whole suitable for the industrial purposes of the colony, but also that they are so carefully selected that they are for the most part prudent men and women, who bring sums of money with them. All the 5,000 persons I have mentioned have found their way into the ordinary industrial pursuits of the country, and very few could be found now in a state of dissatisfaction, even if you advertised for them. Where complaints have been made they will not bear examination, and certainly the better class of immigrants make no complaint whatever. It is not they who seek assistance and quarrel with their lot. They accept their lot; they put their shoulder to the wheel, and stand side by side with those already in the country, and seek, to the best of their ability, to gain a position for themselves. I believe the House will make a great mistake if it agrees to this motion. One thing is certain—we shall have to commit a breach of faith with those who have nominated friends in the mother country. We shall also have to break up our agencies, which it would take several years to re-connect, and to organise which is one of the most difficult things in conducting immigration on a safe and satisfactory basis. I believe that the immigrants brought here have been a respectable body of people; that they have been of great use to the country; that every class in the community would have been worse off if they had not come, and every kind of industry in a more languid state. One thing cannot be denied, namely, that by reason of the number of immigrants who arrived last year, nearly 6,000, there has been a vast increase of consumption in the country; and that while these people have swelled the ranks of producers they must also have greatly benefited the country by consuming the products of other hands. I shall give my vote in opposition to the honorable member's resolution.

Mr. GARRETT had always been opposed to the principle of immigration, although, as a member of a Government, he had been constrained to vote for the expenditure of money to bring immigrants to the colony. But at that time the only justification that he could discover for so doing was that the country had been pledged to the construction of certain public works, and that the labour available in the colony was not capable of carrying out

those works within anything like a reasonable time. If that could be shown to be the case now, he would not do anything to disturb the existing arrangements, but as a matter of principle he could not see how the expenditure of public money for immigration could be justified. He had not heard any argument to prove that it was desirable in itself that the revenue of the country, a large proportion of which was contributed by the labouring classes, should be used to bring people here to compete with those classes; therefore, those who supported the vote were bound to show some special necessity, or some special emergency to justify it, and none had yet been shown. There was a glimmering of a justification in the argument of the Premier, that the distance of this colony from the countries which were overpopulated rendered it necessary that we should do something towards bearing a proportion of the cost of coming here, so as to place ourselves on an equal footing with countries situated near to the thickly populated centres. But all the means provided for conveying people to this country were availed of, without any aid from the public by people who wished to come here. We had been told that, within a few years, 70,000 people had arrived in the colony in excess of those who left. Of these only 20,000 had their passages paid, wholly or in part, so that 50,000 persons had paid their own passage. The cost of a passage from England was now so low that the means of emigrating to the colony were placed within the reach of nearly everyone. A steerage passage could be obtained in one of the large steamers for £16. The very fact stated by the honorable the Premier that many of the immigrants had money told against that honorable gentleman's position, because why should we pay to bring out people who were able to pay for themselves? He believed it was a fact that the immigrants whose passages we paid from America, brought large sums of money with them. Mr. Alexander Stuart, a member of the firm of Towns and Company, to whom the vessels from America were consigned, had informed him that one shipment of immigrants had £4,000 in drafts on the firm. The most rabid advocate of cheap labour would not say that it was fair to bring such people here at the

public expense. He objected to the immigration vote because it was of a highly protective character. It would be quite as justifiable to bring labour-saving machinery here as to bring labour at the expense of the State. We ought to leave those who desired to emigrate to this country to pay their own passages, and if there were any men who wanted labour let them bring it out themselves without asking the State to interfere. With regard to public works, he considered it was much to be lamented that we were making such slow progress, considering the amount of money annually voted. At the present time there was about £4,000,000 voted for public works, but we were spending it so slowly that really little or nothing was being done. It was time that the Government directed their attention to the removal of whatever obstacles stood in the way of more rapid progress being made. If the Government devoted their consideration to this subject, they would do a great deal more good than was being done by the expenditure of £75,000 a year for the importation of labour from the old country. They would accomplish a great deal towards relieving the labour market, the condition of which was so severely felt at the present time. He disputed the statement that the colony which spent the most money in immigration was the most successful. Victoria, though possessing the smallest area, had the largest population, and very little had been spent by that colony for immigration. It was true that the gold fields had attracted a large population to Victoria, but that population had been retained by the industries of the country. There was nothing in the argument that those colonies which paid for immigration were the most successful. He believed that the South Australian Parliament had not voted any money for immigration this year—at any rate, a year or two ago they dropped it. Queensland also had suspended it. In New Zealand it was part of their policy to pay for immigration, their object being to lighten the burden of taxation, which had been increased through the accumulation of loans. The Government of New Zealand had been obliged to increase the population to enable them to carry on certain public works, and to take possession of the wild

[*Mr. Garrett.*

lands previously occupied by the native tribes. He did not sympathise with the argument that we ought to abandon the expenditure on immigration on account of our financial condition. Our financial position was sound enough—all that was wanted to set it right was a rectification of our present lob-sided system of taxation. That was all that was necessary to put us in a sounder and more favourable position than that of any of the neighbouring colonies, or perhaps, that of any other country in the world. He did not agree with those who based their opposition to the vote on the assertion that there was a large amount of destitution amongst the labouring classes. There was not much more destitution now than there always had been. He remembered when destitution existed to a very much larger extent; that was before the gold fields were discovered, and when we were not bringing out immigrants. Working men were a thousand times worse off then than they were now. He based his opposition to this expenditure on the ground that it was not justified by the circumstances in which the colony was placed, and it was contrary in an extreme degree to the soundest principles with regard to the expenditure of public funds. If we wanted to make the country attractive, we ought not to do so by bribing people with coin to come here. The laws that stood in the way of the acquisition of land in sufficient quantities and under such conditions as would enable people to settle on the soil, ought to be altered so as to attract both capital and labour combined. He did not believe in the system of bolstering up immigration by a grant of the public funds one year and dropping it off another year, afterwards to resume it. He should be content to abandon it once and for ever, and to let the country stand on its own merits before those other countries of the world whose populations were becoming so large that the people could not live comfortably. Some honorable members were in favour of assisted immigration, but that was a system which required careful management. It was difficult to distribute it amongst different nationalities—to say how many people should be assisted from England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales. The system had been fully tried, and he considered it had absolutely failed. It was

certainly desirable in carrying out such a system that we should preserve a fair proportion in the numbers of immigrants brought from the different countries. One ground on which he had found it difficult to vote for the motion was, that the country had already pledged itself to 3,000 immigrants, whose passages to the colony would probably absorb £50,000 of the sum on the Estimates. Two months of the year were virtually gone, therefore it did not appear to him that anything practical could be accomplished in the way of the abolition of the vote for this year. If he voted for the motion, it would be on the understanding that the Government who appeared to be under an obligation to bring these people out, would keep faith with them. Parliament ought to make up its mind whether this was to be a permanent policy or not. If it were to be a permanent policy his vote must go against it. He did not think it consistent or right to vote against the motion, but he must say that no vote of his had ever been given with so little satisfaction to himself as this would be for the immigration expenditure.

Mr. CHARLES said the resolution proposed to stop immigration, and the main argument used by the mover in support of it was that the labour market was in such a state of depression that the working classes were unable to obtain remunerative employment. Had we not carried on this immigration policy when the state of the labour market was infinitely worse than it was at the present time? And had it not proved highly beneficial to the colony? When he arrived here the state of business was so bad that forty or fifty shipwrights were going about the streets unable to find work, and he was himself obliged to go before the mast at a salary of £3 a month. A man in those days could only get a bushel of maize for a day's work, or a bushel of wheat for two day's work, and when a man got his wheat he had to grind it for himself. Very little work could be obtained in those days, except bullock-driving. He knew a number of persons who came out to the colony in those early times, and what was their position now? Many of them were owners of property which they had purchased at prices ranging from £1 to £60 an acre, and one of them told him a few days ago that he would not take £3000

for his holding. Those people were assisted immigrants, and they had repaid the country a hundredfold for its outlay in bringing them here; besides which, they had sent for many of their relatives, whom they were helping to make their way in the colony. Every man who came to a new country must be prepared to endure a fair share of the hardships peculiar to such an undertaking. Such hardships exercised a salutary effect. He did not know of a single individual in his own employment who was not much better off now than when he entered his service. He did not think that colonists would thank the honorable member for Camden (Mr. Garrett) for his anxiety to stop assisted immigration. Many wished to bring their friends out here, but found great difficulty in doing so. Surely there was no objection to the Irish coming here. The Irish had shown themselves to be good colonists both in these colonies and in America, and in Queensland three-fourths of the well-to-do business men were Irish. Reference had been made to the miners, and it could not be denied that New South Wales had the whole of the coal trade of the East in her own hands during the strike in England, and she might have kept it. She lost it, however, through a combination which kept up prices to such a degree as ultimately to send the trade back to England. When immigration was stopped some years ago, great difficulty was experienced in inducing the people in England to resume immigration, and he feared that if all our immigration machinery were done away with now, it might be a long time before we could get it into operation again. One great cause of the depressed state of the labour market in Sydney was the persistency of the working men in remaining in Sydney, where they would rather live with only one day's work a week than take up their abode in any country place, where they might be prosperous and comfortable. We ought to look to the immense area of unoccupied land which existed in the country, and to afford all the requisite facilities for placing an energetic population upon the soil.

Notice taken that there was not a quorum present; and

Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House at 7 o'clock p.m.