

1852.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

IMMIGRATION DEBENTURES.

PROGRESS REPORT

FROM

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

IMMIGRATION.

ORDERED, BY THE COUNCIL, TO BE PRINTED,

6th July, 1852.

Sydney:

PRINTED BY W. W. DAVIES, AT THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,
HYDE PARK.

1852.

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EXTRACTS FROM VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

VOTES No. 13, TUESDAY, 29 JUNE, 1852.

IMMIGRATION DEBENTURES:—

Question—*as amended*;—That the expediency or otherwise of passing Resolutions to the following effect be referred for the Report of the Committee on Immigration now sitting, namely,—“That this Council having again considered the urgent demand for labor which exists throughout the Colony, which has not only seriously increased since the passing of the Resolutions of this Council on the subject of Immigration on the 7th November last, but is daily augmenting,—Resolves—

“(1.) That instead of applying the available balance at the credit of the Territorial Revenue to the payment of any portion of the Debentures at present outstanding, the Executive Government will consult the interest of the Colony by remitting the whole amount to England for the purposes of Immigration.

“(2.) That the rate of exchange for Bank Bills on England, at 30 days sight, being now more favorable than it was when the Government remitted £100,000, in the month of February last for Immigration, an amount equal to the interest on the Debentures for 15 months would actually be gained by the transaction.

“(3.) That until the Select Committee which is now engaged in devising measures for a more copious Immigration of the industrial classes can report the result of its deliberations, the acquiescence of the Executive Government, in the above recommendation, will act, in some degree, as a relief to the distress which will continue to be felt by the employers of labor,”—put and passed.

VOTES No. 17, TUESDAY, 6 JULY, 1852.

4. Immigration Debentures:—Mr. Wentworth, as Chairman of the Immigration Committee, brought up a Progress Report, having reference to the Instruction respecting Immigration Debentures committed to that Committee on the 29th June last. Ordered to be printed.
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1852.



NEW SOUTH WALES.

IMMIGRATION DEBENTURES.

PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

IMMIGRATION.

The Select Committee of the Legislative Council, appointed on the 10th of June, 1852, *"to inquire into and report upon the most speedy and effectual means of introducing into the Colony a supply of labor adequate to its requirements;"* and to whom was referred, on the 29th June, 1852, *"the expediency or otherwise of passing Resolutions to the following effect,"* namely:—

That this Council having again considered the urgent demand for labor which exists throughout the Colony, which has not only seriously increased since the passing of the Resolutions of this Council on the subject of Immigration on the 7th November last, but is daily augmenting,—Resolves—

- (1.) That instead of applying the available balance at the credit of the Territorial Revenue to the payment of any portion of the Debentures at present outstanding, the Executive Government will consult the interest of the Colony by remitting the whole amount to England for the purposes of Immigration.
- (2.) That the rate of exchange for Bank Bills on England, at 30 days sight, being now more favorable than it was when the Government remitted £100,000 in the month of February last for Immigration, an amount equal to the interest on the Debentures for 15 months would actually be gained by the transaction.
- (3.) That until the Select Committee which is now engaged in devising measures for a more copious Immigration of the industrial classes can report the result of its deliberations, the acquiescence of the Executive Government, in the above recommendation, will act, in some degree, as a relief to the distress which will continue to be felt by the employers of labor;

Report as follows:—

Considering the urgent and universal demand that exists for every sort of available labor;—that all the great interests of the country are languishing for want of it;—that the most important of these interests, the pastoral and agricultural, are, in consequence, rapidly hastening to decay;—and that the extent and richness of the Australian Gold Fields leave no room for hope that the rapid migration to them from all parts of the Australian Colonies will cease or moderate;—and seeing that nothing short of a copious and immediate influx of population can mitigate this grievous and increasing evil, your Committee are unanimously of opinion, and urgently press upon the Governor-General and his Executive Council the absolute necessity of at once remitting the additional sum of £50,000 out of the available balance at the credit of the Territorial Revenue, so that additional funds may, as speedily as possible, be placed at the disposal of the Emigration Commissioners in England; and that they be urged to send out not less than five ships monthly, until this and the previous remittance of £100,000, lately forwarded to them for emigration to this Colony, be expended.

Your Committee are also of opinion, that in order to afford additional facilities for emigration, it is expedient to give the Commissioners full discretion as to the amount of contribution to be demanded from Emigrants in England, previous to their embarkation; and also to relax the Regulations which restrict immigration to particular classes, so as to include males and females of the laboring classes generally, and male domestic servants as well as female.

Your Committee lastly recommend, with a view to stop the interest on the Debentures now due, and at the same time to get the benefit of the premium which will probably be obtained on the issue of new Debentures, that immediate steps be taken to negotiate fresh Debentures to the amount of £50,000, so that this double operation may be effected as speedily as possible.

W. C. WENTWORTH, CHAIRMAN.

*Legislative Council Chamber,
Sydney, 6th July, 1852.*
