

APPENDIX C.

LABOUR REPORTS.

(Supplied by the Municipal Authorities in July and August, 1888.)

TOWN DISTRICTS.*

BALLARAT EAST.—Experienced farm labourers would find ready employment at 15s. to 20s. per week, and the demand is likely to continue.

BROWNS AND SCARSDALE.—There is no demand for labour of any kind.

CARISBROOK.—No demand for labour of any kind, with the exception of miners.

COLLINGWOOD.—The demand for female servants continues.

CRESWICK.—No demand for labour of any kind. Business very dull.

GEELONG.—A very good demand for useful female servants.

HAMILTON.—Good household female servants is the only class of labour in demand here.

HEATHCOTE.—No demand for labour of any kind at present.

KOROIT.—No demand for any kind of labour.

MAJORCA.—The supply of labour and the demand are about equal.

NORTHCOTE.—There is a brisk demand for tradesmen of all branches of the building trade, also for general labourers, and every prospect of a continuance. There is also a demand for domestic female servants, employment being always easily obtained.

PORTLAND.—There is a good demand for skilled labour, on account of large contracts being let, but no extra labour is required otherwise.

PORT MELBOURNE.—There is a demand for all classes of town labour, and a prospect of an increase in the demand.

RAYWOOD.—Farm labourers have been hard to obtain in this district at harvest time for several seasons past.

RUTHERGLEN.—No demand for labour.

SMYTHESDALE.—There is no demand for labour here.

TALBOT.—There is no demand for any particular class of labour.

WARRNAMBOOL.—The Breakwater and Railway works, besides importing a large number of workmen, have pretty well absorbed the surplus labour. The supply of all kinds of labour is equal to the demand, except female servants. Good female servants would readily find employment at top rates:—Girls, £20 (the lowest), to cooks, £80 (the highest) per annum.

COUNTRY DISTRICTS.†

AVOCA.—The labour market is fully supplied.

BALLAN.—The supply of labour is equal to the demand, except at harvest time, when there is always a scarcity of labour.

BALLARAT.—There is a good demand for farm labourers and female domestic servants.

BANNOCKBURN.—There is no demand for male labour at present, but female servants are in request at following rates:—Cooks, £40; laundresses, £35; housemaids, £30; nursemaids, £25; dairymaids, £35; general servants, £25 to £30; girls, £15 to £20 per annum.

BARRABOOL.—Good industrious farm labourers required, also any number of female domestic servants.

BOROONDARA.—The labour market appears to be well supplied.

* Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.—The officer supplying the information was the Town Clerk in every instance.

† Shires.—The officer supplying the information was the Shire Secretary in every instance.

BULLA.—There is no demand for labour in the district, except at harvest time, when a few extra hands are required.

BULLEEN.—A fair demand for good steady working men, to work on farms and supply road contracts, in spring and summer.

BUNGAREE.—A constant demand for good, steady, experienced farm labourers, and every prospect of a continuance.

BUNINYONG.—The supply equal to the demand for all kinds of labour.

CAULFIELD.—There is a fairly brisk demand for general servants, the scarcity being a general complaint among householders. Boys, useful, for milking, looking after a pony, and otherwise useful, very much sought after.

CORIO.—There is no demand for additional labour, nor any likelihood of a demand.

CRESWICK.—Labour of most descriptions is very scarce, especially farm labourers, general servants, and stone-breakers. There is a demand for about 100 farm labourers, 75 stone-breakers, and 100 general servants. The demand is likely to be continuous, as the largest estate in the shire has recently been cut up into farms, the greater part of which is now under cultivation.

DAREBIN.—Beyond the Railway works, there is no demand for any description of labour.

EUROA.—Female servants are the class that would be most likely to find employment. All other labour is well supplied.

FLINDERS AND KANGERONG.—About 30 good general labourers would find constant and remunerative employment.

GLENELG.—This district, being pastoral, employs very little labour except at this time of year, when sheep-shearing is in full swing. No demand for labour of any other description.

GLENLYON.—Little demand for any kind of labour, except at harvest time, when a few farm hands are temporarily employed.

GORDON.—There is at certain seasons a demand for farm labourers, but constant employment cannot be relied upon until the various irrigation schemes in progress are in full working order.

KEILOR.—There is no probability of an increased demand for labour for some time to come.

LEIGH.—The demand and supply of labour are about equal.

LEXTON.—General labourers readily find employment. Female servants difficult to obtain.

LILLYDALE.—Work of all kinds plentiful; the market is well supplied with labourers, being so near the city by rail. Female labour very scarce.

LOWAN.—Fair demand for farm labourers, also female general servants.

MAFFRA.—There is a continuous demand for all classes of agricultural and domestic labour, and all that arrives is gradually absorbed; but there is no opening for a large number of any class.

MALDON.—The demand for labour in this mining district is very variable, and much difficulty is frequently experienced in getting suitable workmen. Farmers complain of a similar difficulty.

MELTON.—No special demand for labour of any description. For tradesmen the demand is practically nil, and rates of wages governed by Melbourne rates, whence this description of labour is usually obtained.

MERRIANG.—Very little demand for any except farm labourers.

METCALFE.—Labourers not required, as persons in district supply demand. Slight demand for general servants, but fluctuates greatly. Farm labourers will be required during months of December, January, and February; wages often rising to 6s. 6d. and 7s. 6d. per day through scarcity.

MOUNT FRANKLIN.—Supply greater than the demand.

NEWHAM.—A good demand for female servants. Plenty of other kinds of labour.

NEWSTEAD.—Farm labourers, servant girls, and dairymaids could find plenty of employment, being very scarce.

OAKLEIGH.—There is a slight demand for carpenters. A decided demand for skilled female labour. Good servants difficult to obtain at £1 per week.

OXLEY.—About 50 men, in addition to those now employed, could find steady employment. Those required are men able to do all kinds of farm work, and handy with tools for fencing, &c. Servant girls for ordinary housework and milking

are very scarce, and a considerable number, if obtainable, would be readily employed at from 8s. to 12s. per week.

PHILLIP ISLAND.—The demand for labour is small. Labourers in the district are fully employed, and a further supply is difficult to obtain.

PORTLAND.—Continuous demand for navvies at the Government Drainage works, Condah Swamp. Piecework.

PRESTON.—Labour of every description, both male and female, in constant demand.

PYALONG.—Very little labour required; being a pastoral country, the several families do their own work. At times, female servants are slightly in demand.

RODNEY.—There is a good demand for general labourers accustomed to road work. Firewood splitters are also in demand at present.

ROMSEY.—Good English farm labourers could find constant employment at highest rates (15s. to 18s. per week, and found).

ROSEDALE.—A few road hands could find employment. With the exception of a few grazing stations, the shire consists of small farms, the work of which is carried on by the farmers and their families.

SHEPPARTON.—There is a demand for good steady workmen, although there are many seeking work who are worthless in this district.

SOUTH BARWON.—No special demand for any kind of labour, except female domestic servants.

SPRINGFIELD.—There is a good demand for farm labourers, suitable hands being very scarce. Dairymaids and nursemaids also much inquired for.

STRATHFIELDSAYE.—Road and railway contractors, farmers, and vigneron complain that labour is hard to obtain, and dear when employed. Female servants have a decided objection to stay in the country, and dairymaids and other kinds of female labour are almost impossible to obtain. There is plenty of work in the bush for both males and females.

SWAN HILL.—There is always a good demand for a large number of good ploughmen, and farm labourers who understand farm work. Ploughmen can demand 22s. 6d., and farm labourers 20s. per week, and be found.

TAMBO.—An extensive field for agricultural and other labour would be opened up by railway extension through this shire to Omeo, Snowy River, and Gelantipy districts.

TOWONG.—The land within the municipality being devoted principally to stock raising, very little demand exists for skilled labour. The price demanded is paid when there is any special demand for a particular class of labour. When the railway, now in course of construction, is finished, and the district is in direct communication with the metropolis, it is anticipated that increased attention will be given to agriculture. There are no manufactories of any importance within the shire, nor any large centres of population.

WALHALLA.—The demand for tradesmen is very limited. The chief industry is mining, but the supply is equal to the demand.

WANNON.—The only demand for labour is that of domestic female servants. The district is pastoral and agricultural.

WARRNAMBOOL.—There is a scarcity of farm hands and general female servants. Tradesmen are fully employed, but no extra demand.

WHITTLESEA.—A few navvies could find work on the Whittlesea railway. There is no other demand for labour.

WIMMERA.—Farm labourers could find permanent employment at about 15s. per week, and found.

WINCHELSEA.—No opening for any class of labour.

WODONGA.—No demand for labour within the shire.

WOORAYL.—Good axemen, and men who can "rough it" and are used to heavy work, can readily find employment, but there is no demand for any other description of labour. The principal article sent from this district is timber, and, in addition to two sawmills now at work, others are in the course of erection. Coal prospecting is also being actively prosecuted, with fair hopes of success.

YARRAWONGA.—During the months of November, December, and January, the demand for farm labourers is always greater than the supply. This state of affairs applies also to domestic servants, female servants being in demand all the year round.

YEA.—Labourers and servants of all kinds in demand.