

## APPENDIX C.

## LABOUR REPORTS.

*(Supplied by the Municipal Authorities in July and August, 1887.)*

## TOWN DISTRICTS.\*

BALLARAT.—My impression is that Ballarat is well supplied with labour just now.

BROWN'S AND SCARSDALE.—The labour market very dull; no demand whatever.

CASTLEMAINE.—No demand for labour here, and mining dull.

CLUNES.—At present there is no demand for any of the ordinary kinds of labour, but in a mining community, as this is, new developments may at any time occur, and induce a demand for miners.

CRESWICK.—Business dull, and labour scarce; no immediate prospect of any demand for labour of any kind.

EAGLEHAWK.—There is no demand at present for labour in this borough.

GEELONG.—No demand, and not any prospect of a change. Numbers of tradesmen and labourers unable to find employment.

GEELONG WEST.—There is an abundant supply of labour of every kind; and, in my opinion there is no room for an additional supply, and I know of nothing likely to cause an increased demand.

HAMILTON.—There is no greater demand than the locality can supply, except as to the railway in course of construction.

HORSHAM.—There is no demand for labour of any description here.

KOROIT.—There is no scarcity of labour hands experienced here; and, except in the harvest season, very few extra hands would succeed in getting employment.

MAJORCA.—The demand in this district is principally mining. The demand for labour is equal to the supply at present. Mining is likely to be continuous; possibly an increase in the future rates of wages, minimum 45s. per week.

MARYBOROUGH.—Good general servants are required very badly in this town. Some of the best people are unable to get servants. This state of things is the rule nowadays, not the exception.

NORTHCOTE.—There are a great number of houses in course of erection, but I think the supply is equal to the demand for labour.

PORT MELBOURNE.—The demand for labour of all sorts in this district is steady, but limited. There are no indications at present of any increased demand. Could not state how many workers of each kind would be likely to find employment.

QUEENSCLIFF.—The demand for labour in this district is fully supplied. There is no market at Queenscliff.

RAYWOOD.—There is no demand for extra labourers here at present, except a few skilled miners.

RUTHERGLEN.—At present there is no demand for extra labourers in this municipality.

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\* Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.

STAWELL.—There is no demand for labour, and not likely to be.

ST. KILDA.—This is a fashionable suburb of Melbourne. Population chiefly merchants, bankers, squatters, &c., but few artisans and labouring people.

TARNAGULLA.—The only chance for an increase of labour here depends upon the prosperity of the mines.

TALBOT.—No demand for labour here.

WARRNAMBOOL.—Supply of all kinds of labour, except good female domestic servants, fully equal to demand. The town and immediate surrounding district is suffering unusual depression from the failure of the staple product, the potato crop, and the low prices which have been obtained. From this cause alone, the difference between this and the previous four or five years cannot be estimated at less than £100,000, and probably reaches more.

### COUNTRY DISTRICTS.\*

AVOCA.—Labour market well supplied.

BAIRNSDALE.—Labour market fully supplied.

BALLAN.—Supply of labour about equal to the demand, except at harvest, when there is always a scarcity.

BARRABOOL.—Good demand for female servants; also good agricultural labourers.

BULLA.—The district is fully supplied with labour, and there is no demand just now; but a few farm labourers are required during November and December for the harvest. The shearing is mostly done by the young men working in the district.

BULN BULN.—There is always a good demand for domestic servants; also for good all-round out-door labourers and boys, especially during summer.

BOROONDARA.—No demand whatever.

BRIGHT.—No demand for labourers.

BRAYBROOK.—The supply of labour at present just meets the demand.

BELLARINE.—Labour not plentiful in this district at present.

BULLEEN.—This district fully supplied with labourers at present.

CRESWICK.—There is no demand at present for any kind of labour.

COLAC.—The labour market in the district is fully supplied, but employment is likely to be plentiful during the ensuing summer in farm and road work.

CORIO.—The demand for all kinds of labour remains stationary. The pastoral holders have only a limited number of female domestics, and the station hands consist of one or two boundary riders and a couple of generally useful men at most, except at shearing time, when shearers are engaged. The farmers of the district mostly carry out the labour of the farm by aid of their own families; a few hands are employed at harvest time. Tradesmen are seldom employed, and there are no inducements whatever for additional hands here.

CHILTERN.—In this district there is no demand whatever for labour. The farms are small, and are generally worked by the occupier and family, except during harvest, when there is certainly a demand for a few hands. There is no difficulty in obtaining miners at the wages quoted. Excepting in mining, there is no enterprise shown which would lead to the employment of many men, even at low rates.

COBURG.—There is no demand for extra labour here at present.

DAREBIN.—There is no demand for any class of labour here. Farmers get supplied from the labour offices in Melbourne when required.

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\* Shires.

**EUROA.**—A large influx of labour would not find employment, as the demand is limited. Persons who have friends or relatives to come to would have the best chance.

**FLINDERS AND KANGERONG.**—Skilled labour only required occasionally. I am fully satisfied that about 30 generally useful agricultural hands would find constant and remunerative employment in this shire. This appears to me to be the only want felt.

**GLENELG.**—This district is mainly occupied by graziers, and the lands chiefly devoted to pastoral purposes. This industry employs very few hands during the year. Selectors employ scarcely any labour beyond their own families.

**GORDON.**—The demand for labour of all kinds is at present very small, especially with regard to mechanics. It is anticipated that, when the various irrigation schemes now in progress are completed, there will be a greatly increased area of land under cultivation, and consequently a demand for farm labourers, ploughmen, &c. These schemes are, however, not yet completed, so that some months must elapse before the demand is created.

**KYNETON.**—Good ploughmen and general farm servants are generally in good demand in this district; supply of mechanics is equal to demand; general female servants in great demand.

**KORONG.**—Supply of labour is fairly sufficient. There is no want of employment. Demand will increase at harvest; but, at present low prices of produce, farmers, who are the principal employers, cannot afford to pay wages.

**KILMORE.**—The trade and labour market is fully supplied in this district at present.

**KEILOR.**—No demand for any increased number of labourers in this district.

**LEIGH.**—There is little or no demand for labour in this shire, beyond what is supplied by its own inhabitants.

**LOWAN.**—Good farm labourers can find employment, for which there is a good demand.

**MELTON.**—There is no demand for labour here; the farmers and their own families do the work, and the elder children and grown-up sons and daughters supply any families about. There is plenty of work in the country for all, if they would only work, and clear out from the big towns. I have been all over the colony of Victoria, and can say this from experience.

**MCIVOR.**—I do not consider there is a special demand for labour of any kind here at present.

**MINHAMITE.**—This district is fully supplied with labour of all kinds; work not very plentiful.

**MAFFRA.**—There is a strong demand for general labourers throughout the year, but there is seldom a demand for any sudden influx. All tradesmen in the district are constantly employed (excepting masons); and, with the progress of the place, more would gradually find work, as the population is permanently increasing every year. New townships are springing up, and the older ones are extending.

**MOORABBIN.**—The labour market here is pretty well supplied at present. It being so near Melbourne, it is not difficult to get any labour required at a short notice. There is at present a considerable number from the suburbs employed in the building trade, that are accommodated by the railway morning and evening.

**MOUNT FRANKLIN.**—No demand for labour at present.

**MOUNT ALEXANDER.**—The supply of labour is equal to the demand in all classes, except female domestic servants.

**NORTH OVENS.**—Female servants generally get from 8s. to 12s. per week, and are mostly used to general work. There is frequently a demand for good farm labourers, used to the plough. I would not like to say how many could find constant employment, but steady industrious men of the above stamp would be almost sure to find work, if they would be content with a moderate wage—say 14s. per week and found.

**NARRACAN.**—Supply of labourers is about equal to the demand. Work for a considerable number of coal miners will be available, as the Moe mines are fast being opened up.

**OAKLEIGH.**—After careful inquiries, there are many more than are likely to find constant employment until the spring commences. I know of no one wanting servants.

**OXLEY.**—At present rates, there is no great demand for labour of any kind. General servants are always in demand, especially those who can milk cows.

**PRESTON.**—There is no demand for any labour of any kind.

**PYALONG.**—There is no demand for labour in this district, nor do I think it likely to increase.

**PHILLIP ISLAND.**—Unlimited demand for unskilled labour, which is constantly increasing.

**PORTLAND.**—There is no very great demand for labour, supply being always equal to demand.

**RODNEY.**—Farm labourers and ploughmen in demand at present.

**ROSEDALE.**—The wages of mechanics are high, but there is not constant employment; weeks, and even months, elapse when these cannot obtain employment. There are plenty of girls in the district, but they evince a strong dislike to domestic employment; dressmaking, shop attendance, barmaids, are the popular objects with these persons.

**RUTHERGLEN.**—No demand here.

**STRATHFIELDSAYE.**—Residents within the district say that a considerable amount of labour could be employed at from 12s. to 13s. per week for general farm hands, with board; but men here would rather join the ranks of the unemployed than work at these rates, and no employer would think of offering them, as he would be worse than boycotted. There is no such thing as rent within this shire; each person has his or her house, and the present Mining Regulations give great facilities for this mode of providing a house and garden.

**ST. ARNAUD.**—This shire is purely an agricultural and pastoral area. Labourers are, therefore, agricultural. These are principally required during harvest time; during remainder of year fewer are required.

**SWAN HILL.**—Labourers of all kinds find no difficulty in obtaining employment. In the harvest time, especially, farm labourers are very scarce. Only a very limited number of tradesmen are required.

**SPRINGFIELD.**—The demand for agricultural labour at present, owing to the dry season, is dull. Railway works are going on just outside shire boundary, and fair wages given—horse, dray, and man, 12s. per day, and men 6s. to 7s. per diem. Day labourers employed by this council generally receive 6s. 6d. per day, without rations.

**SOUTH BARWON.**—Good demand for female servants; also good agricultural labourers.

**TOWONG.**—There is no demand for skilled labourers whatever. The rates quoted are generally paid when such labour is required. There is no special demand for any class of labour, the land generally being devoted to stock raising—principally cattle—and the farms are generally worked by the owners. The mining industry is at present not of sufficient importance to employ many miners, and if at any time a demand should exist for that class of labour there is no difficulty in obtaining miners.

**WODONGA.**—The railway extension to Tallangatta, now in progress, is absorbing all the labour at present; beyond this, there is no local demand of any sort.

**WANNON.**—Labour supply is equal to demand. The only want not fully supplied is domestic servants.

**WARRAGUL.**—At the present time, the labour market is amply supplied.

**YACKANDANDAH.**—Plenty of labour in this district for all the work done.