

still more to be used, and to modify and economise farm labor. The elements of wind and water can also, in many situations, be turned to good account; and steam is being economically applied to too many uses, to doubt that at no distant day, it will be made tributary to the toil and labor of the husbandman.

Your Committee having noticed the destruction of involuntary labor by sudden emancipation, its consequent demoralization and unreliability, and as pertinent, and necessary to a due and proper consideration of the subject of organizing a system of voluntary labor to replace the involuntary system bequeathed to us by our forefathers; having considered the nature of labor, its importance, its wants and duties, and also the duty and interest of employers in dealing with employees, it now becomes necessary to inquire from whence a supply of labor can be obtained.

If we for a moment consider the vastness of our common country—the number of States and great variety of employments seeking and competing for labor—your Committee must confess that this is a difficult and embarrassing question. And yet, if we remember the character, energy and enterprise of our people, the peculiarly advantageous position of our State—near the sea-board—with our great commercial emporium at the head of one of the noblest bays on the globe, and our close proximity to the Capitol of this great nation, we at once see that we have the strongest and most encouraging motives for effort, and a strong probability of success within our reach.

Probably, the most fortunate circumstance for Maryland at this time is the establishment of lines of steamers directly from Baltimore to and from Liverpool, England, and Bremen in Holland. These steamers are calculated and expected to bring into the port of Baltimore annually from 10 to 15,000 foreign emigrants. A large per-centage of these emigrants are farm laborers. They have heard of our free government—where freedom of religion, freedom of occupation, and the pursuits and objects of life are before them and open to all. They have also heard of our vast domain, and boundless Western prairies—where farms are cheap, and labor scarce and high—and the attractive West is presented to them before leaving their fatherland by agents from Western States, and large railroad corporations, as the land of promise, and the goal of all their hopes and expectations, so that when landed here no persuasion or inducement can divert them from their original destination, and they hurry off by our railroads for the great West, as fast as steam and rail can carry them. To detain them here and induce them to settle in Maryland we must pursue the same course which has been so successful in attracting them to the West. The Legislature of 1866 has wisely created the office of Commis-