

In the carrying out of this object I would of course be subject to the instructions of the Agent-General. In order that I might be in a position to answer all questions put to me, I would ask to be put in possession of plans of the land set apart for the special settlement, where situated, the area allowed to each individual or family, and the conditions attached to settlement, whether bush or clear land, or both, its distance from a port or a railway, &c. It would be necessary that I visit the district so that I might speak from personal knowledge. I would suggest that the month of February, 1886, would be the most suitable month for leaving the Colony. Please submit this communication as early as possible to the Hon. the Minister of Immigration.

I have, &c.,

COLIN ALLAN.

The Under-Secretary of Immigration, Wellington.

Enclosure No. 2 to No. 9.

An Appeal to the Crofters and Small Farmers in the Island of Skye and the Adjacent Islands of the Hebrides.

MY FRIENDS,—

Being now on a visit to my native island, Skye, after an absence of thirty years in the Colony of New Zealand, I am anxious to bring before you, in the interests of yourselves and families, the claim that colony has on your notice as a field for emigration.

Your fellow-countrymen in that colony have not been indifferent observers of your efforts to improve your condition; and they believe that the most effective way of allaying the bitterness of feeling which has unfortunately prevailed among you, would be your removal to a new country, where your well-known character for industry and perseverance, together with your knowledge of husbandry and the rearing of cattle, would meet with their due reward.

During the sitting of the Parliament of New Zealand about eighteen months ago, Mr. Macandrew, the member for Port Chalmers—a Scotchman of large mind and sympathetic feelings—moved the following motion, viz.: “Whereas there is a large area of Crown lands (about 100,000 acres) at present entirely unoccupied, extending along the sea coast between Catlin’s River and Waikawa, in the Provincial District of Otago, which land is peculiarly adapted for settlement by a population such as the Highland Crofters, whose condition has been the subject of a recent Royal Commission in Scotland, and whose avocations have already combined to a large extent sea fishery, and cultivation of the soil: *Resolved*, (1st.) That a special settlement of, say 10,000 acres to be laid off in ten-acre sections, one-third of which shall be available as free grants, of one section to each family settling thereon, on terms and conditions similar to those embodied in the Auckland Homestead Regulations, the remaining two-thirds to be open for application by the said settlers only, at a fixed price of, say 20s. an acre, cash. (2nd.) That the Government be requested to take such action as may be deemed most expedient towards inducing as large a number as may be of the said Crofters to occupy the said special settlement on the terms and conditions hereinbefore indicated.”

This resolution was agreed to by the Government of the colony, and is now embodied in the Waste Lands Act of the Crown. Under it every family of the Crofter class who settle on the land is entitled to a free grant of 10 acres for each male adult, and can purchase for twenty shillings an acre any additional number of acres their means will allow. The land thus set apart is situated on the sea-board of the Middle Island of New Zealand, in the Provincial district of Otago, is mostly covered with bush, or trees and scrub, and, when cleared, will produce most abundant crops of wheat, oats, and potatoes. The trees can be used for building purposes, for fencing the land, and for fuel. There is an excellent harbour called Waikawa, into which a river of the same name flows, and which can be entered by vessels of from twelve to fifteen feet draught of water. The coast abounds with fish of excellent quality.

The most suitable emigrants for this special settlement are men with families, consisting of sons and daughters of from five or six to fifteen or twenty years of age. The parents and younger members of the families could cultivate the lands set apart for them, while the elder sons and daughters would find employment on the neighboring farms, and thus assist their parents with their earnings.

Having had charge of the Immigration Department in Otago for twenty-five years, I have had the best opportunities of knowing the history and following the career of most of the colonists from the day they landed. I have had the privilege of putting most of them on the way to make a start in their colonial life, and can honestly say that all of them who have proved steady and industrious succeeded in making for themselves and their families comfortable homes on their own freeholds, and many have become comparatively wealthy. Those who failed to succeed were such as would not have succeeded in any country, because they lacked the element of success in themselves. The Highland crofters who have come to this part of the colony from time to time—most of whom I know personally—have proved good settlers. Their farms are well cultivated, their homesteads well built, their cattle, horses, and sheep are equal in quality and breeding to those of their neighbours.

The Government are prepared to offer every encouragement to families of this class to settle in the colony, and towards that end will assist emigrants to the amount of one-half of the passage money.

The Government are offering facilities for the emigration of small farmers of moderate means, to take up land on deferred payments, on payment by the latter towards their passages of the sum of £10 for adults, and £5 for children between the ages of one and twelve years.

The climate is superior to that of any part of Great Britain; and, as an instance of its mildness, cattle are never housed during the severest winter nights.

The religious and educational means provided in the colony are both ample and liberal. Churches are built in almost every settled district, the ministers being supported by the people. Schools are established in every district in which the settlers can show that there are twenty children of school age; the education being free to all, without distinction of sect or creed.