

Appendix A. contains extracts from the general report of Mr. G. B. Borradaile, the agent of the Board, relating to this settlement.

Saltcoats Settlement.

The statement relating to the Saltcoats settlement shows that 18 families have left their farms, a matter which will be again referred to.

The 31 remaining families (exclusive of two who are settled at Wapella and Killarney) have under cultivation this year 240 acres, with the result shown in the following table :—

—			Acres.	Estimated Average Yield (Bushels).	Estimated Total Crop (Bushels).
Wheat	-	-	105½	22	2,321
Oats	-	-	120	43	5,160
Potatoes	-	-	14¾	—	2,375

They have secured 568 tons of hay—a larger quantity than that obtained by the Killarney crofters. A further 162 acres have been prepared for cultivation, so that they will have ready for crop, in the spring of next year, 422 acres. Certain of the crofters have acquired seven cows in addition to the stock originally supplied to them, and its natural increase.

The Saltcoats district is being developed with considerable rapidity. Creameries have been established in the neighbourhood, which provide a market for all the milk that can be obtained. The promoters of this industry hope in a short time to afford facilities to the crofters for taking advantage of this source of revenue.

Appendix B. contains extracts from the general report of the agent upon the settlement.

The 31 families who have remained upon their homesteads are, with one or two exceptions, doing fairly well. Many of them have been able to obtain work at good wages, and some were still away when the reports were despatched. If the Saltcoats settlers pay as much attention to their own interests and to their work as those at Killarney have done, they will, in all probability, make equally good progress.

Mr. Borradaile refers in his report to the 18 families who have left the settlement. It is not easy to explain why they have gone away; it is evident that they have been doing well in the country, as they could not otherwise have obtained the money to convey their families to the places where they are now residing. They gave various reasons for leaving their homesteads, the principal one being that they were doing better at work, as day labourers, than they could upon their land. It is said that they are earning about 7s. a day, and are likely to be employed during the winter. The fact has been overlooked by them that they could have carried on the work of their farms in conjunction with such outside employment as they might be able to procure; this would have been greatly to their advantage, considering the limited capital with which they started. They were advised to sow the small area of land prepared in 1889, in the following year, with the seed advanced to them by the Canadian Government, and to break more of the prairie for cultivation in 1891. Many of the adults would then have been free to take any employment that offered, in the latter part of June, July, and part of August, returning in time to gather their hay and other crops, and to prepare the land for this year, after which there would have been nothing to prevent their endeavouring to obtain work until the spring. The continuance, for two or three years of this plan, which is followed by most of the successful settlers, starting with a small capital, would have ensured rapid progress, and in a few years a more independent position.

The Saltcoats settlement is in two divisions, a few miles distant from each other, one being called "Lothian" colony and the other "King" colony. Land was selected for the entire settlement in one district, *i.e.*, that in which the former colony is situated. Thirty-three of the families accepted the lands selected for them, or other adjoining homesteads, and are making satisfactory progress, with the exception of five families who have gone away. The 14 families in King colony (which is about 12 miles distant from Lothian colony) would not take the land set apart for them near their