

No. 6.

Mr. D. MACRAE, J.P., to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Tighary, North Uist, by Oban, N.B.,

SIR, January 20, 1888.

WHEN I got the address of Mr. Begg, British Columbian Emigration Commissioner, I wrote him, and stated that a number of crofters and cottar families in this island were desirous to emigrate, and that without delay, I am much surprised he has not sent me any answer.

The crofters on this island have not joined in any way in the present lawlessness spreading all over the Highlands. Personally I have used all the influence I possess to keep the people quiet; and after behaving so well and being in very distressed circumstances, I think they deserve favourable consideration. They are most suitable emigrants in every respect. I even offered to accompany the people going to British Columbia. May I ask you to explain the cause of Mr. Begg's silence.

It would be a great pity if the present desire to emigrate is in any way discouraged, as I fear the present unfortunate state of matters in Lewis or other places may spread.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) D. MACRAE, J. P.

No. 7.

PETITION OF EAST COAST FISHERMEN to the
SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND.

Fraserburgh, January 31, 1888.

To the Right Hon. the Marquis of Lothian,
Secretary for Scotland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP,

To receive this our humble petition, craving your Lordship's kind attention to our case. For some time our views have been turned towards emigration as a remedy for the serious losses arising from our staple industry the herring fishing, and to this end we approach your Lordship. We have, upon due and careful consideration and at full meetings, decided that British Columbia is a likely field for our occupations. And what we now crave is, that should your Lordship see fit to extend assistance to fishermen and others on the east coast of Scotland, that your Lordship do not overlook the necessities of our case. For on no part of the east coast have the losses arising from the fishing industry fallen so heavily as upon this the central and most important fishing depôt on this coast. And the utmost necessity arises that a scheme of emigration should at once be carried out, so that the surplus population may be early relieved from what must end in inevitable distress. We therefore pray that your Lordship shall favourably consider our case. And we earnestly await your Lordship's