

‘ winter, and got 5s. per day. I think my land not fit for cattle, as the water is very scarce. I did not like the country last year as we had no crop owing to the drought, but this year I think a great deal better of it.’

“ I am quite satisfied with everything done by the people and Government at home. When we got to Halifax we began to get trouble. I think I was charged 30 dollars too much for the things bought, and I am not pleased with only having the half of a waggon, as my neighbour and me often want it the same day. I would rather have a cow less and get a whole waggon. I would have no hesitation in telling my friends in the ‘old country to come here and would not leave here for anything.’

“ 3. Charles Docherty, North-West Government emigration Crofter, says:—‘ I have 12 acres under crop this year, and planted 10 bushels of potatoes. I have had a good crop of wheat and 160 bushels potatoes, besides what my family ate from June to September. I have 12 head of cattle, including my work oxen. I expect to have 20 acres under crop next year. I had no money. I would not leave this country unless I am dragged from it by ropes. I was not pleased last year.’

“ Saw Charles Docherty and Alex. McDonald’s sons in a potato patch, who, upon inquiry, said they were much better pleased with the prospects before them in this country than at home, and that all their family were of the same mind. Alex. McDonald’s wife gave expression to like remarks.

“ 4. Alex. McDonald, North-West Government emigration Crofter, says:—‘ I have 12 acres under crop, and expect to put in about 10 acres more next year. I have nine head of cattle, and nine of a family. My family are all healthy. I have a school near, which is being built. We have a service every other week. I am very well pleased with the country, and would not leave it, as I think it the best place in the world for a man with a family.’

“ *Note.*—When asked what he thought of the 18 families who left their homesteads, he replied, ‘ I believe they made a mistake owing to the bad crop the first year. They will regret it all their lives. I think they were misled by a man named Murray.’

“ 5. M. McDonald, North-West Government emigration Crofter:—‘ I have eight acres under crop this year, and four acres broken for next year. I did not like the country last year, but I am very well pleased with it this year. I worked for the railway and made 83 dollars in three months. This money kept my family and me all the winter. I wish all my friends to come out here. I would not go back to live in the old country. I have written for my mother and brother and two sisters to come here if they can get the money. I think they will come; anyway, I wish no better place.’

“ 6. Kenneth McIvor, Government emigration Crofter:—‘ I have 12 acres under crop this year, and expect to have 20 acres more next year. I have 11 of a family, one being a girl of 16 years, who is lying just now in the hospital at Winnipeg, nearly blind. I like this country, and think all my friends ought to come out here. On writing home last year I was much displeased with the place, because the first crop failed, and I was not very well acquainted with the place. I have now written for them to come out, and to a brother in Winnipeg to come here. I have to complain of things being very dear here, and of the doctor at Greenock who examined us. He kept us all on deck for a long time when the night was very cold.’

“ *Note.*—The foregoing will serve to indicate the present position and prospects of the Crofters settled at Saltcoats. These were all taken out under the Government emigration scheme. I have no hesitation in saying that those who have taken up their homesteads are infinitely better placed, more comfortable, with better prospects for the future than ever could be their lot if they had remained at home.

“ This I know, from having a thorough knowledge of the Crofter character, and while acting along with the “ Crofter Commissioners,” I obtained sufficient information to enable me to judge the future and present position and prospects of the home Crofter. I do not consider any enlargement of holdings or migration at home would put the Crofter or his family in such an independent position as he could attain in a few years in Canada, provided he exercised a moderate amount of energy and thrift. Anyone conversant with Crofters must be quite aware that where one leads all or many follow, and when Crofters get in a body together they frequently prove unreasonable and will not be guided, while taken singly or in small numbers they generally not only prove reasonable, but are grateful for any advice or assistance they may receive. I would, therefore, infer that in any future emigration carried out by the Government—as I cannot see, keeping in view the poverty of the Crofter population, how emigration can be carried out without assistance to a very considerable extent—that the number of families sent out at any one time ought not to exceed 20 families, and that these ought to be located beside homesteads of some years’ duration, so that the examples always before the new comers may induce them to set to work and make a living. There is another matter which ought to be taken in consideration, namely, the fact that all those Crofters who have taken up their homesteads are in every case satisfied with the country, and, taking into account the short time they have been settled, fairly prosperous. This will tend to increase emigration, as letters from these Crofters to their friends at home will be a very powerful factor in the near future in increasing the tide of emigration, provided the means for transport and implements are forthcoming.