

Crofter and Cottar Colonisation Scheme.

No. 1.

The UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND to the SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY.

SIR,

Dover House, Whitehall, April 11, 1888.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Lothian to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the enclosed copy of a proposed scheme of colonisation for the crofters and cottars of the congested districts of the western highlands and islands of Scotland, and to request that you will be so good as to obtain their Lordships' formal sanction thereto.

The Secretary for Scotland will feel obliged by a reply at the earliest moment, because time is of the utmost importance if the scheme is to be put into motion this spring, which is the object the Secretary for Scotland has in view.

I am, &c.,

R. W. COCHRAN-PATRICK.

Enclosure in No. 1.

The Government are now prepared to recommend Parliament to advance a sum of 10,000*l.* to start a colonisation scheme for the crofters and cottars of the congested districts of the western highlands and islands upon the condition that 2,000*l.* is provided by private subscription.

It is proposed that in the event of the 2,000*l.* being raised the total sum of 12,000*l.* should form an emigration fund, and be administered in the following manner:—

1. That three or four Trustees or Commissioners should be appointed as a Board to represent: (1) the Imperial Government; (2) the Canadian Government; (3) the private subscribers; and (4) the important Land Companies, whose gratuitous co-operation and assistance have been promised, subject only to reimbursement of actual authorised outlay; and that this Board shall be intrusted with the responsibility of carrying out the scheme in accordance with the intention of the Government.

2. That the Board shall be empowered to obtain such clerical or other assistance (possibly two paid emigration agents, one in this country and one in Canada) as may be necessary in the selection and final settlement of the emigrants.

3. That in the event of the families being selected and arrangements made for their reaching the port of embarkation, the Emigration Officers of the Canadian Pacific Railway will take charge of the emigrants at Glasgow or elsewhere, carrying them to their final destination in the North-West Territories for a fixed low rate of passage-money.

4. That, in order to meet the cost of emigration, and to comply with the provisions of the Dominion Land Acts, a sum not exceeding 120*l.* shall be advanced for each family, of which five-sixths shall be advanced by the Imperial Government and one-sixth by private subscription, and expended in accordance with a scheme drawn up and approved by the Minister of the Interior in terms of the aforesaid Acts.