

cord, and that he would always persist in having the price of a cord, but would only sell by the load. He complained of want of outside work, but my driver told me the railway company had sent him round to say that work could be got on the railway, but that only one turned out. He also complained of the Government supplies being stopped too soon, and of the cost of the groceries bought in Saltcoats. On investigation later on I found there was almost no foundation for these complaints.

"Alexander Young and Alexander Mitchell live quite close together. Both said they now felt satisfied with their farms, but that the summer previous very little would have made them leave. Young said he would now have no hesitation in advising his friends to come out.

"Robert McKay, from Stornoway, had 11 acres in crop this year, and 20 acres more ready for next year, and at my visit he expected to be able to prepare other 20 acres. He had been working on the railway during the summer, instead of on his farm. He had taken a pre-emption of the next 160 acres, and had some complaints regarding what he had been charged, also that he had been charged \$30 or \$40 for goods he says he never received, and which he refuses to pay. Several others had the same complaints to make, but on inquiry regarding this matter at Mr. Burgess, of Ottawa, I found that he was likely to be wrong, and that the point in dispute could be definitely proved at any time. He complains of the houses, the half share in the waggon, and that he had signed the account note saying that all the accounts were correct, because he knew if he did not do so he would get no seed.

"Norman McAuly, from Stornoway, had 10 acres in crop this year, but only four acres broken in extra for next year. He had been working all summer for a large English farmer near. He, like all the others, said he would not go back on any account, and that wild horses could not draw him back. He complained of paying the passage out of a boy and young woman in order to get the Government assistance, and that the former left him soon after and that the latter got married, and although he had applied to both he could get no money from either.

"Kenneth McIver said he was not at all pleased with the country in 1889, but that he was well pleased with it now, and thinks all his people should come out, and says he has written them to that effect. He had been working during the past winter at the lumber trade on Lake Winnipeg, and that he had written a brother of his near Winnipeg to come to Saltcoats. He had eight of a family still living, but one girl was in the hospital at Winnipeg. He said the Government had done well to them, but, like the others, had a string of minor and ill-substantial complaints. He has 12 head of cattle.

"Malcolm McDonald was working on the railway when I called. His wife showed us the crop of grain and potatoes, both of which looked well. She could speak very little English, but said she liked the country well, felt no inconvenience during winter, and that she would not like to go back to Scotland.

"Donald McDonald with several of the others mentioned that he liked the country because he now got his sleep regular, whereas when he was at the fishing he did not. He did not consider the winters any more severe than those of Stornoway, and was in good spirits over his prospects, and said he would like very much to get his brother, mother, and two sisters to come out, as there were much better prospects for them in Manitoba than the Highlands. He had one team of oxen, two cows, one heifer, one calf, but no hens.

"Charles Docherty has 12 acres under crop this year and expects to have 20 acres next year. His grain was all in stack and looked good, as were also his potatoes. He has 12 head of cattle, fully half of which are young ones. When asked if he would like to go back he said he would require to be dragged by ropes before he would go.

"Alexander McDonald was from home, but on inquiry of a son as to the crops, he showed us his grain and potatoes, both of which looked well. The boy said he liked the country well enough and was not afraid of the frost.

"All the others much similar."

EXTRACT from a LETTER on the CROFTER SETTLEMENTS in CANADA, by GEO. BROWN,
British Farmers' Delegate for the North of Scotland.

Saltcoats.

"In accordance with the request of Mr. Thos. Gahame, I send you the following notes of interviews held at different places and at various times with Crofters settled in Canada:—

"1. D. Grahame, an old Hudson Bay man, came out to this country for the second time a year and a half ago, as one of the Government emigration Crofters, says:—"I have to complain of great hardship the first year, because the crops did not grow, owing to the want of rain, and I could not get work at all. I wrote home to my friends that no one should leave the old country and come here. When the harvest this year was over, which is a very good one, I am better pleased with the place and would not return home on any condition. I have to complain of the charges the people of this country made for their goods. I have also to complain that the rations were stopped too soon."

"Note.—On cross-examination, find this man had been offered work on the railway and refused it, preferring to occupy his spare time drawing firewood to Saltcoats.

"2. Robert McKay, Stornoway, Government emigration Crofter, says:—"I have 11 acres under crop this year and will have other 20 acres broken for 1891. I worked on the railway during