

"Scandinavian" on the 3rd of April, under the Government Colonisation scheme. I found that Mr. McNeill, who had been up some time in advance of me, had a good deal of difficulty in replacing those families who had been selected and inspected last autumn and who had withdrawn, from the short space of time at his command, although there were large numbers of families very anxious to go if they had had the opportunity of due warning. On the whole, I think a very good description of the class desired was selected, and people who will make capital settlers in our country in time, they being strong and hardy, and capable of work of any ordinary description. In the 49 families there were, in all, 282 souls—106 males, 79 females, and 97 children under 12. It entailed a very considerable amount of labour to have all the arrangements completed prior to their departure, but this, I am glad to say, was satisfactorily accomplished. The passage from the Western Islands was not on the whole favourable, nor was their departure from this port, on account of the bad weather, but they went off in a very contented and happy frame of mind.

In the case of any future scheme of a similar description, I think it would be of great importance not to have the selection of the families made too long before the time of their departure. Two months, I should think, would be quite sufficient warning to give them ample time to dispose of their effects and make their preparations.

Another matter also which I think requires grave consideration is that in future, should there be a similar scheme carried out on a large scale, whether it would not be advisable that the ocean steamer should be sent by arrangement direct to these western islands, and have three or four selected ports for her to call at, and if this were done a very considerable amount of expense, time and trouble would be saved, and these are all matters of importance.

So far as I have been able to learn, these emigrants are getting on satisfactorily in the districts in which they are located, and as an indication that this must be so, I have had large numbers of letters from the Western Hebrides since they left, from the Island of Lewis particularly, asking for pamphlets and full information, and expressing a desire to be sent out with their families, in a similar manner to those who went out last spring.

I have lately been requested to attend a meeting of the Committee of the Lewis Distribution Funds in this city, under the presidency of Sir James King, which I did, in connection with the sending out of the Crofters, and found that they are taking a great interest in these people, with the anticipation of a large sum being possibly set apart by the Imperial Government at its next session, for the purpose of carrying out colonization principles on a wider and more extended scale than has been the case in the past, and especially with the view of a larger sum being allowed for the settlement of each family, in accordance with the suggestion of Sir Charles Tupper. I think, if such a scheme is made practical, it will prove of great service to the interests of all concerned.

I had a letter of introduction from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, as well as others presented to me by Messrs. Gunn and McLeod, in reference to information which they were sent over as delegates to obtain, in regard to fishery matters, and did all in my power to assist them in their operations, giving them introductions which I thought would prove useful. They were a good deal in the Highland districts, and while there, would diffuse knowledge of the various parts of Canada they were connected with to those with whom they might come in contact.

So far as I can judge, there will be a considerable emigration next year from many districts in the Highlands, under any circumstances, from the inquiries I have had and the information I have obtained.

I have been kept well supplied with our literature of all descriptions. I would, however, suggest that if in some pamphlet, a short account of all the minerals in the various Provinces was published it would prove of great value, as I have very frequent inquiries upon this subject, more particularly as regards Nova Scotia and British Columbia.

We have had a very considerable amount of competition this season from various other countries, but more particularly the Argentine Republic, to which state