

The same gentleman also tells me that he know from his experience, when visiting the Colony as an officer of the Royal Navy many years ago, that very large numbers of Orcadians have been settled in Vancouver for a generation, owing, no doubt, to the fact that many Orcadians used to enter the service of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Of course, if the crofter families whom it is intended to send over as Colonists are to be selected as objects of charity, and to be taken solely from congested districts, I could not urge that Orkney or Shetland possess as strong claims as some parts of the Hebrides.

If, however, in the interests of the Colony and of deserving and law-abiding crofter families, it should be contemplated to widen the field of selection beyond the congested districts of the West Highlands and Islands, I trust that the crofters of Orkney and Shetland, many of whom would find relations and friends in Vancouver, and would be eminently suited for colonization there, may not be forgotten.

I should esteem it a favour if your Lordship should be able, either now or at a later stage, to give me any information as to the scope of the scheme, and, in particular, whether crofters of Orkney and Shetland can be brought within its operation.

I have, &c.,  
 (Signed) JOHN C. DUNDAS.

#### No. 10.

PETITION to the SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND from  
 CROFTERS and COTTARS of Stilligarry, South Uist.

Stilligarry, Parish of South Uist,  
 February 24, 1888.

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

MAY it please your Lordship to receive this humble petition, craving your Lordship's kind attention to our case. Your petitioners—mostly crofters and cottars—have for some time turned our views towards emigration as a remedy for alleviating our present distressed condition, caused by failure of crops, low prices for stock, want of employment, and over-population, and for this purpose we now approach your Lordship. We have, upon due and careful consideration, decided that British Columbia is a likely field for our occupation, and what we now crave is that your Lordship may see fit to grant such assistance as was already proposed towards emigration to that Colony. Among the population of this and the neighbouring parishes there is the utmost necessity that the scheme of emigration be immediately carried out, so that those desirous of emigrating could do so by the end of spring. Should the scheme of emigration be carried out, there are many not only willing but anxious to avail themselves of any assistance which it may be in your