

CROFTER AND COTTAR COLONIZATION SCHEME.

R E P O R T

BY THE

CANADIAN COMMISSIONER OF DOMINION
LANDS

RESPECTING

THE POSITION AND PROSPECTS OF THE CROFTERS WHO
EMIGRATED TO MANITOBA IN THE
SPRING OF 1888.



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1888.

No. 1.

The HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA to the UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND.

9, Victoria Chambers, Westminster, S. W.,
14th November 1888.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 31st August last, I now have the honour to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary for Scotland, a copy of a letter I have received from the Department of the Interior of Canada, enclosing a copy of a report made by the Commissioner of Dominion Lands respecting the present position and prospects of the crofters who emigrated to Manitoba in the spring of the present year, and were settled in the Pelican Lake District under the Colonization Scheme.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES TUPPER.

No. 2.

The CANADIAN MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR to the HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA.

Department of the Interior, Ottawa,
29th October 1888.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour, by direction of the Minister of the Interior, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th ultimo, No. 612, and to enclose herewith, for the information of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for Scotland, a copy of a report made by the Commissioner of Dominion Lands respecting the present position and prospects of the crofters who immigrated to Manitoba in the spring of the present year, and were settled in the Pelican Lake District.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN R. HALL,
Acting Deputy Minister
of the Interior.

No. 3.

REPORT of the COMMISSIONER of DOMINION LANDS.

Department of the Interior, Ottawa, Ontario,
19th October 1888.

SIR,

IN accordance with the request contained in the letter to you from the High Commissioner for Canada in England, dated the 8th September last, I have the honour to make the following report, for the information of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for Scotland, respecting the present position and prospects of the crofters from the islands of Lewis and Harris, who immigrated to Manitoba in the spring of this year, and were settled in the Pelican Lake District under the Crofter Colonization Scheme of the Imperial Government.

It was thought desirable that the crofters should be settled as closely together as possible, such being also their own wish. Though there is a large area of land available for settlement in Manitoba and the North-West, it was found difficult to obtain a tract near enough to railway communication and, at the same time, sufficiently large to permit of this being done. The Canada North-West Land Company being willing to relinquish certain of their lands for homesteading by these settlers, and to accept Government lands elsewhere in lieu thereof, it was found possible to settle the crofters within a reasonable distance of one another in the Pelican Lake District. This district is in a good farming country, is well watered, fairly well wooded, within 15 miles of railway communication, and near a good market. Each crofter over 18 years of age who applied therefor has a homestead of 160 acres; there being, in all, 71 homesteads entered for. The homesteads were selected, in conjunction with a committee of the representative men among the crofters, by Mr. W. B. Scarth, M. P., Managing Director

of the Canada North-West Land Company, who, on the arrival of the crofters in Manitoba, accompanied them to the district where they are located, and spent several weeks with them supervising their settlement. By this means the crofters were spared a great deal of trouble in the selection of their lands and in obtaining entry for it. Most of the heads of families who have received advances from the Imperial Government are now in residence on their homesteads and fulfilling the conditions necessary to entitle them to patent. They have erected frame houses on their land, from 12 by 16 feet to 12 by 22 feet in size, and some have built stables for their cattle, while others are now doing so. Most of these settlers have a certain amount of land broken and ready for next year's crop, the area ranging from 6 to 15 acres; and a great many have laid in a quantity of hay for the support of their cattle during the winter. Those to whom advances were made have been each supplied with a yoke of oxen, a cow, a waggon, harness, a plough, a stove, and various necessary tools, such as axes, spades, &c., which, having been purchased in large quantities, the crofters have obtained at a much cheaper rate than ordinary settlers can buy at. Nearly all the single men, and also a few of the married ones, are now absent from their homesteads, having hired themselves with farmers in the neighbourhood. They are in receipt of good wages, ranging from \$15 to \$30 a month with board and lodging. The single women have had no difficulty in procuring situations as domestic servants, also at high wages.

I have recently sent an official of this Department to the settlement, with instructions to interview each settler as to his condition and prospects, to forward me a copy of their statements, and to report generally as to the condition of the Colony. He reports that the lands on which the crofters are settled are generally up to the average-quality of land in that district, which is one of the best in Manitoba; that before entries were made a committee of crofters inspected the lands and approved of them; that the stock and implements supplied are the best procurable; and that the prevailing feeling in the Settlement is one of great contentment. The statements made by the crofters themselves amply verify this. Most of them speak enthusiastically of their condition in their own new homes, especially when compared with that which they occupied before immigrating, and all express confidence in their ability to repay the advances made them, and bright hopes of their future prosperity. I have annexed hereto a schedule, giving in tabulated form all the material information obtained by the official referred to, and the statements made by the crofters regarding their condition. The slight difficulty which has arisen owing to one or two of the crofters having settled on lands belonging to others is the fault of the crofters themselves, but can be adjusted without any trouble.

My own opinion upon this Settlement is that the crofters have every cause to be satisfied with their locations, and with what has been done for them. As to their prospects for the future, I believe that, with industry and perseverance, there is not the least reason why they should not, in course of time, become independent, successful farmers, as so many have done before them.

In conclusion, I would venture to suggest that, in the event of any further colonies of crofters being sent to the North-West by the Imperial Government, the settlers should reach their destination earlier in the year than did the ones in question, as it is important that they should have plenty of time in which to perform their first season's operations. I would also suggest the advisability, in future cases, of an advance being made to each homesteader instead of to each head of a family. The sum of \$600 is not a very great amount to start a large family, in which there are probably two or three homesteaders, after the passage money has been paid, and if owing to being thereby cramped for funds it is necessary for the settlers to be away from their farms out at service, in order to earn money, the chances of their success as farmers are considerably lessened.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) H. H. SMITH,
 Commissioner of Dominion Lands.

SCHEDULE of NAMES of CROFTERS settled near Pelican Lake, Manitoba, with
description of their Lands, Improvements, Liens, &c.. &c.

SCHEDULE of NAMES of CROFTERS settled near Pelican Lake, Manitoba, with description of their Lands, Improvements, Liens, &c., &c.

No.	Name.	Former Residence.	Section.	Acres of Land	Rauce.	Age.	Married.	Family.	Date of Arrival.	Date of Entry.	Resident.	Non- resi- dent.	Date of perfecting Entry.	Under what Clause.	Out at Service.	Wages.	Residence performed.
1	Kenneth Stewart		S.E.	15	0	16 W.	No					Yes	Not yet		Yes, 10 weeks	\$20 per month	None.
2	William McLeod	Obbe, Harris	S.W.	15	6	15 "	"					"	"		Yes	\$50 per month and beard.	"
3	Donald Stewart	"	N.E.	15	6	16 "	Yes	4			Yes	"	End of July 1888.		No	"	Continuous.
4	Dougal McKenzie	Finslay, Harris	N.W.	21	6	16 "	"	5				"	July 1888		"	"	"
5	Catherine McKinnon	"	N.E.	17	6	16 "	Widow	8				Yes	Not yet		Yes	\$1 per day and beard.	Lives with son on Sec. 21.
6	Kenneth McLeod	Cum, Harris	N.W.	13	6	16 "	Yes	5			Yes	"	End of July 1888		Daughter out, \$6 per month.	"	Continuous.
7	John McKay	Reinicotell, Har- ris.	N.E.	13	6	16 "	Widower	2		Aug 3, '88		Yes	Lives with son on S.E. 23.		No	"	Lives with son on S.E. 23.
8	Andrew Graham	"	N.E.	1	5	17 "	No	"	June '88			"	Not yet		Yes	Working with neighbours, \$28.	None.
9	John Macdonald, junr.	West Harris.	N.W.	21	5	16 "	Yes	8			Yes	"	Aug. 27, 1888		No	"	Continuously.
10	Norman Macdonald	"	S.W.	21	5	16 "	No	"				Yes	Not yet		Yes	\$16 per month and beard.	None.
11	John McKay	Finslay	S.W.	21	6	16 "	"	"				"	"		"	\$1'50 per day	"
12	Hugh Morrison	"	S.E.	21	6	16 "	"	"				"	"		"	"	"
13	Donald McKenzie	"	N.E.	21	6	16 "	"	"				"	"		No	"	Lives with his brother on N.W. 4.
14	Angus McLeod	"	S.E.	33	6	16 "	Yes	1				"	"		"	"	Lives on S.E. 21.
15	Donald McKinnon	Lingsabay, Harris	N.W.	33	6	16 "	No	"			Residing on S.W. 21.	"	"		"	"	Lives on S.W. 21.
16	John Macdonald, senr.	Tarbert, Harris	N.W.	17	5	16 "	Yes	3			Yes	"	Aug. 15, 1888.		"	"	Continuously.
17	William Macdonald	"	S.E.	21	5	16 "	No	"			Yes	Yes	Not yet		"	"	Lives with his father on N.W. 17.
18	Angus Macdonald	Back, Stornoway	S.W.	9	5	17 "	Yes	4			Yes	"	End of June 1888		"	"	Continuously.
19	Norman Graham	Coll, Stornoway	N.E.	21	4	17 "	"	2			"	"	"		Yes, 1 month.	\$30 per month	Since June 1888.
20	Kenneth McMillan	Cum, Harris	S.W.	23	6	16 "	No	"				Yes	Not yet		Yes	\$15 and \$20 per month.	Lives on N.W. 23.
21	John McKay	Ness, Lewis	S.E.	35	4	17 "	Yes	1	June '88		Yes	"	June 1888		No	"	Continuously.
22	John McLeod, senr.	Stornoway	S.E.	23	4	17 "	"	4			"	"	June 15, 1888		"	"	"
23	Bannatyne McKinnon	"	N.W.	23	6	16 "	"	Not stated.				Yes	Not stated		Yes	"	Family in residence.
24	Angus Morrison	"	N.W.	15	6	16 "	"	"				"	"		"	"	"
25	Ronald McKay	"	N.E.	23	6	16 "	"	"				"	"		"	"	"
26	Roderick McKay	Not stated	S.E.	23	6	16 "	"	"				"	"		"	"	"
27	George Morrison	"	S.E.	13	5	17 "	No	"				"	"		"	"	None.
28	Donald Murray	"	S.W.	17	5	17 "	"	"				"	"		"	"	"

Schedule of Names of Crofters settled near Pelican Lake, Manitoba, with description of their Lands, Improvements, Liens, &c., &c.—continued.

No.	Amount of Lien.	Personal Property.	Value.	Improvements.			Value of Same.	REMARKS.
				House.	Stable, &c.	Breaking.		
1	Not stated	None	—	None	None	None	Is well pleased with the country.	
2	"	"	—	"	"	"	Is satisfied with the country.	
3	\$684	Yoko oxen, wagon, harness, plough, cow and calf, stove, &c.; also bought one cow and calf.	\$539	Frame, 12x10	"	10 acres	Is a representative man; highly satisfied with the country. Thinks he has every chance of making a good living.	
4	\$120	Yoko oxen, cow and calf, wagon, plough, &c.	\$237	"	"	5 acres	Perfectly satisfied with his land. Thought at first the Government would keep him for a year.	
5	None	None	—	"	"	None	Satisfied with his prospects.	
6	\$602.97	Oxen, cow, calf, wagon, plough, &c.	\$200.60	Frame, 12x10	"	10 acres	Well pleased with his land. Happy and satisfied.	
7	None	None	—	None	"	None	Would not go back to Scotland on any consideration.	
8	\$212	"	—	"	"	"	Perfectly satisfied. Has plenty of work.	
9	\$700.08 his and son's.	Oxen, plough, cow and calf, and wagon	\$213	Frame, 12x22	"	7 acres	Highly pleased with his place. Expected the Government would provide provisions for a year.	
10	\$230 to his father	None	—	None	"	None	Has nothing to complain of.	
11	None	"	—	"	"	"	This man states that Donald McKernie selected this land for him, and paid the entry fee; but while he was away working Donald McKernie squatted on it, built a house, value \$21, and broke up the land, & thinking to take other land.	
12	"	"	—	"	"	"	Ogden McKernie is squatted on this land, and has built a house worth \$21, and broken 9 acres.	
13	"	"	—	"	"	"	Morrison would like to buy other land.	
14	\$120	Oxen, cow, calf, wagon, plough, &c. on 8 E.	\$262	" (Has house and breaking on 8 E. 21.)	"	"	Wants to exchange this quarter for part of Sec. 10.	
15	\$120	Oxen, wagon, plough, &c. on 8 E.	\$273	None	"	"	This man has squatted on S. E. 21 against the wish of H. Morrison.	
16	\$631.38	Oxen, wagon, cow, calf, plough, &c.	\$267	Frame	"	9 acres	This man has squatted on S. W. 21 against the wish of J. McKay.	
17	\$170	None	—	None	"	None	His only complaint is that he did not get a year's provisions; otherwise well satisfied.	
18	\$120; owes also \$155.	Oxen, wagon, cow, calf, plough, stove, &c.	\$251	None	"	None	This man exchanged entries with his father. See No. 16.	
19	\$120; owes also \$150.	Oxen, wagon, cow, plough, &c.	\$278	Frame	"	15 acres	Perfectly satisfied with the land and his prospects.	
20	\$200 to B. McKinnon	Team of horses, \$80; plough, \$22.50; and harness, \$31.	\$370.80	Has 2,000 ft. lumber.	None	None	Would not go back if offered a free passage.	
21	\$533.58	Oxen, cow, calf, wagon, plough, &c.	\$285	Frame	"	8 acres	Perfectly satisfied. Well treated.	
22	\$120	"	\$292	None	"	15 acres	Thinks land very good. Stove too small.	
23	\$584	"	—	Frame, 12x10	"	8 acres	Thinks soil the best he ever saw. Stove too small. Has 20 tons hay cut.	
24	\$584	"	—	Frame, 12x10	"	5 acres	Has a haystack of 8 or 10 tons.	
25	\$584	"	—	Frame	"	7 acres	Entrant very much pleased with his land.	
26	\$584	"	—	Frame, 12x10	"	9 acres	Has a stack of hay. No other particulars.	
27	None	"	—	None	"	None	No particulars.	
28	\$180	"	—	"	"	"	Entrant has been in service since coming out.	

* \$384 on his own place, and \$100 on his son's place, S. E. 15 : 6, 16 W. † Stated to be \$100 in Alkman's Report. ‡ \$351 in Alkman's Report.

Schedule of Names of Crofters settled near Pelican Lake, Manitoba, with description of their Lands, Improvements, Liens, &c., &c.—*continued.*

No.	Name.	Former Residence.	Section.	Township.	Range.	Age.	Married.	Family.	Date of Arrival.	Date of Entry.	Resident.	Non-Resident.	Date of perfecting Entry.	Under what Clause.	Out at Service.	Wages.	Residence performed.
29	John Fraser		N.E.	5	10 W.	—	Widower	4			No	—			No	—	Lives on N.E. 7:5, 15 W.
30	Donald Fraser		S.E.	5	10 "	—	No	—			"	—			Not stated	—	None.
31	John Graham		S.W.	5	17 "	—	"	—			"	—			Yes	Not stated	"
32	Murdoch Morrison		S.E.	5	17 "	—	"	—			"	—			"	—	None: family in residence.
33	Allan McLeod		N.W.	5	17 "	—	Yes	Not stated.			"	—			"	—	Family at home.
34	Wm. McLeod		N.S.	5	17 "	—	"	—			"	—			"	—	Not stated.
35	Donald McDonald		N.E.	5	17 "	—	"	—			"	—			"	—	Family are in residence.
36	John Campbell		S.W.	5	17 "	—	"	—			"	—			"	—	"
37	Murdoch Graham		N.W.	5	17 "	—	"	—			"	—			"	—	"
38	John Morrison		S.E.	5	17 "	—	"	—			Yes	—			No	—	Temporarily absent.
39	Donald McKinnon		N.W.	5	16 "	—	—	—			Abandoned	—			"	—	Squatted on S.W., 21: 6, 16 W.
40	Norman McLellan		N.W.	5	16 "	—	No	—			No	—			Yes	\$25 per month	None.
41	Kenneth McKinnon		S.W.	5	16 "	—	"	—			"	—			"	\$1 per day	"
42	John Morrison		N.E.	5	16 "	—	"	—			"	—	Not stated		"	\$50 per month	"
43	Samuel Graham		N.W.	5	17 "	—	"	—			"	—			"	Not stated	"
44	Neil Munro		N.E.	5	17 "	—	"	—			"	—			"	—	"
45	Kenneth McLeod		S.W.	5	17 "	—	"	—			"	—			"	—	"
46	Murdoch Stewart		S.E.	5	17 "	—	"	—			"	—			"	—	"
47	Angus Graham		N.W.	5	16 "	—	"	—			"	—			"	—	"
48	Wm. Macdonald		N.E.	5	16 "	—	Yes	Not stated.			"	—			"	—	Family in residence.
49	John Graham		S.W.	5	16 "	—	No	—			"	—			"	—	"
50	Norman McKenzie alias James McIvor.		S.W.	5	17 "	—	"	—			(Lives on S.W. &.)	—			Occasionally	—	A little.
51	Angus McLeod		N.W.	5	17 "	—	"	—			No	—			Yes	\$30 per month	None.
52	Donald McLeod		M.P.	5	17 "	—	"	—			"	—			"	\$30	"
53	John McLeod, junr.		S.W.	5	17 "	—	"	—			"	—			"	\$30	"
54	Wm. McLeod		N.W.	5	17 "	—	"	—			"	—			"	\$30	"
55	John McKenzie, senr.		S.E.	5	17 "	—	Yes	—			Yes	—	June 1888		No	—	Continuous.
56	Collin McKenzie		N.E.	5	17 "	—	Dead	—			No	—	Not stated		"	—	None.

Entry fees all paid by Mr. Beath's agent and charged in account, 5 August 1888.

Not given.

Former residence not stated in reports.

Schedule of Names of Crofters settled near Pelican Lake, Manitoba, with description of their Lands, Improvements, Liens, &c., &c.—continued.

No.	Amount of Lien.	Personal Property.	Value.	Improvements.			Value of same.	REMARKS.
				House.	Stable, &c.	Breaking.		
29	\$384			None	None	None		Fraser squatted on N.E. 7: 5, 15 W. and has a house thereon. One son and one daughter at service.
30	\$100			"	"	"		Is squatted on S.E. 7: 5, 15 W. and claims the S.E. 4 as a homestead.
31	Not on list			"	"	"		Entrant out at service. No particulars.
32	"			"	"	"		"
33	\$384			Frame, 12x16	"	10 or 12 acres	Not stated	Has 10 or 12 tons of hay stacked.
34	\$384			"	"	6 acres	"	8 tons of hay saved.
35	\$384			"	"	8 acres	"	" 10 "
36	\$384			"	Stod and pole	6 acres	"	Well pleased with the land. Has 10 or 12 tons of hay saved.
37	\$384			"	"	8 acres and a good well.	"	Well pleased with the prospects; plenty of work.
38	\$384			"	None	6 acres	"	Has a stack of hay saved, 9 or 10 tons.
39	None	Not stated.		None	"	None		Has abandoned and squatted on S.W. 21: 6, 10 W.
40	"			"	"	"		It is reported that this man's real name is Alexander Morrison, but took his present name to represent the crofter who was nominated to come out.
41	\$275			"	"	"		Is dissatisfied with his land. It is so bad.
42	\$175-10			"	"	"		"
43	\$125-40			"	"	"		Has not gone into residence yet.
44	None			"	"	"		"
45	"			"	"	"		"
46	"			"	"	"		"
47	"			"	"	"		Nearly all this quarter can be tilled.
48	\$384			Frame, 12x14	"	7 acres	Not stated	Is favourably impressed with the country.
49	\$384			"	"	5 acres	"	Is out at service; his family in residence.
50	\$384			None	"	None	"	"
51	\$384			Frame, 12x16	"	9 acres	\$77	This man came out under the name of Norman Mackenzie, thinking that he would have difficulty if he came out in his own name.
52	\$120			None	"	None		Is now out at service. Wages not stated.
53	\$100			"	"	"		Generally lives with Angus McLeod on Sect. 25.
54	\$100			"	"	"		Is well satisfied with the land. Lives with his father.
55	\$384	Yoke oxen, cow and calf, &c.	Not stated	Frame, 12x20	"	10 acres	\$105	Lives with his father. Is well pleased with the country.
56	\$250			None	"	None		Was temporarily absent.
								Came out under the guardianship of his son John.

Schedule of Names of Crofters settled near Pelican Lake, Manitoba, with description of their Lands, Improvements, Liens, &c., &c.—continued.

No.	Name.	Perm. Residence.	Section.	Township.	Rangec.	Ass.	Married.	Family.	Date of Arrival.	Date of Entry.	Resident.	Date of perfecting Entry.	Under what Clause.	Out at Service.	Wages.	Residence performed.
57	Wm McLeod	-	N.W.	5	17 W.	-	Yes	Not reported on.	-	-	Yes	-	Not on Mr. Bouchier's list.	No	-	Since entry.
58	Chas Nicholson	-	S.W.	4	17 "	-	No	-	-	-	No	-	-	Yes	Could not find out	None.
59	Kenneth Nielson	-	S.E.	4	17 "	-	Yes	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	No	-	Continuous.
60	John McKenzie, junr.	-	S.W.	4	17 "	-	-	Not stated.	-	-	No	Not yet.	-	Yes	\$1 per day	About three months.
61	Norman McKenzie*	-	S.E.	4	17 "	-	No	-	-	-	No	-	-	-	Not stated	None.
62	John McCaulay	-	S.W.	4	17 "	-	Yes	Not stated.	-	-	Yes	June 1888	-	No	-	Since June 1888.
63	Kenneth McCaulay	-	S.E.	4	17 "	-	No	-	-	-	No	Not yet.	-	Yes	Not stated	None.
64	Malcolm McIvor	-	N.E.	4	17 "	-	-	-	-	-	"	"	-	"	\$28 per month (and board)	"
65	Alex. Macdonald	-	S.E.	31	16 "	-	Not stated.	-	-	-	"	"	-	Not stated.	-	"
66	John McIvor	-	N.W.	19	16 "	-	No	-	-	-	"	"	-	Yes	\$23 per month.	"
67	Lewis McLeod	-	S.W.	4	16 "	-	-	-	-	-	"	"	-	"	Not stated	"
68	Alex. McCaulay	-	N.W.	4	17 "	-	"	-	-	-	"	"	-	"	"	"
69	Wm. McKenzie	-	N.W.	21	17 "	-	"	-	-	-	"	"	-	"	"	"
70	Murdock McLeod	-	N.E.	25	17 "	-	"	-	-	-	"	"	-	"	"	"
71	John McKenzie (No. 2)	-	S.W.	35	17 "	-	"	-	-	-	"	"	-	"	"	"

* Name Norman Graham in Aikman's Report.

Schedule of Names of Crofters settled near Pelican Lake, Manitoba, with description of their Lands, Improvements, Liens, &c., &c.—continued.

No.	Amount of Lien.	Personal Property.	Value.	Improvements.			Value of same.	REMARKS.
				House.	Stable, &c.	Breaking.		
57	\$150	Not reported on	-	Not on Mr. Bouchier's list.	-	-	\$87	Was temporarily absent.
58	\$384	Yoke oxen, cow, calf, &c.	-	Frame, 12 x 16	None	0 acres	-	Could get no information in regard to him.
59	\$200	None	-	None	"	None	-	Was temporarily absent. No other particulars.
60	\$384	Yoke oxen, cow and calf, &c.	-	Frame, 12 x 16	Getting built	6 acres	\$68	This man is now out at service.
61	\$334	Yoke oxen, cow, calf, &c.	-	Frame, 12 x 16	None	6 acres	\$78	Absent at service. Wages not known.
62	\$217.41	None	-	None	"	None	-	This man has a large family. Was absent day of inspection.
63	\$334	Yoke cattle, cow and calf, &c.	-	Frame, 12 x 16	"	12 acres	\$93	Came out under guardianship of Kenneth McCaulay.
64	\$100	None	-	None	"	None	\$0	Not yet perfected entry.
65	None	"	-	"	"	2 acres	-	No information received.
66	"	"	-	"	"	None	-	No remarks.
67	"	"	-	"	"	"	-	It is supposed this man is liable for a part of the advance made to his father.
68	"	"	-	"	"	"	-	Entrant has been sick for some time.
69	"	"	-	"	"	"	-	No particulars.
70	"	"	-	"	"	"	-	"
71	"	"	-	"	"	"	-	"

CROFTER AND COTTAR COLONIZATION.

Applications for Assistance to Emigrate.

N.B.—These applications are exclusive of the large number which were made personally to the Commissioners who visited the Western Islands in the Spring and Autumn of 1888.

No. 1.

PETITION to the LORD ADVOCATE from NATIVES of
BENBECULA.

Island of Benbecula,
Parish of South Uist,
September 27, 1886.

Unto the Right Honourable
J. H. A. Macdonald,
Lord Advocate.

HUMBLY SHEWETH

THAT your petitioners are natives and residents of the island of Benbecula, parish of South Uist, and county of Inverness, are willing and desirous to leave our native homes, and emigrate to the North-West Territories of North America or New Zealand.

We have come to this conclusion because we have found it utterly impossible to eke out livelihood in our native island for the last number of years, owing to the following causes, viz. :—

1st. Natural barrenness of the soil, arising from having no mineral matter.

2nd. Prices on stock have fallen so low, and are still falling.

3rd. Kelp manufacture is gone, which was a help to some of the crofter population of the island.

4th. No improvements of any description carried on for a considerable time past.

5th. The island is densely over-populated, and shall not maintain more than one-third of the present population.

Your petitioners have for a number of years struggled in various ways to meet the various demands of our families, and found it an utter impossibility to make both ends meet.

We respectfully appeal to your Honour to take our circumstances into your serious consideration, and lay the same before Parliament on an early date, to grant us that assistance which shall enable us to proceed directly to some British Colony, where we shall be able to better our present miserable condition. Your petitioners sincerely hope that Parliament will grant us immediate hearing, so as to enable us to make the necessary preparations for leaving this destitute island as soon as possible.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

Here follow 28 signatures.

No. 2.

ROV. JOHN McLEAN to Mr. FRASER MACKINTOSH, M.P.

F. C. Manse, Tarbert Harris,
By Stornoway,
February, 2, 1887.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE been waited upon by a number of crofters and cottars on Lord Dunmore's property in South Harris, with the request that I should write you in their behalf. They are very anxious to emigrate to America, if they are helped any way to do so. Their crofts are very small, and for several years back their crops have been very miserable, owing to the inclemency of the weather and the poverty of the soil. A few years ago an appeal to the public had to be made in their behalf, for food and for seed to put into the ground, and this year they are quite as needful. Both their potato and grain crops were damaged by storms of wind that occurred in Autumn last, so that many got next to nothing out of the ground, and the potatoes they did gather were scarcely eatable, as they never came to maturity. Then, the fishing was a failure last year, and to make things still worse there was very little price for cattle. The people see that they are year after year getting into a worse condition, with no prospect whatever of improvement, and they have come to the conclusion that the only radical and permanent cure for their present poverty and straits is to emigrate to where there is plenty of good land to be got. Lady Scott of North Harris sent eight families to Manitoba at her own expense last year, and these are sending home such good accounts of their position and prospects, and urging their friends to follow them, so that many are encouraged, and are even anxious, to follow. There are many of Lady Scott's tenantry who are hoping that her Ladyship will send them across this year, but it is not known yet whether she will do so. But the people of South Harris, on Dunmore's property, cannot expect their proprietor to do anything for them in that way, as he is not able to do so. They look to Government to help them, and wished me to write you in order that you would be kind enough to bring their case before Government. There is here an opportunity given Government to relieve the poverty of Highland crofters in the only way to secure them comfort. There are seven or eight townships on the South Harris estate connected with my congregation, and in each of them there is a congestion of population, caused chiefly by that baneful habit of dividing and sub-dividing their holdings, so prevalent here and in the Lewis. The Royal Commission, of which you were yourself a member, did recommend emigration as one of the remedies for the present unhappy state of things. And, seeing that people are now anxious that Government should send them, I trust they will interpose, and take advantage of the opportunity afforded them of helping poor

Highlanders who are anxious to improve their condition. Nothing but emigration will ever relieve the chronic poverty and misery that obtain in these places. I trust you will kindly press on the Government the urgent need there is that they should help these poor people to emigrate. I have got the names of several families already who have given in their names to me as most anxious to go, but I need not send them at present, because, if Government give the needed help, many more are waiting to come forward with the same object.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN McLEAN.

No. 3.

Rev. JOHN McLEAN to Mr. FRASER MACKINTOSH, M.P.
F. C. Manse, Tarbert Harris,
February 25, 1887.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HEREWITH send you a list of heads of families with their families, and others, who are very anxious that Government should help them to emigrate. The numbers, containing small and great, amount to 397. The most of the heads of families have bits of land, but others have none. The crofters among them have a few beasts, which I hope the different proprietors will take off their hands at valuation. The most of the names are from South Harris.

Lady Scott declined sending emigrants to Manitoba this year, as she did last year, but she agreed to help if the Government would also do so.

If the Government come forward with a liberal scheme of emigration a great many more of the Harris people will gladly embrace the opportunity of getting away. For several years back the people have been suffering from the partial or total loss of their potato and other crops. Five years ago large sums came from the Lord Mayor of London and other quarters, to buy seed to put into the ground, and I believe the people quite as needful of similar help this year, whether it will be forthcoming or not. If not, the most of the crops will be fallow. I trust Lady Scott will, as usual, supply her own crofters with seed, but the South Harris people are under the management of trustees who are not so likely to help.

There is a great deal of poverty and want among our people that is truly painful to witness. There is not a week but I have to relieve people to save them from actual starvation. I wonder if any help could be got among wealthy and charitable people in the great Metropolis; even 20*l.* would be a little help.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN McLEAN.

SUMMARY of LIST referred to in No. 3.

Place.	No. of Families.	No. of Souls.]
Ardslave - - - -	4	25
Borsum - - - -	2	11
Carracrich - - - -	1	8
Drinshadder - - - -	1	5
Finsbay - - - -	4	27
Flodabay - - - -	5	38
Geocrab - - - -	4	27
Grosebay - - - -	3	13
Kyle Scalpay - - - -	9	61
Kyle Stocknish - - - -	1	6
Lackler - - - -	4	19
Liugrabay - - - -	3	24
Manish - - - -	3	10
Meavnig - - - -	2	16
Obbe - - - -	4	25
Plockapol - - - -	1	4
Quidinish - - - -	5	35
Scandabay - - - -	5	23
Strond - - - -	1	6
Tarbert - - - -	2	14
	64	397

No. 4.

ROV. WILLIAM SMITH to the HOME SECRETARY.

Manse of Unst, Shetland,
December 17, 1887.

SIR,

EMIGRATION TO CANADA.

Will you have the goodness to inform me if Government will entertain an application, and on what terms, from the parochial board of this parish to advance the sum of 10*l.* (say ten pounds) each to a limited number of approved single men to enable them to emigrate to Canada in March or April next. The board wish the money to be advanced to the young men, who are to be held individually responsible or its repayment within a given period.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WM. SMITH,
Minister of Unst.

No. 5.

HOUSEHOLDERS in the township of BACK to the
SECRETARY for SCOTLAND.

Back, Stornoway, N.B.,

MY LORD,

January 24, 1888.

WE the undersigned, representing 20 householders, cottars, and squatters, in the township of Back, in this (Stornoway) parish, earnestly beg your Lordship to assist us to emigrate to Manitoba, and we are prepared to promise repayment in full of any sums that may be advanced.

We have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN CAMPBELL,
HUGH MURRAY,
Representing 20 householders in Back.

No. 6.

Mr. D. MACRAE, J.P., to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Tighary, North Uist, by Oban, N.B.,

SIR, January 20, 1888.

WHEN I got the address of Mr. Begg, British Columbian Emigration Commissioner, I wrote him, and stated that a number of crofters and cottar families in this island were desirous to emigrate, and that without delay, I am much surprised he has not sent me any answer.

The crofters on this island have not joined in any way in the present lawlessness spreading all over the Highlands. Personally I have used all the influence I possess to keep the people quiet; and after behaving so well and being in very distressed circumstances, I think they deserve favourable consideration. They are most suitable emigrants in every respect. I even offered to accompany the people going to British Columbia. May I ask you to explain the cause of Mr. Begg's silence.

It would be a great pity if the present desire to emigrate is in any way discouraged, as I fear the present unfortunate state of matters in Lewis or other places may spread.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) D. MACRAE, J. P.

No. 7.

PETITION OF EAST COAST FISHERMEN to the
SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND.

Fraserburgh, January 31, 1888.

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

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP,

To receive this our humble petition, craving your Lordship's kind attention to our case. For some time our views have been turned towards emigration as a remedy for the serious losses arising from our staple industry the herring fishing, and to this end we approach your Lordship. We have, upon due and careful consideration and at full meetings, decided that British Columbia is a likely field for our occupations. And what we now crave is, that should your Lordship see fit to extend assistance to fishermen and others on the east coast of Scotland, that your Lordship do not overlook the necessities of our case. For on no part of the east coast have the losses arising from the fishing industry fallen so heavily as upon this the central and most important fishing depôt on this coast. And the utmost necessity arises that a scheme of emigration should at once be carried out, so that the surplus population may be early relieved from what must end in inevitable distress. We therefore pray that your Lordship shall favourably consider our case. And we earnestly await your Lordship's

decision. And shall ever remain your Lordship's
humble and grateful servants.

(Signed)

JAMES LOWDON, President
of Committee.

ALEXANDER DUTHIE,

WILLIAM NOBLE,

THOMAS BLACKHALL,

HENRY MARSHALL,

Secretary.

} Committee
} appointed to
} represent
} seven hundred
} emigrants.

No. 8.

JOHN McLEOD to the SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND.

Vatisker, near Stornoway,
February 4, 1888.

MY LORD,

HOPING you will pardon the liberty I have
taken in writing to you, my reason for doing so is
to see would your Lordship kindly do me the
favour of sending me away as an emigrant to
British Columbia, if they will be wanting some to
go there.

Owing to the failure in the price of the fish and
to other similar circumstances I am unable not only
to pay my rent but also to find a livelihood, so my
Lord I have taken my mind away from this place,
where people are on the point of starvation.

Being, I think, very favourable for that place, as
I can do a number of tradesmen works, which
would be very useful if I would get there.

Being married, with a family of four sons, 25,
21, 19, and 12 years, respectively, and two
daughters, 23 and 17, being myself about 50 years
and my wife about the same.

Trusting to your Honour that you will endeavour
to get us there, if any will get to it at all, as I am
very anxious to get away, and do hereby promise
to pay anything that the Government would give us.

Hoping you will inform me soon will I get there
or not, before I begin any preparations for the
present there, and give us full particulars about the
place.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN McLEOD.

No. 9.

The LORD LIEUTENANT OF ORKNEY AND SHETLAND
to the SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND.

Mount St. John, Thirsk,
February 15, 1888.

MY LORD,

My attention has been called by an Orkney
proprietor to a statement in the newspapers that
the Government contemplate entering into an
arrangement with the Government of British
Columbia for the settlement of a large number of
Scotch crofter families on the seaboard of that
Colony.

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

Lordship's power to extend to them. Your petitioners therefore pray that your Lordship will favourably consider our case, and we earnestly await your Lordship's decision.

And shall ever remain your Lordship's humble and grateful servants.

(Signed) E. C. MACRURY,
Appointed to represent 40 emigrants.

No. 11.

Mr. ANGUS M. MACDONALD to the SECRETARY FOR
SCOTLAND.

Aird Public School, Stornoway,
April 9, 1888.

MY LORD,

I AM requested by several fishermen who are desirous to emigrate to British Columbia to ask your Lordship for particulars.

1st. Has the Government appointed a local agent for emigration to the above Colony? If not, through whom would the negotiation be transacted?

2nd. What assistance is the Government prepared to give to families who are willing to go?

As several families in the township of Sheshader, parish of Stornoway (at whose request I now write), are desirous to emigrate at as early a date as possible, is the Government prepared to give immediate assistance?

Nothing is known by the poor fishermen here regarding the scheme of emigration to British Columbia beyond what has recently appeared in the papers, and were the matter brought more prominently before their notice it is certain that many would take advantage of it.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) ANGUS M. MACDONALD.

No. 12.

JAMES SINCLAIR to the SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND.

Lingland, Clyth,
Lybster, Caithness,
April 20, 1888,

MY LORD,

I AM very willing to emigrate to Columbia as the fishing is almost a failure, and I do not see that the herring fishing will improve for some time. I have been always of opinion that the "Government Emigration Scheme for Crofters" would be ready by this time. I believe that you are willing to do all you can for the crofters. You have already done a great deal. Would you let me know when will the Government give an opportunity to the crofters to go to Columbia. I am willing to go, and able to work on sea or land.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES SINCLAIR.

No. 13.

Mrs. CAMPBELL to the SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND.

Ronetra, Kensaleyre, by Portree,
April 30, 1888.

MY LORD,

I MOST respectfully beg to intimate to your Lordship that I and the rest of my family are very anxious to emigrate to New Zealand if we could get any way of going there. I may mention that we are eleven in the family, seven boys and two girls. The youngest of the boys, eleven years. Myself and the father of the said children would be able to work, I would feel exceedingly kind that your Lordship would be pleased to write to me and let me know the regulations.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) EUPHEMIA CAMPBELL.

No. 14.

JOHN McLEOD to the SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND.

Vatisker, near Stornoway.
May 4, 1888.

MY LORD MARQUIS,

HAVING been informed that the Government has set funds at your Lordship's disposal for emigration to one of the colonies in North America.

Hoping you will pardon the liberty I have taken, my Lord, in writing to you. My reason in doing so is to see would your Lordship kindly inform me and the others from Back who applied to you in February last when would we be expecting to get away, as the year is coming in so far now.

Now, my Lord, hoping you will favourably consider our cases and that we will get away this summer, as we are very anxious to get away.

There is another one who wants to put down his name on the roll along with the others named Donald McDonald, with two of a family, son 4 years, daughter 1½ years.

Trusting you will inform me soon,

I remain, &c.,
(Signed) JNO. McLEOD.

No. 15. .

The CHAIRMAN OF THE CROFTERS COMMISSION to the
UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND.

Crofters Commission,
Gairloch, May 25, 1888.

SIR,

ESTATE OF GAIRLOCH.

RECENTLY when the Commissioners were making inspection of the township of Mellon Charles on this estate, north side of Loch Ewe, they were approached by certain crofters who expressed a great desire to emigrate to British Columbia if they could get some assistance. In consequence, I made a visit to the township, and had an interview with each of these crofters, and explained to them, that while the Commissioners had no official authority

to deal with the matter of emigration, I would willingly forward a full memorandum of particulars to you for consideration by Lord Lothian. Before doing so, however, I thought it only right to communicate with the proprietor, Sir Kenneth Mackenzie, on the subject, and enclose copy of his reply, as also copy of the memorandum made on the spot. The crofters in question were pointedly asked whether they would not go to Manitoba, but one and all replied that they desired to emigrate to British Columbia.

As will be seen from the memorandum, there are material circumstances in their favour. The parents are not too old, the families include individuals both male and female in the vigour of life, and they are all in good health. Further, not one of the families would leave behind them aged and infirm friends or relatives who would be thrown on the parish.

It is also much in their favour, and to the credit, indeed, of the whole township, that while very poor and deeply in arrear there is no reason to believe that they have been withholding rent.

The hillside where they live is barren, stony, and greatly exposed; moreover, it is much overcrowded with occupants.

If it be impossible for Lord Lothian to deal practically with this application at present, perhaps the names of the applicants might be kept, and some preference conceded to their application at a future opportunity.

The preference expressed for British Columbia is probably due to the circumstance that one or two of the applicants have received somewhere very favourable accounts of that quarter of the globe as a field for emigration. Besides, they believe that Manitoba is excessively cold in winter.

To prevent the crofters being kept in suspense, I will on hearing from you at once communicate with them.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) DAVID BRAND.

Enclosure to No. 15.

FAMILIES in the Township of MELLON CHARLES, Parish of GAIRLOCH, who are desirous of emigrating to British Columbia.

1. Finlay MacRae. (Lot 42.) Age, 57 or 58
 Wife: Henrietta Macdonald or
 Macrao - - Age, 44
 Children: Mary - - " 23
 Alexander - - " 21
 Peggie - - " 16
 John - - " 9
 Barbara - - " 6
 Angus Myles - - " 3

Sons and daughters are all unmarried and seemingly healthy. Father worked as a labourer at the building of Balmoral Castle some 33 years ago. Has also worked on railways. Ordinary occupation, crofting and fishing. Wife and children speak English. In addition to the members of the family

named above, there is a son, Duncan, now serving his country in the Seaforth Highlanders in India.

Present rent, 3*l.* 13*s.* Arrears, 16*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*

2. John MacLennan. (Lot 40.) - Age 56
 Wife: Mary MacLennan. About same age.
 Children: George - - - Age, 24
 Mary - - - " 19
 Roderick - - - " 16
 Ann (now in service
 in Glasgow) - - - " 21
 Donald - - - " 14
 Duncan - - - " 10

There is another son in Glasgow, who is about to emigrate to Queensland.

Present rent, 2*l.* 13*s.* Arrears, 4*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*

3. Lewis MacLennan. (Lot 15.) Age, 31
 This is a son of John MacLennan, No. 2 (Lot 40).
 His wife, Flora MacLennan, is about the same age as himself. He has two boys, aged three years and two years respectively.

4. Kenneth Mackintosh. (Lot 39.) Age, 60
 or 62.

Wife: Ann MacLennan or
 Mackintosh - - - Age, 50
 Children: William - - - " 30
 Pegg - - - " 27
 Alexander (primus) - - - " 25
 Kenneth - - - " 18
 Alexander (secundus) - - - " 15
 Isabella - - - " 13
 Donald - - - " 11

Seemingly a most eligible family for colonial life. All strong and healthy. Sons are experienced ploughmen and horsemen.

Present rent, 2*l.* 13*s.* Arrears, 2*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

5. Murdo Grant. (Lot 33.) - Age, 47

Wife: Helen MacLennan or
 Grant - - - " 43
 Children: Mary - - - " 16
 Bella - - - " 12
 Jane - - - " 10
 Helen - - - " 8
 Duncan - - - " 5
 Kenneth - - - " 3

Grant speaks English well. Was employed as a farm servant in the low country for 10 or 12 years.

Present rent, 2*l.* 13*s.* Arrears, 7*l.* 8*s.*

While all these families are desirous of going to British Columbia, they declared they would not go to Manitoba. The aversion to Manitoba is in consequence of the long severe winters.

No. 16.

ALEXANDER BARNETSON to the LORD ADVOCATE.

Skinnit Melness, May 19, 1888.

MY LORD,

MAY it please your Lordship to supply me with the following information on as early a date as

may be deemed convenient. Whereas a few families from this district anxious of taking advantage of the Government Emigration Scheme, and as I am also a head of a family wishing to emigrate, I am instructed by others to solicit your Lordship's favour by giving the information herein stated.

(1.) If cottar families are to receive the benefits accruing from the Government Emigration Scheme.

(2.) If there is any provision made to enable emigrants to procure the common necessaries of life until they are able to raise the first crop in their new homes.

(3.) If any of the money is to be given for outfitting before emigrating. An early reply to the foregoing queries will much oblige me and others.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ALEXR. BARNETSON.

No. 17.

ALEXANDER MACDONALD to Mr. MALCOLM McNEILL.

Illeray, North Uist, Lochmaddy,
June 5, 1888.

SIR,

As I understand you are the Government emigration agent for the Highlands, I beg most respectfully to offer myself and family, consisting of eight, the eldest of the family 14 years and the youngest two years. I am anxious to emigrate to British Columbia, as I have no way to support myself and family in this remote island, so I hope that you will grant me Government money to enable me to emigrate to aforesaid place. My certificates for character and ability as agricultural labourer I will send you on application.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ALEXANDER MACDONALD, SENIOR.

No. 18.

ROBERT IRVINE to the SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY.

Asta, Tingwall Parish, Shetland,
Scotland, June 6, 1888.

DEAR SIR,

BEING informed that the Government may assist agricultural emigrants to settle in America, I beg to ask if so if I may hope in getting help to leave these islands. I am 26 years of age, married, and have three children. I am the son of a crofter, have wrought on it and larger farms ever since I could do any kind of work. I know farming well, and have also some experience in sheep stock. My references are first class, but I have not sufficient means to remove, and would gladly comply with any reasonable terms to enable me to remove from Shetland. I trust you will be pleased to give my case your favourable consideration, and that I may hear from you.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT IRVINE,
per R. S.

No. 19.

CHARLES DOCHERTY to Mr. MALCOLM McNEILL.

Clachan Gluip,
North Uist, Lochmaddy,
July 11, 1888.

Sir,

I SENT you, conjointly with Alexander Fraser, an application for getting to America with our families, and received a reply from you that our application would be sent to the Scotch Secretary. I beg most respectfully to inquire from you when will you come to this part of the Highlands for emigration purposes, and when you will be ordered to Uist I hope you will not forget my application, as I and said Fraser were among the first who sent applications for emigration.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES DOCHERTY.

No. 20.

W. M. JOHNSTON to the SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND.

7, Bridge Street,
Ellon, Aberdeenshire,
September 17, 1888.

Sir,

Your Department is about to select crofters for settlement in Canada. I am going to Canada next April. I am a baker by trade, but am obliged to give up my occupation through ill-health and seek an out-door one. I have a practical knowledge of farming on a small scale through the requirements of my business necessitating the employment of horses and the renting of ground for their keep. I have a small capital of a little over 100*l*. Have been in most of the colonies while working on the mail steamers of different companies as baker. Am 28 years old, married, and two children. Am I eligible as a crofter candidate?

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. M. JOHNSTON.

No. 21.

PETITION to the SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND of CROFTERS
of the Township of MELLON CHARLES.Aultbea, Ross-shire,
September 14, 1888.

LORD LOTHIAN,
WE. the undersigned crofters, heads of families, again approach your Lordship in the hope that our case may be favourably considered in connexion with the emigration scheme under your Lordship's care. We are anxious to emigrate to Canada, where prospects of bettering their circumstances are held out to the diligent; but without

pecuniary aid we cannot move from home with our families.

We are, &c.,
 (Signed) KENNETH MACKINTOSH.
 FINLAY MACRAE.
 JOHN MACLENNAN.
 LEWIS MACLENNAN.
 MURDO GRANT.
 HUGH ROSS.

No. 22.

ROBERT IRVINE to the UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND.

Asta, Tingwall Parish, Shetland,
 September 19, 1888.

SIR,

REFERRING to my letter and your kind reply some time ago, may I hope you will excuse me again writing you in view of the fact that I am informed that early application may be necessary, provided the Government grant assistance to emigrants to America next spring. I am most anxious to remove, having no chance here, and trust you will be pleased to keep this, my application, in view, and, if possible, be pleased to assist me and my family to remove to Manitoba or other likely place. I have no excuse other than my anxiety to do better and enable me to support myself and family in a quarter where I could earn a home.

I am, &c.,
 (Signed) for ROBERT IRVINE,
 R. S.

No. 23.

ROBERT IRVINE to Mr. McNEILL.

Asta, Tingwall Parish, Shetland,
 September 29, 1888.

DEAR SIR,

I BEG to write you to ask if you would be pleased to say whether you could consider my case and assist me to emigrate to Manitoba. I applied a few months since to the Secretary for Scotland, and was informed that Government assistance was stopped for this year; may I hope in getting a chance in spring. I am the son of a crofter, 26 years of age, and just now employed on a farm here. I am married and have three children, and would be most anxious, if possible, to find a home of my own in a place where I could, even after a time, make a living. I have good certificates, am healthy, willing, and able to work, but here I have no chance and no prospect of soon getting a croft. Please help me if you can.

I am, &c.,
 (Signed) ROBT. IRVINE,
 J. W. S.

No. 24.

Mrs. CAMPBELL to Mr. McNEILL.

Renetra, Konsaleyre, by Portree,
September 27, 1888.

RESPECTED SIR,

I MOST respectfully bog to let you know that I some time ago communicated with the Under Secretary for Scotland, and mentioned that I and the rest of my family would emigrate to British Columbia. He kindly wrote to me and stated that Manitoba was the only place that emigrants are going to. Would you be pleased to let me know if emigrants from these places would like to go to Manitoba the way in which they would get there.

(Signed) EUPHENIA CAMPBELL.

No. 25.

NORMAN PATERSON to Mrs. THOMAS, HARRIS.

Bernera, Lochmaddy.

DEAR MRS. THOMAS, October 12, 1888.

Would you be kind enough to let me know, at your earliest convenience, the best plan of getting with my family on to *Manitoba*. I have seven of a family besides myself and wife, two boys and five daughters, the eldest 33 years and youngest 12. I have no land, and fishing had not been successful here about; myself and family are healthy and quite able to work and earn our living in any ordinary place. I am glad to hear that others of our countrymen are getting on well in that country, so please give me any necessary information about the place, and the best way that a poor man may get unto the said place. I am aware of other two or three families in Bernera who are anxious to get there if they were encouraged, hoping to hear soon from you.

I remain, &c.,

(Signed) NORMAN PATERSON,
Fisherman.

No. 26.

W. MacINTOSH and A. CRAWFORD to the SECRETARY
FOR SCOTLAND.The petition of the undersigned sub-tenants—
HUMBLY SHEWETH

That your petitioners having had an interview with your Lordship's Commissioner, Mr. MacNeill, at Lochmaddy, North Uist, Inverness-shire, on the 1st October 1888, were informed by Mr. MacNeill that he had no authority to take more than four families from North Uist, and that, as these were already selected, he could not entertain our application, though he could see we were fit and proper persons; and further recommended your petitioners to pray your Lordship to increase the

grant, that your petitioners may be included in the second batch of immigrants for Manitoba. And your petitioners will ever pray.

(Signed) WILLIAM MACINTOSH.
A. CRAWFORD.

Both residing in—

Balesharc, North Uist,
Lochnaddy, Inverness.

16th October 1888.

No. 27.

D. McLEOD to Mr. McNEILL.

South Shawbost,

October 18, 1888.

DEAR SIR,

As I may inform you that I got six families, four in North Shawbost, two in South Shawbost, and I would got more if the people would believe that I have authority from Mr. McNeill for emigrating.

The majority of the people would believe that I have authority if I would have printed bill or a note from Mr. McNeill. But for all that I will try the best of my power to succeed in emigrating until the end of this month.

I hope I will have few more families before the list is due, and you may please tell me what time will the Parliament's assembly be. Dear sir, I may tell you that the people is wishing to find out will the emigrants' luggages be searched by the Custom house; and another question put to me is this, is the emigrants allowed to take with them tools, such as joiners' tools and shoemaker's tools, without taxes or to pay for them. Please reply by return.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) DONALD McLEOD.

No. 28.

D. McLEOD to Mr. McNEILL.

South Shawbost, Stornoway.

Lewis, 2nd Nov. 1888.

SIR,

We beg respectfully to apply for emigrants viz. :—

John McLennan	-	-	age 29 years.
Annie McLennan	-	-	" 29 "
Kenneth McLennan	-	-	" 8 "
Mary McLennan	-	-	" 6 "
Donaldina McLennan	-	-	" 2 "
Angus McLeod	-	-	" 60 "
Mary McLeod	-	-	" 50 "
Chirsty McLeod	-	-	" 21 "
Annie McLeod	-	-	" 19 "
John McLeod	-	-	" 17 "
Malcolm McLeod	-	-	" 55 "
Mary McLeod	-	-	" 44 "
Mary McLeod	-	-	" 28 "
Maggie McLeod	-	-	" 24 "
John McLeod	-	-	" 26 "

Duncan McLeod	-	-	ago 24 years.
Maggie McLeod	-	-	" 59 "
Effie McLeod	-	-	" 21 "
Alexander McDonald	-	-	" 24 "
Catherino McDonald	-	-	" 23 "
Angus McLean	-	-	" 24 "
Roderick Murray	-	-	" 32 "
Mary Murray	-	-	" 27 "
Catherino Murray	-	-	" 1 "
Kenneth McLean	-	-	" 30 "
John Murray	-	-	" 40 "
Mary Murray	-	-	" 39 "
Roderick Murray	-	-	" 17 "
Kenneth Murray	-	-	" 15 "
John Murray	-	-	" 13 "
Donald Murray	-	-	" 10 "
Mary Murray	-	-	" 4 "
Roderick Morrison	-	-	" 25 "
Angus Gillies	-	-	" 40 "
Mary Gillies	-	-	" 38 "
John Gillies	-	-	" 19 "
Mary Gillies	-	-	" 17 "
Murdo Gillies	-	-	" 15 "
Angus Gillies	-	-	" 13 "
Christy Gillies	-	-	" 10 "
Malcolm Gillies	-	-	" 6 "
Donald Gillies	-	-	" 3 "
Catherine Gillies	-	-	" 1 "
Alexander McLean	-	-	" 50 "
Maggie McLean	-	-	" 48 "
Angus McLean	-	-	" 24 "
Alexander McLean	-	-	" 19 "
Murdo McLean	-	-	" 15 "
John McLean	-	-	" 13 "
Malcolm McLean	-	-	" 11 "
Colin Graham	-	-	" 30 "
Maggie Graham	-	-	" 27 "
Mary Ann Graham	-	-	" 2 "
Christy McLean	-	-	" 19 "
Murdo McLeod	-	-	" 35 "
Mary McLeod	-	-	" 30 "
Catherine McLeod	-	-	" 6 "
Donald McLeod	-	-	" 2 "
Catherine McAskill	-	-	" 25 "
Donaldina McAskill	-	-	" 22 "
Donald McKay	-	-	" 20 "
Alexander McAulay	-	-	" 50 "
Mary McAulay	-	-	" 38 "
Malcolm McAulay	-	-	" 18 "
Mary McAulay	-	-	" 14 "
Murdo McAulay	-	-	" 8 "
Donald McAulay	-	-	" 6 "
Maggie McAulay	-	-	" 4 "
John McAulay	-	-	" 1 "

I am, &c.

(Signed) DONALD McLEOD.

P.S.—The last four families from South Bragar, the remainder from Shawbost. Sir, will you kindly inform me if I am to get more families or not, and when do you expect to be in Stornoway, so as I can tell the people.

(Signed) D. McLEOD.

No. 29.

ANGUS M'DONALD TO MR. McNEILL.

Killarney, Manitoba,
August 26, 1888.

DEAR SIR,

I WROTE this note for to thanks the Government of England for the great kindness they did for us as to sent us to this place there is not a place in the world better than here. Now Sir they are all sending their kind regards & best wishes to Mr. McNeil as we got every thing that was promised to us all right & more with it we are all settled in a very good land, Dear Sir I hope you will be so kind as to do this for me if you ever go to Stornoway on the same duty for emigrants men for Manitoba as to give my father family a chance of coming as I took a land for them. Mr. Scarth the head man we had he give me a land for my father family & I would be very much obliged Mr. McNeil for giving them a chance if there is any chance to be given my father address Alexander M'Donald Back by Stornoway Lewis.

I am sending my best regards to Mr. McNeil.

I am yours Truly
(Signed) ANGUS M'DONALD
Killarney Manitoba
Section 9.5.17 Canada
North West America.

No. 30.

EXTRACT FROM THE SCOTSMAN, Friday, October 12,
1888.

THE CROFTERS COMMISSION IN THE LEWS.

The following is the letter sent to Sheriff Brand by the Barvas crofters, which was referred to at the end of our yesterday's report:—

Lower Barvas, Island of Lewis,
August 4, 1888.

Sheriff Brand, Chairman Royal Commission,
Lochinver.

HONOURABLE SIR,

I AM authorised to enclose this statement in order to show cause why we have been unable to pay rents and arrears for our crofts. The crofters of Barvas, in common with their fellow Lewismen throughout, are uneducated. There are about 95 per cent. of them who can neither read nor write. This is the verdict of the late lamented Sheriff Black, who was a true and upright gentleman. Consequently, we are not able to fill up the legal forms you sent us. Neither can any of the crofters at present pay a lawyer to fill them up. We are even unable to pay the small charge which the crofters' agent demanded for filling up our application forms. The case of the crofters here is hopeless. We are willing to abide by your verdict, and to do all to meet our lawful obligations after you fix our rents and wipe out our arrears. We have a few head of stirks and cattle, for which we were offered 30s. each,

and even should they be sold our other creditors would demand their debts for meal. If we are badly treated and compelled to pay impossible rents and arrears, we must all go on the Parochial Board, and thus our last state would be worse than our first. Our potato crops are destroyed by frost this season, and we anticipate a famine next winter and spring. It is to be hoped that the present Government will make arrangements upon a large scale to assist a considerable number of crofters and cottars to emigrate to the colonies. The last attempt was but a drop in the bucket, and there will be thousands who will leave Lewis during the coming winter. We are both thankful and grateful that a generous Legislature has appointed your honourable Court to visit us, but we have no means of employing an agent to represent our cases before you, and few can speak English; consequently, we are at our wits' end as to how we can act, seeing we cannot pay an agent's fees. This is a short account of the situation here, and we will give you a proper welcome to our district as the representatives of Her Majesty the Queen, who has sent you to settle our grievances. How we are spotted and persecuted more than any other township in this island is a mystery to us, which your Lordship should take into serious consideration; and, for and on behalf of the Barvas crofters,

I am, &c.,
 (Signed) ALEXANDER MACLEOD.

CROFTER COLONIZATION.

Quorn Rancho, Okotox, P.O.,
Calgary, Canada,

June 18, 1888.

DEAR LORD LOTHIAN,

As I understand you were the originator of a scheme for the immigration of the Crofters who have lately come out to settle near Killarney, Manitoba, I have no doubt you will be glad to hear good accounts regarding them since their arrival. When in New York last May, I heard such bad reports about the district they have come to, that I resolved to visit, if possible, the new Crofter settlement while travelling through Canada.

Last Tuesday, my wife and I arrived in Killarney, and, having an introduction to Mr. Scarth, I drove with him the next day to the settlement, a distance of about 12 miles. The Crofters had only left Killarney the day before for their new home.

The road (as yet) is only a track across the rolling prairie, but every now and then considerable portions of wheat-sown land are visible on either side, with settlers' houses adjoining. On the way we passed six Crofters (the very picture of health) with bullock waggons, going to Killarney for lumber (wood) for building their houses, who reported they had all spent a most comfortable night.

On our arrival at the encampment, composed of four large tents, somewhat similar to army hospital marquees, most of the people came out, glad to see us. Among them was a carpenter from the neighbourhood (a Scotchman by birth), who had come to help (gratis) in planning and building their homes. I had a long conversation with several of the men, who assured me they were well and happy, and, as far as they could judge at present, the Government promises had been fulfilled, and that the location and apparent condition of the land was better than they expected. All they wished for was a school in the vicinity to educate their children, and the opportunity, perhaps, of hearing now and then in the future the Presbyterian service preached in the Gaelic language. Mr. Smith, a settler from Ontario, whose father originally came from Newcastle-on-Tyne, and whose house was within a short distance of the encampment, has let the Crofters an acre of his cultivated land for one dollar, so that they have already been able to plant their potatoes for the season.

Smith and wife settled on the homestead of 160 acres, which he had obtained free from the Government about four or five years ago. His house, with garden attached, appeared comfortable, built of wood, with a thin partition, making an additional small room to sleep in; there was a cellar below, and a large cooking stove in centre of house. The whole cost of building was about 100 dollars (20*l.*) He assured me it was quite sufficient to prevent any hardships being felt from the cold in winter. A fire, which consumed a considerable quantity of his grain a year ago, and which was uninsured, had prevented him making many improvements lately, but still, he maintained, his finances were year by year on the increase. Mr. Smith took me over most of the cultivated portion of his farm (about 80 acres or so). Last year the wheat crop brought him 50 cents. the bushel, and the average quantity 30 bushels to the acre, weighing 63 to 64 lbs. For a few acres he got as high as 45 bushels the acre. The cost of the wheat production, viz., cultivating the land, sowing, reaping, thrashing, and taking to market, &c., came to nearly seven dollars the acre, or about 23 cents. the bushel; but as his own manual labour must be added, and a small taxation, the net cost for production might be put down at nine dollars per acre, or 30 cents. the bushel, making a profit on the acre of six dollars, or 20 cents. the bushel, which would mean in our British money 25*s.* an acre, or 10*l.* a bushel profit. He said he generally found where wheat did not grow well, oats would yield a

good crop. It was also a fair district for cattle and sheep, but the soil had to be cultivated and sown down with grass seeds before many could be reared on the land. Generally slight frost came on the end of August, getting severe the latter end of October, but often the snow did not cover the ground till near the end of November, remaining till the end of March or beginning of April. But though the cold was intense, its severity was not felt so much as even in more southern latitudes, owing to there being so little wind. Mr. Smith said he liked what he had seen of the Crofters, and would help them in every way possible. He considered it an immense advantage their getting the bullocks, waggons, &c. through Mr. Scarth; the bullocks, at any rate, would be 20 dollars less money purchased in that way. Mr. Scarth informed me he purchased the bullocks in a lot from Russian settlers, halfway between Killarney and Winnipeg, and I was much taken with their appearance.

Each Crofter has been allowed to choose his own holding of 160 acres. Some land is on the borders of Pelican Lake, which is surrounded by wooded cliffs and gullies. The trees the Crofters can cut gratis for firewood. The lake and streams are full of pike; I caught four in a short time with a trawling hook and piece of string, fish weighing in all about 20 lbs.; they were excellent eating.

The next morning my wife and I passed the Crofter settlers on our drive across the prairie to Brandon. One of them, McLeod (I think Alexander was his Christian name), a man somewhat advanced in years, said to us on parting, "We are far better off than we expected; not even though I got the promise of 100*l.* from the Government, would I want to return to Scotland. I only wish my own starving countrymen would believe what the Government tell them, and join us as settlers in this good land. Ah! Sir, I never expected such kindness as we have received since our arrival in Canada."

On our way to Brandon we met the wife of a wealthy miller, who told us her husband hoped to employ some of the Crofters in his mill during the winter months.

Owing to a severe thunderstorm, I was unable to visit the Crofters who had settled near Moosomin in 1884, but many people have told me that most of them are in advancing prosperity.

Though I saw the new settlement at the most favourable time of year, still I am confident that, with continued activity and strength of purpose, the Crofters that your Lordship has lately sent out here will, in a few years, be in most comfortable circumstances.

* * * * *

W. W.

The Marquis of Lothian, K.T.