

MEMORANDUM OF ARRANGEMENTS

ENTERED INTO WITH THE

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, THE PRINCIPAL LAND
COMPANIES, &c.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF STARTING A

COLONISATION SCHEME FOR THE CROFTERS
AND COTTARS OF THE WESTERN HIGH-
LANDS AND ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND;

AND

RELATIVE CORRESPONDENCE.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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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.

5. That the Board constituted as above will undertake, by means of their agents, to settle the emigrants on the Government land, to provide temporarily for their wants, and to collect the instalments of capital and interest from them in the manner herein-after mentioned, they having the benefit of the knowledge and experience both of the Canadian Government Land Agents, and of the gratuitous co-operation of the officers of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Hudson Bay Company, and the Canadian North-West Land Company.

6. That the Canadian Government will give free grant lands of 160 acres to each family, and also render every assistance through the High Commissioner in London, and through their Immigration Agents in Canada, in connexion with the selection of the land for the emigrants, and their preliminary settlement. The Canadian Government will require that the emigrants selected shall be formally approved by an officer on their behalf.

7. That the money grants shall be for a period of twelve years, bearing no interest during the first four years, but the before-mentioned Board will collect the principal and interest from the settlers during the last eight years by an annuity which, on an advance of 120*l.*, would amount to 20*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* per annum. This is equivalent to an average interest of about 4*l.* 6*s.* per annum during the whole period of twelve years.

8. That the foregoing Board will take, by way of security for the sum of 120*l.*, or lesser sum, so advanced, a mortgage on the 160 acres of free grant lands of the Dominion Government, including a lien on the chattels, the mortgage being secured in favour of the Board by legal agreement.

9. That, if thought desirable, the Canadian Legislature will be requested to facilitate the passing of an Act in connexion with the constitution, powers, and duties of the aforesaid Board.

(Signed) **LOTHIAN.**

Dover House, Whitehall,
April 1888.

This Act
has been
passed by
the Canadian
Legislature.

No. 2.

The UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND to the UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE COLONIES.

SIR,

Dover House, Whitehall, April 11, 1888.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Lothian to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the enclosed copies* of a 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 move his Lordship to be so good as to cause the necessary steps to be taken at the earliest possible moment to obtain, if possible, the concurrence of the Government of Canada, so far as it concerns that Government, to the proposals contained therein.

I am at the same time to acquaint you for his Lordships' information, that the formal sanction of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury has been obtained to the terms of the aforesaid scheme.

In the event of the Canadian Government declining to put a Commissioner on the proposed Board, the Secretary for Scotland trusts that the scheme may still be carried out if that Government agrees to the other arrangements.

I am, &c.,

R. W. COCHRAN-PATRICK.

* See Enclosure to No. 1.

No. 3.

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

SIR, Treasury Chambers, April 12, 1888.

THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have had before them the proposals for a scheme of colonisation for the crofters and cottars of the congested districts of the western highlands and islands, as set forth in the memorandum which accompanied your letter of yesterday's date, and they desire me to signify their assent thereto, subject to the condition that Parliament shall be asked to vote the proposed advance of 10,000l.

I have, &c.,

W. L. JACKSON.

No. 4.

The UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES to the UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND.

SIR, Downing Street, April 16, 1888.

I AM directed by Lord Knutsford to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, transmitting three copies of a scheme of colonisation for the crofters and cottars of the congested districts of the western highlands and islands of Scotland, and requesting that his Lordship should obtain, if possible, the concurrence of the Government of Canada in the proposals contained in the scheme.

In reply I am to forward to you, for the information of the Marquis of Lothian, the accompanying copy of a Despatch which has been addressed to the Governor-General of Canada on the subject.

I am, &c.,

EDWARD WINGFIELD.

11 April 1888.

Enclosure in No. 4.

LORD KNUTSFORD to the MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE.

(Canada.)

(No. 106.)

MY LORD, Downing Street, April 11, 1888.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for the consideration of your Ministers, a copy of a colonisation scheme which has been approved by Her Majesty's Government. The matter is one to which Her Majesty's Government attach great importance, as it is very desirable, and indeed necessary, that some plan should be speedily carried into effect for relieving the congested districts of the western highlands.

2. It will be observed that every assistance has been promised by the principal land companies and by the officers of the Canadian Pacific Railway; and I earnestly hope that your Government will give their sanction to the scheme, and agree (1) to appoint one member of the proposed board as suggested in paragraph 2; (2) to give the free grants of land as suggested in paragraph 6, and to render such assistance as is also there referred to, through the High Commissioner in London and through their emigration agents in Canada; and (3) to procure such legislation as may be necessary to constitute the board a corporation capable of suing and being sued, and to vest in it such other powers as may be necessary to enable it to give full working effect to the scheme.

3. It will be seen that no pecuniary liability will attach to the Canadian Government, and that the duty of collecting the instalments of capital and interest will rest on the proposed board and not on the Dominion officers, and I trust therefore that your Government will not see any objection to

nominating, as proposed, a representative on the board; but in any case, even if they should decline to nominate to the board, I feel a strong hope that they will take an active interest in the scheme and give it their best assistance.

4. I have to request that this subject may receive the early consideration of your Government, and I should be obliged if you would communicate by telegraph their decision.

I have, &c.,
KNUTSFORD.

No. 5.

The UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES to the UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND.

SIR,

Downing Street, April 27, 1888.

I AM directed by Lord Knutsford to transmit, for the information of the Marquis of Lothian, the enclosed copy of a telegram which has been received from the Governor-General of Canada in reply to Lord Knutsford's Despatch on the subject of the Crofters and Cottars Colonisation Scheme, a copy of which was enclosed in the letter from this Department of the 16th instant.

With reference to the Governor-General's request for information as to the details of Canadian legislation necessary to give effect to the scheme, Lord Knutsford would suggest that Lord Lothian should consult his legal advisers and furnish this Department, for transmission to the Governor-General, with the heads of the provisions which they may think necessary to be embodied in a Colonial Act.

I am to observe that it does not appear to Lord Knutsford, having regard to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Acts, that legislation is required for any other purpose than the constitution and incorporation of the proposed board of commissioners so as to enable them to sue and be sued, and to hold and enforce mortgages under the Dominion Lands Act, 1886.

I am, &c.,
EDWARD WINGFIELD.

Enclosure in No. 5.

The MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE to LORD KNUTSFORD. Received 26th April 1888.

(Telegraphic.)

Your Despatch 11th April. Canadian Government will co-operate in colonisation scheme in manner suggested. Information as to details of Canadian legislation necessary should be supplied immediately.

No. 6.

The UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND to the UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

SIR,

Dover House, Whitehall, April 27, 1888.

I AM directed by the Secretary for Scotland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant, forwarding copy of a telegram received from the Governor-General of Canada, notifying that his Government will co-operate in the Crofter and Cottar Colonisation Scheme, and asking for further information as to the details of legislation required; and I am to inform you that the Marquis of Lothian will consult the Lord Advocate on the subject, and communicate the result for the information of Lord Knutsford with the least possible delay.

I am, &c.,
R. W. COCHRAN-PATRICK.

26 April 1888.

No. 7.

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

SIR,

Dover House, Whitehall, April 28, 1888.

I AM directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that, in accordance with the negotiations and arrangements which have recently taken place in regard to the Scheme of Colonisation for Crofters and Cottars, his Lordship proposes to authorise Mr. McNeill of the Board of Supervision, or some other competent person, to undertake the selection of the emigrants in conjunction with an agent of the Canadian Government, with the least possible delay.

The Secretary for Scotland presumes, therefore, that their Lordships will give their sanction to any moderate outlay by way of remuneration and expenses which may be necessary to enable such person to carry out the work entrusted to him.

The Colonial Office are at present considering in what manner the Board contemplated under the scheme shall be ratified by the Canadian Legislature, and it appears, therefore, to the Secretary for Scotland that possibly some ratification by Act, warrant, or otherwise, may be required on the part of the Imperial Government. This is a point, unless their Lordships otherwise direct, which perhaps rests more properly between the Treasury and the Colonial Office, but the Secretary for Scotland will at the same time be glad to learn their Lordships' views thereon.

In the meantime, if the colonisation scheme is to go forward at all this spring, some person must be at once appointed to do the practical work, and in order to enable him to do this his necessary expenses must be paid, and the funds required for assisting the transit of emigrants to Canada, and with a view to preparing their homesteads there, will have to be placed at his disposal.

I am accordingly to request that you will be so good as to move their Lordships' to sanction the employment of an emigration agent, as indicated above, and to inform the Secretary for Scotland whether their Lordships are agreeable that the money shall be administered and expended under his authority, subject to any financial control which may hereafter be imposed on the proposed Board, which is not yet practically established.

I need not add that, unless the work of selecting the emigrants is begun next week, the scheme must of necessity be abandoned until next year.

I am, &c.,

R. W. COCHRAN-PATRICK.

No. 8.

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

SIR,

Treasury Chambers, May 2, 1888.

I AM directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to request you to inform the Secretary for Scotland, in reply to your letter of the 28th ultimo, that they are pleased to sanction the appointment of an emigration agent in connexion with the Scheme of Colonisation for the Crofters and Cottars, as indicated by his Lordship.

I am to ask on what basis Lord Lothian proposes that the officer to be appointed emigration agent should be remunerated, and their Lordships would request that the details regarding the proposed Board may be submitted to them as early as convenient.

It should be made clear that the emigration agent is to account to the Secretary for Scotland for the money advanced to and the expenditure administered by him.

My Lords will be ready to make advances from time to time as required, provided the proportion between the amount of the advance from public funds and the amount of private subscriptions be observed.

I have, &c.,
R. E. WELBY.

No. 9.

The UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND to the UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE COLONIES.

SIR,

Dover House, Whitehall, May 3, 1888.

WITH reference to my letter of the 27th ultimo, on the subject of the Crofter Colonisation Scheme and the legislation which may be required in Canada to give the necessary powers to the proposed board of administration, I am directed by the Marquis of Lothian to transmit to you herewith the draft of a short enactment which has been prepared in consultation with the Lord Advocate; and I am to request that you will move Lord Knutsford to communicate the same by cable with the least possible delay to the Canadian Government, as the suggestion of the Legal Advisers of Her Majesty's Government, subject to such modifications as may be deemed necessary by the Canadian Government.

Lord Lothian understands that the Canadian House of Commons will probably be prorogued about the 18th instant, and it is therefore of urgent importance that no time should be lost in the matter.

I am, &c.,
R. W. COCHRAN-PATRICK.

Enclosure in No. 9.

(DRAFT.)

WHEREAS a fund is in course of being raised to enable a scheme to be inaugurated for the colonisation of crofters and cottars from the west highlands and islands of Scotland in the dominion of Canada:

And whereas it is intended to establish a board for the administration of the said fund, consisting of commissioners representing the Imperial Government, the Government of the dominion of Canada, the private subscribers to the said fund, and the land company or companies who may give their co-operation and assistance to the said scheme:

Be it enacted that clause 44 of the Dominion Lands Act, chapter 54 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, as amended by 50 and 51 Victoria, chapter 31, shall apply to the said board, and the said board shall be deemed to be a "person" within the meaning of the said clause.

No. 10.

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

SIR,

Dover House, Whitehall, May 8, 1888.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Lothian to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, intimating the sanction of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to the appointment of an emigration agent in connexion with the Crofter and Cottar Colonisation Scheme.

As their Lordships are aware, this scheme has, in consequence of the extreme lateness of the season, to be commenced under very disadvantageous circumstances, the more especially as its details cannot at present be thoroughly worked out, owing to the fact that neither the "personnel" of the proposed Board has as yet been settled, nor the necessary legislation passed by the Canadian legislature.

The details of the board and the remuneration of the emigration agent, &c. will therefore form the subject of a later communication. The following arrangements have, however, in the meantime been carried out to meet the wishes of the Government:—

The Secretary for Scotland has at once despatched Mr. McNeill of the Board of Supervision to the Lews, where he now is, for the purpose of sending out 25 families from that district to Canada, if possible, in the course of next week; and arrangements have also been made at Glasgow with the emigration officer of the Canadian Government and with the Allan line of steamers, acting in conjunction with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, to render Mr. McNeill every assistance on his arrival there with the emigrants.

It has also been arranged with the Lord Provost of Glasgow that the private subscriptions, which at present amount to 700*l.*, will, on request, be placed with any named banker to the account of the Secretary for Scotland.

The Secretary for Scotland is therefore of opinion, subject to their Lordships' approval, that the best course would be that the private subscriptions should be paid into the account (in the books of the "Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer") of the Secretary for Scotland (Crofter and Cottar Colonisation Scheme), and that their Lordships should authorise the money to be advanced by the Treasury to be paid in a like manner *pari passu* with the private subscriptions.

If their Lordships are agreeable to this arrangement, the Lord Provost will be requested to pay in the 700*l.* now in his hands, the proportion payable by the Treasury being 3,500*l.*

It must of course be borne in mind that the greater portion of this money will ultimately have to be remitted to Canada, because only about one-third of the sum advanced to each family will be required for their passage money and petty advances.

The Secretary for Scotland thinks, however, that it may be better to lodge the money in the manner proposed, and that arrangements can be made to remit the necessary amount to Canada in due course.

As regards Mr. McNeill's personal expenses, it is necessary that he should have an immediate imprest for, say, 100*l.*, in order that he may be able to pay any petty expenses or to make any small advances to the emigrants.

The Secretary for Scotland will leave it to their Lordships as to the manner in which this imprest shall be transmitted to Mr. McNeill, whether through this Department or direct to Mr. McNeill (at Lews Hotel, Stornoway).

I am to add that Mr. McNeill has been directed to render an account of all his disbursements, whether on account of his personal expenses or on account of the advances to the emigrants, direct to the Secretary for Scotland, who will, if their Lordships so desire, hold himself responsible for the proper conduct of the business until the proposed board is legally constituted and has got into working order.

I am, &c.,
WM. C. DUNBAR.

No. 11.

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

SIR,

Treasury Chambers, May 10, 1888.

WITH reference to Mr. Dunbar's letter of the 8th instant, as to the arrangements necessary in connexion with the Crofter and Cottar Colonisation Scheme, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquis of Lothian, that their Lordships have authorised an advance of 3,500*l.* from the Civil Contingencies Fund to the account (in the books of the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer) of the Secretary for Scotland (Crofter and Cottar Colonisation Scheme).

I am to add that this advance is made on condition that the private subscriptions in the hands of the Lord Provost of Glasgow, to the amount of at least 700*l.*, will be at once placed at the same account, and that the Secretary for Scotland will be responsible for the proper application of the money.

I am to state that my Lords must leave to Lord Lethian the arrangements necessary for remitting any portion of the funds to Canada, or to Mr. McNeill; but they assent to the amount (100*l.*) as the limit of the imprest to be given to Mr. McNeill.

Any unavoidable expenses incurred in connexion with this service should be charged to the general account, and included in the supplementary estimate which will have to be presented this session for repayment to the Civil Contingencies Fund.

My Lords await the promised further communication as to the emigration Board, in connexion with which they have received a letter from the Colonial Office, copy of which is herewith sent for your information.

I am, &c.,

R. E. WELBY.

Enclosure in No. 11.

The UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES to the SECRETARY
TO THE TREASURY.

Sir,

Downing Street, May 4, 1898.

I AM directed by Lord Knutsford to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, relative to the proposed Scheme of Colonisation for the Crofters and Cottars of the western highlands of Scotland, and to state, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, that the Canadian Government have replied by telegraph that they "will co-operate in the scheme in the manner suggested" by Her Majesty's Government, and as they had before them the full details of the arrangements as to the appointment of the proposed Board, the words quoted above would appear to constitute an acceptance of these arrangements, which may therefore be taken to be complete in principle.

A draft Bill has been prepared by the Lord Advocate for enabling the Board to act under the provisions of the Canadian Land Laws, and was submitted by telegraph on the 3rd instant to the Governor-General, with a view of its being enacted, subject to any modifications thought necessary by the Canadian Government, by the Dominion Parliament in its present session.

I am to add that it does not appear to Lord Knutsford that any Imperial legislation is necessary, but that the actual constitution of the Board cannot be completed until the private subscribers are in a position to nominate a member.

Lord Knutsford would suggest that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury should communicate direct with the Secretary for Scotland respecting the employment of an emigration agent, and the provision of the funds necessary to enable him to carry out the work entrusted to him.

I am, &c.,

EDWARD WINGFIELD.