

CROFTER COLONISATION.

## SECOND REPORT

OF

### HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED TO CARRY OUT A SCHEME

OF

### COLONISATION IN THE DOMINION OF CANADA

OF

### CROFTERS AND COTTARS FROM THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND,

WITH APPENDICES.

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

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SECOND REPORT  
OF THE  
COLONISATION BOARD.

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TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, the undersigned Commissioners, appointed under Your Majesty's Sign Manual, for the purpose of carrying out a scheme of Colonisation in the Dominion of Canada, of Crofters and Cottars from the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland, desire humbly to submit to your Majesty the following Report:—

Reports have recently been received from the agent of the Board in Canada, as to the condition of the Crofter settlements at Killarney, in Manitoba, and at Saltecoats, in the North-West Territories. The former was established in the summer of 1888, and the latter in the spring of 1889.

Statements are appended summarising the position of the families at the end of September, giving the number of acres under cultivation in wheat, oats, and potatoes, the number of tons of hay cut in 1890, and the area that has been prepared for next year. The returns also enumerate the live stock and implements in their possession, and the fencing that has been erected.

*Killarney Settlement.*

The following table refers to the Killarney settlement:—

	—	Acre.	Estimated Average Yield (Bushels).	Estimated Total Crop (Bushels).	
Wheat	- - -	1,346 $\frac{3}{4}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	30,302	
Oats	- - -	74	39	2,886	
Potatoes	- - -	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	2,160	

Of the foregoing the heads of the families had 1,121 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres under wheat, 64 under oats, and 9 $\frac{1}{4}$  under potatoes. The young men in the settlement who have taken up the 160 acres of land, to which such persons of 18 years and upwards are entitled under the Canadian land regulations, are also making considerable progress: they had 225 $\frac{1}{4}$  acres under wheat, and 10 acres under oats. In addition 518 tons of hay were secured by the settlers for winter feed for their stock, and for sale. With regard to the live stock, in addition to that supplied on their arrival in the country, and its natural increase, certain of the families have acquired 24 oxen, 25 cows, and 1 horse, of which 20 oxen and 6 cows must be credited to the younger members. 2,289 acres have been prepared for 1891, an average of over 76 acres per family.

It is generally considered that this settlement is in a satisfactory condition, and that its success is assured. The settlers appear to have overcome the difficulties and trials more or less associated with settlement in a new country, and with entire change of surroundings and of work. We have no hesitation in saying that they will, before long, be equal to any settlers in the country. Most of the men who have been able to leave their farms, as well as the younger members of the families, have obtained employment at good wages; and this, in conjunction with the produce of their farms, has enabled them to attain the position they now occupy.

Appendix A. contains extracts from the general report of Mr. G. B. Borradaile, the agent of the Board, relating to this settlement.

*Saltecoats Settlement.*

The statement relating to the Saltecoats settlement shows that 18 families have left their farms, a matter which will be again referred to.

The 31 remaining families (exclusive of two who are settled at Wapella and Killarney) have under cultivation this year 240 acres, with the result shown in the following table:—

	Acre.	Estimated Average Yield (Bushels).	Estimated Total Crop (Bushels).
Wheat	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	22	2,321
Oats	120	13	5,160
Potatoes	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	2,375

They have secured 568 tons of hay—a larger quantity than that obtained by the Killarney crofters. A further 182 acres have been prepared for cultivation, so that they will have ready for crop, in the spring of next year, 422 acres. Certain of the crofters have acquired seven cows in addition to the stock originally supplied to them, and its natural increase.

The Saltecoats district is being developed with considerable rapidity. Creameries have been established in the neighbourhood, which provide a market for all the milk that can be obtained. The promoters of this industry hope in a short time to afford facilities to the crofters for taking advantage of this source of revenue.

Appendix B. contains extracts from the general report of the agent upon the settlement.

The 31 families who have remained upon their homesteads are, with one or two exceptions, doing fairly well. Many of them have been able to obtain work at good wages, and some were still away when the reports were despatched. If the Saltecoats settlers pay as much attention to their own interests and to their work as those at Killarney have done, they will, in all probability, make equally good progress.

Mr. Borradaile refers in his report to the 18 families who have left the settlement. It is not easy to explain why they have gone away; it is evident that they have been doing well in the country, as they could not otherwise have obtained the money to convey their families to the places where they are now residing. They gave various reasons for leaving their homesteads, the principal one being that they were doing better at work, as day labourers, than they could upon their land. It is said that they are earning about 7s. a day, and are likely to be employed during the winter. The fact has been overlooked by them that they could have carried on the work of their farms in conjunction with such outside employment as they might be able to procure; this would have been greatly to their advantage, considering the limited capital with which they started. They were advised to sow the small area of land prepared in 1889, in the following year, with the seed advanced to them by the Canadian Government, and to break more of the prairie for cultivation in 1891. Many of the adults would then have been free to take any employment that offered, in the latter part of June, July, and part of August, returning in time to gather their hay and other crops, and to prepare the land for this year, after which there would have been nothing to prevent their endeavouring to obtain work until the spring. The continuance for two or three years of this plan, which is followed by most of the successful settlers, starting with a small capital, would have ensured rapid progress, and in a few years a more independent position.

The Saltecoats settlement is in two divisions, a few miles distant from each other, one being called "Lothian" colony and the other "King" colony. Land was selected for the entire settlement in one district, i.e., that in which the former colony is situated. Thirty-three of the families accepted the lands selected for them, or other adjoining homesteads, and are making satisfactory progress, with the exception of five families who have gone away. The 14 families in King colony (which is about 12 miles distant from Lothian colony) would not take the land set apart for them near their

neighbours, but chose locations for themselves, the Manitoba and North-Western Railway Company assisting them in every way, giving up, in some cases, lands belonging to the Company when the crofters preferred them to the free grant land available. Thirteen of these families have now abandoned their holdings, and this result is attributed largely to their not having followed the advice of the officers concerned in the administration of the scheme. Considerable difficulty was experienced, with a few exceptions, in getting the 49 families located, notwithstanding that every consideration was shown to their wishes, as to partners and neighbours. This will be better understood when it is stated that only 12 families retained their original locations, that 24 made fresh selections, and that 12 settled on locations that had been given up by other crofters.

Since our last report, we have had under consideration the desirability of forming an honorary sub-committee of the Board in Winnipeg, through which the instructions to, and the reports from, the agent of the Board could pass, and which would be able to give us the benefit of its advice upon any matters that might arise connected with the settlements. As the result, the following gentlemen were invited to become members of the sub-committee, and we are gratified to be able to state that they all expressed their willingness to give us the benefit of their assistance: Mr. H. H. Smith, Dominion Lands Commissioner; Mr. W. B. Searth, M.P., Land Commissioner of the Canada North-West Land Company; Mr. L. A. Hamilton, Land Commissioner of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company; Mr. A. F. Eden, Land Commissioner of the Manitoba and North-Western Railway Company; and Mr. Lawson, Land Commissioner of the Hudson Bay Company. All these gentlemen are well known in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, have a thorough knowledge of immigration and colonisation, and are interested in the success of the experiments which are now under trial. Their co-operation and experience will be of much service to the Board, not only in connexion with the existing settlements, but in the event of any further colonisation taking place.

Immediately we were advised of the families having left the settlement, in September last, the committee was requested to look into the matter, and to report as to the measures to be taken for the protection of the Board. An endeavour was at once made to induce the families to return. They were informed how successful the crops of the settlers who had remained had been, and how short-sighted was the course they were adopting; and that, having abandoned their first homesteads, they would not be eligible to take up free grant land at any future time. As these efforts were not successful, it only remained for the Board to obtain possession of the land, stock, and chattels, and to realise them at the most favourable opportunity. This is being done. It is expected that the security will very nearly, if not quite, realise the money advanced upon it.

The houses, stock, and implements of the families who have gone away, will be given, as far as possible, to the younger members of the families who are remaining, and they will give security for their value on the lands they are taking up. Some of the implements, tools, &c. belonging to the crofters appear to have been badly used, and are in many cases damaged. The same remark applies to the oxen and cows, which have in a few instances depreciated in value from the indifferent attention paid to them.

In the autumn of the present year the Canadian Government invited farmers from different parts of the United Kingdom to visit Canada and report on the agricultural resources of the country. Among these gentlemen were Mr. John Speir, of Newton Farm, near Glasgow, and Mr. George Brown, of Caithness. They have favoured the Board with their views on the Crofter settlements, and extracts from their letters will be found in Appendix C.

We are gratified to notice the following paragraph in Mr. Brown's letter:—"The foregoing will serve to indicate the present position and prospects of the Crofters settled at Saltcoats. These were all taken out under the Government emigration scheme. I have no hesitation in saying that those who have taken up their homesteads are infinitely better placed, more comfortable, with better prospects for the future than ever could be their lot if they had remained at home."

The 61 families now under the care of the Board at Killarney and Saltcoats will, with few exceptions, make good settlers, and their progress in the future is likely to be more rapid than hitherto. They are now beginning to realise the advantages of the position in which they are placed, are becoming imbued with the spirit of the country, and are profiting by the example of the other settlers around them.

Upon the whole, therefore, it may be stated that the settlers are in a satisfactory condition. The scheme so far has been in the nature of an experiment, and the experience acquired has been most valuable, as showing in what respect its details require to be amended. There is every reason to believe, as the result, that colonisation on a much larger scale than has hitherto been attempted is practicable, and that it can be carried out in a satisfactory manner, to the advantage of the settlers, and with the certainty of their attaining a position in a few years which will enable them to return the money advanced to them.

All which we humbly submit for your Majesty's gracious consideration.

LOTHIAN.

CHARLES TUPPER.

JOHN MUIR.

JAMES KING.

THOMAS SKINNER.

J. G. COLMER,  
Interim Secretary,  
February 7, 1891.

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## APPENDIX A.

### EXTRACT from the REPORT of the AGENT of the BOARD on the KILLARNEY SETTLEMENT.

“*Crops*.—Are very good, wheat short in straw; heads are large and well filled. Oats a good average crop. Potatoes a good crop.

“*Hay*.—Is always scarce in this part of Manitoba as compared with other localities. The Crofters will have ample for their stock with the wheat and oat straw they have.

“*Harvesting*.—Has to a certain extent been retarded by the frequent rain showers, which have done some damage to grain and hay not stacked.

“*Stock*.—All stock is looking well, and generally comprise, in each family, oxen, cows, steers, heifers, pigs, sheep, and chickens.

“*Stables*.—Of logs or turf are to be seen built, or in the course of erection; most of the log stables are well put up.

“*Granaries*.—Some are complete, others are being built of logs with board flooring.

“*Houses*.—In many cases have been improved by the addition of log or lumber porches.

“*Schools*.—I had the pleasure of meeting two school teachers, and was gratified to note the progress made by the Crofter children.

“*Churches*.—Services are held in the school house. Mr. K. A. Gollan, Presbyterian missionary, preaches in Gaelic every Sunday and Wednesday.

“*Farm Implements*.—Many of the Crofters have purchased expensive machinery, such as seeders, mowers, rakes, harrows, ploughs, and binders. I remonstrated with them strongly for incurring such weighty obligations, and pointed out that a binder should cut at least four Crofters’ grain, and that a mower, rake seeder, and harrow, should serve the same number of crofter families.

“The advantage of locating Crofters amongst practical farmers has fully demonstrated itself in the case of these Crofters. Their work in ploughing the area they have under cultivation shows that the example set them by earlier settlers has not been in vain. Their present sound financial position also indicates that the Crofters have taken advantage of the work offered them by their more advanced neighbours. While in Killarney I heard of farmers who offered \$30 to \$40 a month and board for a good farm hand. It is generally understood that young Crofters are good workers and they are therefore in great demand.”

## APPENDIX B.

### EXTRACT from the REPORT of the AGENT of the BOARD on the SALTCOATS SETTLEMENT.

“*Crops*.—I cannot speak too highly of the wheat and oat crops. I measured some wheat which stood 5 feet 8 inches high; oats 5 feet 6 inches. Heads very large and full. Potatoes, where properly attended to, are very good. On only two farms have gophers done any damage. (No. 36 and 32.)

“Owing to Crofters not having their crops leashed cattle have done some damage. In many instances seed was sown too thick, and again when ripe allowed to stand too long. This was owing in some cases to heads of families being away working, and to others waiting for the binder they had engaged to cut the grain.

“Those crops cut with the sickle are very good. Potato crops would have yielded more if hoed up oftener; in many cases they were sown too thickly. I took particular pains to show crofters how they should plant their potatoes and sow their grain, but it is very difficult to get them to relinquish their mode of farming.

“*Improvements*.—The small amount of acreage under cultivation, and breaking ready for 1891, is accounted for by heads of families and young men going away to work. Those who did not leave their farms have made more improvements on them. They have earned money by breaking land for new settlers and by the sale of wood. Crofters were also anxious to see a crop harvested before breaking more land; their impressions of last year were not encouraging to them, and I had great difficulty to get the amount we have ready for 1891. This year’s crop has made hopeful North-West farmers of them all.

“*Hay*.—No scarcity, every Crofter has a supply in addition to his supply of straw.

“*Harvesting*.—Some damage has been done by rain to grain crops and hay not stacked in time.

“*Stock*.—Is in good condition.

“*Stables*.—In many instances Crofters have enlarged last year’s stables, or built new ones of sod and poles.

“*Houses*.—I have not made any remarks about houses (other than additions to those furnished), as the Board has this information already. All houses will be warm and comfortable for the winter.

“*Schools*.—School is open in the ‘Eden’ district, and is held in No. 80, Torlach McSweene’s house, until school house is built, which will be as soon as snow falls, when logs can be drawn to school site.

I have in my possession \$200.00 sent me by his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Territories, towards building the school houses in 'Tupper' and 'Eden' districts. Mr. McLennan, from Stornoway, Scotland, is the teacher. He was sent to me by the Reverend Dr. Bryce, of Winnipeg. The Presbytery of Manitoba pay that portion of his salary (25 per cent.) not paid by the local government. The Rev. Dr. Robertson, superintendent of Presbyterian Missions for Canada, gave me permission when last in Winnipeg to purchase what school books I required. This I have done. I am told it is the intention of the presbytery to carry out the suggestions made by Mr. A. M. Burgess, Deputy Minister of the Interior, that the Crofter missions should teach the 'Tupper' school. Under the present arrangements the Crofters do not pay school taxes.

"Church.—Is held every two weeks in the colony of 'Lothian' by Mr. McMillan, presbyterian missionary, who preaches in Gaelic.

"*Implements.*—Harrows, mowers, and rakes, have been bought by several Crofters in partnership. I have endeavoured to persuade them from purchasing, but to no effect.

"*Crofters leaving Colony.*—When asked why they were leaving, some would answer, 'Can make a better living than by farming.' Others, 'We cannot starve, you will not give us provisions, so we must leave and earn money.' I pointed out to them that it was not necessary to leave the farm for good, they could go away leaving their families, returning in the fall in time for harvest, but my argument was lost; I would respectfully suggest, if it is the intention of the Board to send out more Crofters, and they are to be fitted out in the same way, and arrive under similar circumstances the Crofters of 1889 did, the advisability of increasing the grant to \$9.00.00, for in my humble opinion it is a mistake to allow Crofters to leave their farms the first 18 months, for it is in that time a home is made, which if you wanted them to leave they would not.

"In conclusion I beg to state that it would be hard to find a more contented class of farmers than the crofters of 'Lothian' colony, all are well satisfied with the country, climate, and future prospects."

#### APPENDIX C.

EXTRACT from a letter from Mr. JOHN SPEIR of NEWTON FARM, near GLASGOW, dated December 8th, 1890.

##### KILLARNEY CROFTERS, settled in 1888.

"Dougal and Donald McKenzie, from Harris, have each 160 acres, and between them they had eight acres of wheat, which yielded 11 bushels to the acre in 1889, while this year they had 40 acres, from which they expected to thresh 30 to 33 bushels per acre, and it looked like doing so.

"Roderick McKay, who has his father with him, had about the same in crop. Mackay had 41 head of cattle, 2 pigs, and 20 hens. Both the McKenzies and the McKays said that they were pleased they had come out, and that they would have no hesitation in inviting their friends to do so if they got the chance. They and several others complained that 160 acres was too little, and that the Home Government should intercede with the Canadian Government in order that they might get another 160 acres.

"Donald Stewart, who had been with Lord Dunmore at Port Augustus, had one son working with him, and had taken up land in 1888 or 1889. He had 10 acres in crop in 1888 and 53 acres this year, and had 28 acres more broken for next year. He had 8 cows and 12 young cattle, 1 team of oxen, 1 horse, 10 young pigs, and 60 hens. The extra milk Mrs. Stewart made into butter. Mrs. Stewart had taken very badly to the place the first year, but now likes it very much, and both were in high spirits.

"Donald McDonald and other four brothers live with their father and mother. The old man was not at home and Donald was not very communicative. One brother had died of consumption and one was working on the railway. They had 12 head of cattle, but I could not learn what area in crop.

"Other two McDonalds near appeared hard working fellows. They had recently finished the building of a dairy, and were hard at work on a granary, and had made good work of both. Their crops were in the stack and looked well, and they were in high spirits over the prospects of their farm. They had also a few turnips.

##### SALTECOATS CROFTERS, settled in 1889.

"Donald McIver came out with the Moosomin Crofters, got married last year and settled here. He has 10 acres in crop this year and 20 more ready for next year. He has 40 head of cattle, half of which are cows. The whole season's make of butter he has stoved in his cellar. He said if he was home he would preach to all to come out.

"Donald Grahame had been 10 years with Hudson Bay Company, then 14 years at home, and latterly came out in 1889. Owing to the drought, the crop of 1889 had turned out very poor, and Grahame had been writing home to his friends very bad accounts of the country. He, however, was now quite satisfied that the land was all right, but both he and McIver complained of the people in Saltecoats taking undue advantage of them when they tried to sell their firewood. On inquiry later on in other quarters, I found Grahame was rather untruthful, that his loads of wood were never a

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

" All the others much similar."

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

*Salteouts.*

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

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

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

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

" winter, and got 5s. per day. I think my land not fit for cattle, as the water is very scarce. I did not like the country last year as we had no crop owing to the drought, but this year I think a great deal better of it."

" I am quite satisfied with everything done by the people and Government at home. When we got to Halifax we began to get trouble. I think I was charged 30 dollars too much for the things bought, and I am not pleased with only having the half of a waggon, as my neighbour and me often want it the same day. I would rather have a cow less and get a whole waggon. I would have no hesitation in telling my friends in the old country to come here and would not leave here for anything."

" 3. Charles Docherty, North-West Government emigration Crofter, says:—' I have 12 acres under crop this year, and planted 10 bushels of potatoes. I have had a good crop of wheat and 160 bushels potatoes, besides what my family ate from June to September. I have 12 head of cattle, including my work oxen. I expect to have 20 acres under crop next year. I had no money. I would not leave this country unless I am dragged from it by ropes. I was not pleased last year.'

" Saw Charles Docherty and Alex. McDonald's sons in a potato patch, who, upon inquiry, said they were much better pleased with the prospects before them in this country than at home, and that all their family were of the same mind. Alex. McDonald's wife gave expression to like remarks.

" 4. Alex. McDonald, North-West Government emigration Crofter, says:—' I have 12 acres under crop, and expect to put in about 10 acres more next year. I have nine head of cattle, and nine of a family. My family are all healthy. I have a school near, which is being built. We have a service every other week. I am very well pleased with the country, and would not leave it, as I think it the best place in the world for a man with a family.'

" Note.—When asked what he thought of the 18 families who left their homesteads, he replied, ' I believe they made a mistake owing to the bad crop the first year. They will regret it all their lives. I think they were misled by a man named Murray.'

" 5. M. McDonald, North-West Government emigration Crofter:—' I have eight acres under crop this year, and four acres broken for next year. I did not like the country last year, but I am very well pleased with it this year. I worked for the railway and made \$3 dollars in three months. This money kept my family and me all the winter. I wish all my friends to come out here. I would not go back to live in the old country. I have written for my mother and brother and two sisters to come here if they can get the money. I think they will come; anyway, I wish no better place.'

" 6. Kenneth McIvor, Government emigration Crofter:—' I have 12 acres under crop this year, and expect to have 20 acres more next year. I have 11 of a family, one being a girl of 16 years, who is lying just now in the hospital at Winnipeg, nearly blind. I like this country, and think all my friends ought to come out here. On writing home last year I was much displeased with the place, because the first crop failed, and I was not very well acquainted with the place. I have now written for them to come out, and to a brother in Winnipeg to come here. I have to complain of things being very dear here, and of the doctor at Greenock who examined us. He kept us all on deck for a long time when the night was very cold.'

" Note.—The foregoing will serve to indicate the present position and prospects of the Crofters settled at Salteats. These were all taken out under the Government emigration scheme. I have no hesitation in saying that those who have taken up their homesteads are infinitely better placed, more comfortable, with better prospects for the future than ever could be their lot if they had remained at home.

" This I know, from having a thorough knowledge of the Crofter character, and while acting along with the "Crofter Commissioners," I obtained sufficient information to enable me to judge the future and present position and prospects of the home Crofter. I do not consider any enlargement of holdings or migration at home would put the Crofter or his family in such an independent position as he could attain in a few years in Canada, provided he exercised a moderate amount of energy and thrift. Anyone conversant with Crofters must be quite aware that where one leads all or many follow, and when Crofters get in a body together they frequently prove unreasonable and will not be guided, while taken singly or in small numbers they generally not only prove reasonable, but are grateful for any advice or assistance they may receive. I would, therefore, infer that in any future emigration carried out by the Government—as I cannot see, keeping in view the poverty of the Crofter population, how emigration can be carried out without assistance to a very considerable extent—that the number of families sent out at any one time, ought not to exceed 20 families, and that these ought to be located beside homesteads of some years' duration, so that the examples always before the new comers may induce them to set to work and make living. There is another matter which ought to be taken in consideration, namely, the fact that all those Crofters who have taken up their homesteads are in every case satisfied with the country, and, taking into account the short time they have been settled, fairly prosperous. This will tend to increase emigration, as letters from these Crofters to their friends at home will be a very powerful factor in the near future in increasing the tide of emigration, provided the means for transport and implements are forthcoming.

"With respect to the 18 families who left their homesteads, it seems their crops of the first year proved a failure, owing to a long continued drought, which told more upon the newly broken-up prairie land than elsewhere where the soil had been under cultivation for some years. While on this point, I may say a material saving might be effected if emigrants were taken out during the month of September. They would have time to break up enough land to seed down the succeeding spring to enable them to tide over with rations for a year instead of 18 or 20 months. There is also the fact of interested parties working upon their ignorance. These are sufficient reasons to account for the action taken by these families.

These 18 families would not take the locations selected for them near the others, but went in a body to the Leech Lake district and selected the location for themselves, thinking they were better judges of land than the officials in charge of them. Some of the land was odd numbered sections, and consequently the property of the Manitoba and North-Western Railway Company, who gave the sections up to the Government so that the Crofters would be allowed to homestead them. Thirteen families have left from this location of their own selection.

"Lord Aberdeen, in a speech delivered at Winnipeg, in October last, proves that the Crofters located at Lake Pelican or Killarney have been most successful, and are in a fair way of becoming prosperous. I give a few instances of those and Crofters sent out by Lady Cathecart, selected at random.

"D. McKenzie, Harris, began life with a team of oxen, cow, and calf, and settled down on 160 acres of land. In the first year, 1888, he broke eight acres, and in 1890 had 40 acres under crop. His cattle have done well, and he keeps his house with the produce of his dairy and poultry. He does not consider the winter so severe as in the old country. He would not leave Canada, even although he could get the same amount of land to farm in the old country as he has in this. He has a good school and church near his homestead.

"D. Stewart, Fort Augustus.

"Interviewed Mrs. Stewart who said:—

"I did not like the country at first, as I felt it very lonely, as there were no neighbours; but I have got over that, and would not now leave it for anything, because we are more independent and have always the best of living, and we are making a little money. I have four of a family, which we mean to do well by. We have 70 acres under wheat, besides potatoes; we have also eight cows in calf, and six cows giving milk, and a litter of young pigs. I do not find the winter colder than in the old country, because the weather does not change. I get 5d. a dozen for eggs, and 9d. a pound for butter. This is the grandest country under the sun for rearing stock and poultry, as a heifer will have a calf when 18 months old.

"McKinnon South Uist came six years ago. "I had no money to begin. My crop this year will be about 2,000 bushels wheat. I sold 18 or 20 cattle this year, and have 40 on hand yet. I bought two horses for \$250. I like the country very well."

"Note.—Many other instances may be given of what men with a moderate amount of brains and energy can do when settled in Canada."

GEO. BROWN.

## KILMARNEY TROOFERS

No.	Heads of Families.	Younger Member	Acres under Cultivation.		Live Stock on Farms.		Additional Implements acquired by Crofters.		Remarks.	
			Days.	Weeks.	Hay cut.	Tons.	Sheep.	Ploughs.	Harrow.	
1	William McLeod	-	31	2	-	36	15	2	1	-
2	Donald McDonald	-	35	1	-	35	19	2	1	-
4	John McKay	-	36	1	-	34	15	2	1	-
5	Norman Graham	-	28	2	6	30 <sup>1</sup>	19	49 <sup>1</sup>	2	-
6	John Nicholson	-	6	-	-	6	20	26	2	-
7	John Campbell	-	55	3	25	52 <sup>4</sup>	30	85 <sup>2</sup>	2	-
	John McLean	-	33	2	16	35 <sup>1</sup>	14	49 <sup>1</sup>	2	-
	John Graham	-	9	-	-	9	23	32	2	-
8	John McKenzie	-	34	2	10	36 <sup>1</sup>	18	54 <sup>1</sup>	2	-
9	John McLeod	-	38	1	40	38 <sup>1</sup>	4	5 <sup>2</sup>	2	-
	John McLeod	-	15	-	-	15	6	22 <sup>2</sup>	2	-
	Lewis McLeod	-	10	-	-	10	5	15	-	-
	William McLeod	-	13	-	-	15	9	24	-	-
10	Kenneth McAuley	-	43	2	18	45 <sup>1</sup>	15	60 <sup>1</sup>	2	-
	John McAnley	-	6	-	6	6	12	7	-	-
	Neil Munro	-	30	2	-	32 <sup>1</sup>	20	52 <sup>1</sup>	2	-
	John McKenzie	-	6	-	-	6	6	2	2	-
13	Angus McDonald	-	43	1	15	43 <sup>1</sup>	5	45 <sup>1</sup>	2	-
14	John Morrison	-	35	1	16	35 <sup>1</sup>	23	58 <sup>1</sup>	2	-
	George Morrison	-	10	-	-	10	-	10	-	-
15	John Graham	-	32	3	13	35 <sup>1</sup>	6	41 <sup>1</sup>	2	-
	John Graham	-	5	-	5	5	5	5	-	-
16	Allan McLeod	-	28	2	13	30 <sup>1</sup>	15	45 <sup>1</sup>	2	-
	Murdo Stewart	-	8	-	8	10	48	-	-	-

<sup>1</sup> On shares with No. 4 (John McKay).<sup>2</sup> With Samuel Urquhart.<sup>3</sup> With N. L. Anxious to know if Board is going to send any more crofters out. Wants friends to come out.<sup>4</sup> Had to kill one steer last winter for food for family. Crop damaged by hail. Purchased oxen himself.<sup>5</sup> Away earning money to buy oxen.<sup>6</sup> With No. 19 (Murdo Graham). This man's crop damaged by hail. (No. 7.) Brought oxen himself.<sup>7</sup> With No. 17 (John McKenzie). Crop affected by hail. (No. 8.)<sup>8</sup> Has a sheep and log house.<sup>9</sup> Has a sheep and log house.<sup>10</sup> House. Purchased plough and oxen himself.<sup>11</sup> With son John.<sup>12</sup> With No. 16 (Allen McLeod).<sup>13</sup> With No. 15 (John Graham).<sup>14</sup> With George Morrison.<sup>15</sup> See John Morrison.<sup>16</sup> With No. 13 (Angus McLeod).<sup>17</sup> With No. 11 (Angus McDonald).<sup>18</sup> Murdo Stewart wants further assistance to buy a flock of oxen and cow. His house, well, and stable.

KILLARNEY CROFTERS—*continued.*

No.	Heads of Families.	Younger Members.	Ares under Cultivation.		Live Stock on Farms.		Additional Implements acquired by Crofters.		Remarks.	
			Hay and Potatoes.	Quarts.	Tons.	Sheep.	Horses.	Ploughs.		
17	John G. McKenzie	-	40	3	12	43½	20	63½	3	With No. 8, John McKenzie. Crop affected by hail.
	Kenneth McDonald - No. 17's son.	Cohn	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	Has house.
	John McDonald (dead).	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Purchased cow himself.	
18	William McDonald	-	28	7	14	45½	14	59½	2	With Angus Graham. Has built a new house.
19	Murdo Graham	-	Alex. McDonald	-	2	14	37½	8	8	With No. 8, John Campbell. Away working.
21	Norman McKenzie	-	25	2	12	36½	15	45½	2	With No. 29 (D. McKenzie).
22	John McDonald, jun.	Norman McDonald	40	1	4	20	41½	17	17	Has shanty. Purchased cow.
23	John McDonald, sen.	Duncan McDonald	8	-	-	8	10	15	1	Has shanty. Purchased cow.
23	Wilim. McDonald	35	2	12	29	37½	12	49½	2	Has purchased plough and stove and live stock.
24	Angus McLeod	-	45	3	20	48½	20	68½	2	With Alex. Morrison. Has purchased plough and log shanty and stock.
25	Angus Morrison	-	18	-	-	18	2	1	With Kenneth and John. Has log shanty and has purchased stove, plough and live stock.	
26	Donald McEwan	Arch. Morrison	25	3	1	16	2	2	With Kenneth and John. Has log shanty and has purchased oxen.	
	Kenneth McEwan	10	45	5	18	50½	10	37½	3	Has log shanty and has purchased oxen.
	John McEwan	7	-	-	7	23	20	2	Has log shanty and has purchased oxen.	
27	Donald Stewart	Kenneth Stewart (son).	60	10	4	40	70½	30	100½	Has hoggy and cutter.
	William Stewart (son).	-	-	-	6	10	16	6	-	
28	Ronald McKay	-	-	40	2	42	25	67	2	Says he can pay for implements he got in two years time if he gets another crop like this year's.

**KILLARNEY CROFTERS—*continued.***

No.	Heads of Families.	Younger Members.	Acreage under Cultivation.		Live Stock on Farms.						Additional Implements acquired by Crofters.						
			Wheat	Oats	Cows	Horses	Mules	Sheep	Pigs	Ducks	Blades	Ploughs	Hoes	Rakes	Scythes	Mowers	
29	Dugald McKenzie	-	35	2	3	37½	12	40½	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	12
	Hugh Morrison	-	10	-	-	60	15	25	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
	John McKay	-	5	-	-	5	25	30	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
	Donald McKenzie	-	36	1	1	5	12	17	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
30	Roderick McKay	-	36	1	1	37½	7	41½	3	3	4	15	2	-	-	-	12
	John McKay (father)	5½	-	-	-	10	4½	9	14½	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
31	Rannayne McKinion	4½	2	-	-	8	10	18	2	1	1	12	-	-	-	-	12
32	Kenneth McMillan	8	-	-	-	16	32½	18	56½	2	3	2	30	-	-	-	12
33	Kenneth McLeod	-	32	1	1	14	30½	13	43½	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	12
	John Fraser	-	30	-	-	5	15	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
	Donald Fraser (son)	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
<b>SUMMARY.—</b>																	
	Heads of Families	-	1,121½	64	9½	1,190½	487½	1,698½	61	56	45	36	3	813	33	6	3
	Young men	-	923½	10	-	235½	37½	616½	20	6	5	4	2	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	1,346½	74	9½	1,430	859	2,289	81	62	50	37	5	813	33	6	3

NOTE.—In the Killarney Settlement various crofters have acquired 24 oxen, 25 cows, and one horse, in addition to the stock (and its natural increase) originally supplied to them.

SALTCOATS CROFTERS.

No.	Heads of Families, Younger Members.	Ares under Cultivation.		Live Stock Farms.		Additional Implements acquired by Crofters.		Remarks.									
		Wheat	Oats	Hay Cobs	Tons.	Cheekens	Hawks	Sheep	Horses	Calves	Hogs	Mowers	Hoe	Plough	Harrow		
1	John McAuley -	-	-	Left colony.	8	24	134 <sup>2</sup>	-	21 <sup>3</sup>	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2	Kenneth McIver -	-	-	Left colony.	8	24	134 <sup>2</sup>	-	21 <sup>3</sup>	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	
3	Donald Montgomery -	-	-	Left colony.	12	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
4	Catherine McDonald.	-	-	Left colony.	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5	Malcolm McKay -	-	-	Left colony.	3	5	25	8 <sup>2</sup>	10	18 <sup>2</sup>	2	1	1	15	8	11	11
6	Neil McKay -	-	-	Left colony.	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Donald Morrison -	-	-	Left colony.	2	4	12	6 <sup>2</sup>	3	9 <sup>2</sup>	2	1	1	-	15	9	-
8	Norman McCauley -	-	-	Left colony.	4	4	10	8 <sup>2</sup>	4	12 <sup>2</sup>	2	1	2	-	5	-	-
9	John McAuley -	-	-	Left colony.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Donald McEneaney -	-	-	Left colony.	11	4	12	14 <sup>2</sup>	14	28 <sup>2</sup>	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
11	Charles Docherty -	-	-	Left colony.	6	6	40	12 <sup>2</sup>	10	22 <sup>2</sup>	2	1	1	20	3	1	1
12	Alex McDonald -	-	-	Left colony.	6	5	25	-	-	-	3	2	2	-	-	32	-
13	Malcolm McLeod -	-	-	Left colony.	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	11 <sup>2</sup>	16 <sup>2</sup>	21	3	1	1

SALTCOATS CROFTERS—*continued*.

No.	Heads of Families	Younger Members	Live Stock on Farms.										Additional Implements acquired by Crofters.	Remarks.	
			Acres under Cultivation.	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Rye	Hemp	Flax	Hay	Sheep	Goats	Pigs		
12	Donald Graham	-	-	6	7	4	4	29	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	21	2	1	2	-	-
13	Angus Smith	-	-	5	3	4	20	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	1	2	5	-
14	Alex. McLean	-	-	5	3	4	16	6	—	—	—	1	—	—	-
15	Alex. McLean	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
16	Alex. McLean	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
17	John McLean	-	-	2	3	4	35	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	1	2	8	1
18	Duncan McLeod	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
19	Margaret McKay	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
20	Kenneth Murray	-	-	1	—	—	10	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	1	—	5	-
21	Finnlay McLean	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
22	Alex. Mitchell	-	-	3	5	3	18	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	1	—	—	-
23	Donald McLeod	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
24	Malcolm McDonald	-	-	3	3	3	12	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	1	1	—	-
25	Donald McDonald	-	-	4	5	3	25	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	2	1	12	6
26	Angus McKay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	—	3
Murdo McDonald	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	1	3

SALTCOATS CROFTERS--continued.

SALTCOATS CROFTERS—*Continued.*

No.	Heads of Families.	Younger Members.	Acre's under Cultivation.		Live Stock on Farms						Additional Im- plements acquired by Crofters.		Remarks.	
			Wheats.	Oats.	Hay cut.	Cows.	Horses.	Sheep.	Ducks.	Chickens.	Mowers.	Hedge.	Ploughs.	
40	Neil McSween	-	2 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	4	1 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	7	14	2	1	—	7	7	11	—
	Toonach McSween	-	-	-	-	4	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
41	Marlo McDonald	-	-	-	Left Colony.	—	3 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	5	1 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	—	1	1	—	—
42	Alex. Young	-	5	7	1	30	13	10	23	2	1	2	31	10
43	Arch. Ferguson	-	-	-	Left Colony.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
44	Marlo McDonald	-	-	-	Left Colony.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	Neil McIver	-	-	-	Left Colony.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
46	John McDonald	-	-	-	Left Colony.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
47	John McIver	-	1	3 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	20	7 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	2	2 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	2	1	—	10	2	11
	John McIver	-	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
48	Kenneth McLeod	-	-	-	Left Colony.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
49	Donald McLeod	-	-	7	1 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	12	7 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	—	7 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	1	2	—	—	—
	Young men, &c.	-	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	-	-	105 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	120	14 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	568	240 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	175	415 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	59	47	32	24	4
Structur:	-	-	105 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	120	14 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	568	240 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	175	415 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	59	47	32	24	4
Heads of families	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Young men, &c.	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	-	-	105 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	120	14 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	568	240 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	175	422 <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	75	59	35	25	4

Note.—In the Saltcoats settlement various crofters have acquired seven cows in addition to the stock (and its natural increase) originally supplied to them.

## FAMILIES WHO HAVE LEFT SALTCOATS SETTLEMENT.

No. of Family	Name of Head of Family,	Total Debt.	Lien given by Head of Family.	Lien given by others in Family.	Total Liens.	Chattel Mortgage.	Improvements.
1	John McAuley -	\$ 48 18	\$ 600 00	- - -	\$ 600 00	\$ 48 18	Had five acres breaking, sowed 11 bushels potatoes, neglected and eaten by cattle. Stable. Well.
3	Donald Montgomery.	605 46	600 00	Duncan Martin (52), 157,37.	711 85	493 61	Stable. Well. No breaking. Sowed potatoes on No. 30's land, eaten by Crows and destroyed by cattle. Well. Stable. Five acres breaking.
8	Norman McRae	808 83	600 00	- - -	600 00	808 83	Potatoes sown by wife, neglected and destroyed by cattle.
9	John McAuley -	755 07	600 00	- - -	600 00	755 07	Stable. Well. Five acres breaking. Potatoes sown, eaten by Crows and cattle.
13	Malcolm McLeod	724 01	600 00	- - -	600 00	724 01	Two acres breaking. Well. Stable.
18	Duncan McLeod	736 42	600 00	Murdo McLeod (64), 148,39.	748 33	588 04	Stable. Well. Three acres breaking.
21	Finlay McLean -	787 76	600 00	- - -	600 00	787 76	Stable. Well. Five acres breaking.
23	Donald McLeod	751 06	600 00	- - -	600 00	751 06	Stable. Well. Two-and-a-half acres breaking.
29	Alex. Murray -	761 34	600 00	- - -	600 00	761 34	Stable. Well. Nine acres breaking.
30	Alex. Morrison -	361 14	600 00	- - -	600 00	361 14	Stable. Well. Five acres breaking.
33	John McKay, jun.	507 48	600 00	Dom. Murray (75), 51,85.	651 85	455 63	Gun, taken away.
34	John McKay, sen.	598 03	600 00	- - -	600 00	- -	Stable. Well. Five acres breaking.
38	Murdo McSween	358 74	584 00	- - -	584 00	- -	Well. Stable. Five acres breaking.
41	Murdo Macdonald	804 90	600 00	- - -	600 00	804 90	Five acres ploughing. Stable. Share of stable and well.
44	Murdo McIver	638 78	600 00	- - -	600 00	638 73	Well. Stable. Five acres breaking.
45	Nell McIver	702 46	600 00	- - -	600 00	702 46	Stable. Well. Six acres breaking.
46	John McDonald	417 82	600 00	- - -	600 00	- -	Stable. Eight acres breaking.
48	Kenneth McLeod	363 22	584 00	- - -	584 00	- -	Stable. Eight acres breaking.