

No. 10.

MEMORANDUM No. 159, 1873, for the AGENT-GENERAL, London.

HEREWITH is forwarded copy of a letter from Mr. J. S. Wright, of Birmingham, covering a memorial in reference to the emigration of agricultural labourers, and I desire to call your attention thereto.

G. MAURICE O'ROKKE.

Immigration Office, Wellington, New Zealand,
2nd August, 1873.

Enclosure 1 in No. 10.

Mr. JOHN S. WRIGHT, Birmingham, to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY, Wellington.

SIR,—

Birmingham, 15th May, 1873.

I beg to hand you herewith a memorial with reference to the emigration of the agricultural labourers. I have to ask your kind attention to the same, and hope you will be enabled to recommend it to the favourable consideration of your Legislative Assembly. I have, &c.,

The Hon. John Hall, Colonial Secretary, Wellington,
New Zealand.

JOHN S. WRIGHT.

Sub-Enclosure No. 1 in No. 10.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE COLONY OF NEW ZEALAND.—

The undersigned, being members of the Committee of the National Agricultural Labourers' Union, are authorized to address you in the interests of the Association. The condition of the farm labourers of this country, as you are doubtless aware, has for some years been one of poverty and privation. Their homes have, in many cases, been wretched in the extreme; their wages insufficient; and their food scant and unwholesome. It has been impossible for them to educate their children; to avoid the miseries of debt; or to make provision for old age;—and the result has been that after years of hopeless toil, during which they have had largely to appeal to public charity, they have been compelled to end their days as paupers in the Union Workhouse. Of late, the sorrows of their unhappy position have been aggravated by the increased price of provisions, coal, and other necessaries of existence; and it has become absolutely essential to take steps towards redressing the grievance from which they suffer. The National Agricultural Labourers' Union has been formed with this view, and, so far, has to some extent realized its end. It is found, however, that emigration affords, perhaps, the speediest solution of the many difficulties which lie in the way to real and lasting improvement, and already many labourers have gone forth to Brazil, and other countries to which free passages are given. The Committee we represent cannot but regard it as most undesirable that their fellow-countrymen should settle amongst people who are aliens in customs, language, and religion, and should enrich other soil by their labour when there is urgent need for them in a land where their own tongue is spoken and their own government and customs prevail. It is, however, vain to expect that the labourer will, unaided, find his way to the English Colonies; and we therefore appeal, through you, to the country you represent urging that free passages from an English port, if not from their homes, be provided for all eligible labourers and their families who are willing to seek your shores; and further, that provision be made for their reception and for their transfer to fields in which their labour may be most in demand. Should it be possible for your Government to meet our wishes, and so to attract to its own land the tide of emigration now flowing to Brazil and other countries, our Committee will do all in their power to see that only proper parties are allowed to avail themselves of your privilege.

JOSEPH ARCH, Chairman.

HENRY TAYLOR, Secretary.

FREDK. S. ATTENBOROUGH,

Congregational Pastor, and Treasurer of Warwickshire Labourers' Union.

JOHN S. WRIGHT,

Chairman Birmingham Liberal Association.

Dated at Leamington, this 15th day of May, 1873.

Sub-Enclosure No. 2 in No. 10.

UNDER SECRETARY, Immigration, to J. S. WRIGHT, Esq., Birmingham.

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, New Zealand, 29th July, 1873.

I have the honor, by direction of the Hon. the Minister for Immigration, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th May, addressed the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, forwarding a memorial from the Committee of the National Agricultural Labourers' Union, on the subject of the desirability of inducing emigration of the labouring classes of England to this Colony.

In reply, I have to request that you will place yourself in communication with the Agent-General for New Zealand, whose address is—7, Westminster Chambers, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., to whom copies of this correspondence have been forwarded, and who will give you every information as to the terms on which emigration to New Zealand is conducted.

I have, &c.,

C. E. HAUGHTON,

John Skinner Wright, Esq., Birmingham,
England.

Under-Secretary for Immigration.