

1880.
NEW ZEALAND.

EMIGRATION TO NEW ZEALAND.

(FURTHER LETTER FROM THE AGENT-GENERAL.)

[In Continuation of D.-2, 1880.]

Laid on the Table by the Hon. Mr. Rolleston with leave of the House.

No. 1.

(No. 492.) The AGENT-GENERAL to the HON. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION.

SIR,— 7, Westminster Chambers, London, S.W., 14th June, 1880.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 107, of the 3rd April, giving me further information as to the state of the labour market in the colony, and stating that the Government do not consider themselves justified at present in anticipating any resumption of immigration at the time at which it has usually commenced in previous years; and also that it is not likely that Parliament will authorize the introduction, during the ensuing twelve months, of any but nominated immigrants (as to whom you inform me I shall receive special instructions) and single women. You further desire me to make my departmental arrangements accordingly, and to dispense with the services of all local or travelling agents so far as is consistent with existing engagements.

With reference to the contents of your letter and to the Hon. the Premier's telegram of the 26th instant (copy herewith), which I received on the same day as your letter, I have the honor to state that I addressed a letter to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary on the 21st April last in reply to one received from him of the 2nd January, in which I mentioned the steps I had taken and intended further to pursue in reducing the number of officers belonging to or under the control of this department.

As indicated in your letter, the information as to the intentions of Government with reference to emigration has only been gathered by me by the successive instructions which have been forwarded to me from time to time, so that while I have been directed to make considerable reductions in the emigration staff of my department, already considerably reduced from that of previous years, I have had to consider, in connection therewith, the information indicated in your letters that probably emigration, to a certain extent, and for which certain officers would be indispensable, might be resumed. Even now I have to carry into effect instructions to send out single women, and in addition I have still to deal with the nominated persons, lists of whom are received by each mail, and with those whose passages were postponed from last year, respecting whom, as you inform me, I shall receive special instructions.

I mention this in order to show that, in making reductions, it was obviously necessary that I should proceed with some caution before dispensing with the limited number of emigration officers which I have still on the staff of this department. Nor can I at present make that amount of reduction which a total cessation of emigration would enable me to do, until I have carried into effect the instructions to send out single women, and have been informed how the Government propose to deal with the people already nominated, from whom I am daily receiving pressing representations as to the inconvenience they are being put to by the postponement of their nominations. I may point out that you will have to decide on some definite course respecting these nominated emigrants. I have put them off from time to time, but they are disinclined to further delays, and they consider they have claims on the Government. More or less, this is undoubtedly the case. In many instances the Government have received money from their friends, and in numerous others the poor creatures, on the strength of their nominations being accepted, have made their arrangements for going. As, however, your letter now under reply, and the Hon. the Premier's telegram of the 26th instant, prove more definitely than before that emigration for the ensuing twelve months will in any case be very limited, I have arranged to make some further reductions. I have given notice to Mr. Inman, who, although originally engaged as a temporary clerk, has been employed in emigration work at this office for the last three years. I have also given notice to Mr. Sison, the clerk who acts as emigration cashier, and who has been in this department for nearly eight years. Mr. Sison's place would probably have to be refilled in case nominated emigration, requiring receipt of money, is resumed. There will then only remain at this office two officers specially engaged in emigration work—namely, Mr. Smith, the despatching officer, and Mr. Shortt, the chief emigration clerk.

I enclose for your information a return showing the number of officers employed in or under the control of this department—1st, in 1875; 2nd, in December 1876 (the time at which I commenced to hold office as Agent-General); and 3rd, those who will remain on the reductions which I have mentioned in this letter being carried into effect.

The offices are, as you are probably aware, held under lease, so that, even if it were desirable, it is not possible to reduce the amount of rent for which the Government is liable; but I propose, if I can, to give up a store-room which is held under a weekly tenancy, and arrange to store the records and other papers, books, &c., of this department in the offices held under lease, thus saving a rental of £30 per annum.

With reference to the special and local agents, as I informed the Colonial Secretary in my letter of April, I have given Mr. Holloway notice of the termination of his engagement. Mr. Bathgate has sailed for New Zealand, and I have terminated Mr. Clayden's engagement.

With reference to Mr. Reed, you are aware that with the full approval of the Government he opened an office at Belfast, employing a clerk, &c. Under the present circumstances, however, I think I shall be acting in conformity with the Government's wishes in closing this office, and dispensing with the services of the clerk, &c. Mr. Reed's engagement, as by the particulars given in your letter No. 263, of the 24th December, 1878, is for two years from the 18th December, 1878, terminable after that period by six months' notice; and during the remainder of his engagement he can, unless you instruct me to the contrary, promote, so far as possible without incurring extra expense, the emigration to the colony of men experienced in farming, and with means sufficient to enable them to follow that pursuit. I judge that you will wish me to give him the requisite notice at the end of the two years.

As regards local agents, I am not employing any with the exception of Mr. Ottywell, who is obtaining applications from a few domestic servants in Scotland; and any others who have applied to be thus employed I have informed that I have no present occasion for their services.

With reference to the impression in this country as to the opening in New Zealand for working-men, I believe it is now well known that the labour-market in the colony is much overstocked; but still, notwithstanding, you will, I think, find cases in which persons, under a variety of circumstances—such as friends aiding them on condition that they go to some colony, or inability to obtain employment here—will come out notwithstanding all that they hear to discourage them, while at the same time some of these very persons will, on arrival, and on finding difficulty in obtaining employment, complain that they were encouraged to go. I shall, as I have hitherto, do all I can to discourage unsuitable people or working-men without means from proceeding to the colony until I receive instructions from you to do otherwise.

I venture to direct your attention to the course I formerly adopted of sending out a special ship for farmers. I took the responsibility of making the experiment, and succeeded in despatching a ship with 255 souls, equal to 222½ statute adults, paying £25 per statute adult for their passages, to which amount I contributed on account of eight families, equal to 35 statute adults, the sum of £438 15s. in all. The instances in which I rendered aid were generally to enable farmers with families to pay part of the passage-money, so as not to interfere with the capital they were able to realize here to take with them for investment in their new home. I enclose for your information the form which, with references and certificates of health, I required all applicants for such assistance to send in.

I am aware that a great deal may be said about the propriety of assisting with money those who are not absolutely without it. But there is no use in partially applying a principle. If the Government is willing to spend money in getting out farmers, surely they had better make the best use of it. A great deal of money has been spent on agents travelling about the country, and it need scarcely be said that the promoters of special settlements under Government auspices make a great deal of money by buying land from the Government at one price and selling it at another. But if the Government really are willing to aid the settlement of farmers with small capital, they can, I think, make the money they are willing to spend go much further by putting on special ships after the plan adopted in the case of the "Wanganui." There will be no difficulty, in my opinion, in finding farmers willing to go. The number of skilled farmers with small capital seeking for new homes is very large; but the expense of passages to New Zealand—especially where there are large families—is very heavy, and in numerous cases in consequence they turn to Canada, although but for the expense they would prefer New Zealand.

I have, &c.,

JULIUS VOGEL,
Agent-General.

The Hon. the Minister for Immigration, Wellington.

Enclosure in No. 1.

RETURNS showing Number of Officers employed in or under the control of the Agent-General's Department, as follows: No. 1, in 1875; No. 2, in December, 1876; and No. 3, when the Reductions mentioned in Letter No. 492, of 14th June, have been carried into effect.

No. 1, 1875.

Secretary to the Department.
Private Secretary.
Clerk.
Accountant.
Clerk.
Messenger.

EMIGRATION—

Mr. Ottywell.
" Carter.
" Smith, Despatching Officer.

Mr. Andrews, Assistant Despatching Officer.
" Robertson " "
" Shortt, Clerk. " "
" Long " "
" Inman " "
" Sison " "
" Johnston " "
" Pulker " "
" Bayford " "
" Goodman " "
" Carson " "
" Price " "
Four temporary Clerks and Messenger

RETURN showing Number of Officers employed, &c.—*continued.*No. 1, 1875—*continued.*

SPECIAL AGENTS—

Mr. Barclay.
 „ Adam.
 „ Burton.
 „ Holloway.

SCOTCH AGENCY—

Mr. Andrew.
 „ Livingston, Clerk.
 „ Johnstone „
 Officekeeper.

BELFAST OFFICE—

Mr. Cochrane.
 Officekeeper.

No. 2, 1876.

Secretary to the Department.

Private Secretary.

Clerk.

Accountant.

Clerk.

Messenger.

EMIGRATION—

Mr. Ottywell.
 „ Smith, Despatching Officer.
 „ Shortt, Clerk.
 „ Sison „

Mr. Johnston, Clerk.

„ Collas „

„ Hyde, Messenger.

NOTE.—As the year's emigration season was then closed, temporary clerks had been dispensed with.

SPECIAL AGENTS—

Mr. Holloway.
 Mr. and Mrs. Burton.

SCOTCH AGENCY—

Mr. Andrew.
 „ Livingston, Clerk.
 „ Johnston „
 Officekeeper.

BELFAST OFFICE—

Mr. Cochrane.
 Officekeeper.

No. 3.

Secretary to the Departments.

Clerk.

Accountant.

Clerk.

Messenger.

EMIGRATION—

Despatching Officer.
 Clerk.
 Temporary Clerk.

No. 2.

The HON. the PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

(Telegram.)

To Vogel, London.

Wellington, 26th May, 1880.

DISAPPOINTED no reply regarding reductions. Current year's vote fifteen hundred below last.

HALL.

By Authority: GEORGE DIDSBURY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1880.

