

No. 26.

THE HONORABLE THE COLONIAL SECRETARY TO MESSRS. GODEFFROY.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Auckland, 3rd October. 1863.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd April last, and to state that I deferred answering it for some time, in the hope that the circumstances of Taranaki, as regards the Native population, might have improved, so as to admit of the proposed colonization from Germany being proceeded with.

I regret, however to say, that the present state of things is not such as to make it desirable to proceed with the scheme, even if your objections to the proposed plan were removed.

I am sorry to observe the opinion which you have formed as to the want of liberality in the plan proposed. In fact, it was formed chiefly on your own terms for the introduction of emigrants into Caffraria; and with all respect for your opinion, I must be allowed to state that I believe the New Zealand terms were, on the whole, and when all circumstances are taken into consideration, much the more liberal of the two.

You complain of it as a hardship, that the emigrants should have to repay the amount of passage money, also for rations supplied them, as well as to pay for the land they were to be located upon. You complain, further, that the amount of wages to be paid such emigrants for road-making was fixed beforehand, and to be less than the ordinary Colonial rate of wages. Also, that they were to be required to sign an engagement to serve as Militia.

I find from the printed terms (a copy of which I enclose) laid before the New Zealand Assembly, "on which German emigrants were introduced into Caffraria, and upon which your offer is made to introduce them into New Zealand," the following:—

"The emigrants to pay the passage money of themselves and families, and interest thereon, &c.

"Each emigrant to receive a one-acre village lot, and twenty acres of country land, and an additional acre of country land for every child.

"£2 per acre to be paid for such land, &c.

"Provincial Government to find rations for one year, cost of which is to be repaid."

Thus the rations, the passage money and the land, had to be paid for in Caffraria, as in New Zealand.

In Caffraria, under your terms, interest had to be paid, while none was chargeable in our scheme.

Moreover, instead of 20 acres of land, we proposed to give 40 acres for each head of a family, and the land was not to be paid for at all by emigrants who had served as actual soldiers.

It was proposed that there should be at least 200 out of the 500 men soldiers.

So that in 200 out of 500 cases, we proposed to give away the land, and to give double the quantity that in the African agreements was to be sold. While to all emigrants, we gave the opportunity of buying, at long credit, double the quantity of land to be sold in Caffraria.

As to the quality of the land, I believe there can be no doubt that the Taranaki land is very much more valuable than that in Caffraria.

With respect to the Military service, it is well known that the Caffrarian emigrants had to hold their lands on military tenure, as well as the New Zealand emigrants might have had. At the time the proposals were sent home, the Government hoped and believed that no war would have broken out again in Taranaki. Moreover, the Caffres are quite as bad enemies to deal with, to say the least of it, as the Maoris.

But the condition of military service was openly required in our proposals, for the very reason that the emigrants might be made fully aware of all that would be demanded of them, and that by no possibility might they be deceived, or any advantage taken of them.

The grievance with respect to the wages to be paid for road making is very easily explained. The road on which it was expressly agreed that they were to work was the road from their own settlement to the town of New Plymouth. This road, when made, would probably have given these settlers almost a monopoly of the market for firewood and other produce, because they would thus have been enabled to undersell the English inhabitants of the other country districts of the Province. It is very probable that Government would have had great complaints of favoritism from the other settlers on this very account. Their lands would have been worth several pounds an acre the moment the road was made. It was simply another mode of making them contribute labour for their own advantage, and that of their own community, as is often done by statute in several English Colonies, and known indeed familiarly by the term "Statute labour." It was really contributing out of public funds a portion of the cost of road making, on condition they should contribute also—a principle constantly adopted and clamored for by the English settlers of New Zealand, and which they often have a difficulty in getting favoured with from their Provincial Governments.

I had not overlooked from the first the necessity of having a fellow countryman placed over them, who knew their habits and tastes, and was also well acquainted with Taranaki. I had actually employed a settler—a Prussian and an officer—for some time in superintending the preparation of the settlement for these Germans. He was exceedingly zealous in the matter, and most considerate and anxious about the provision to be made for their reception and their future comfort. A bridle-road had been cleared, under my directions, to the proposed site of the settle-