

No. 76.

The UNDER SECRETARY for IMMIGRATION to His Honor the SUPERINTENDENT, Marlborough.

(Telegram.)

Wellington, 1st December, 1873.

Your letter of 18th November, *re* immigration barracks. Hon. Mr. Vogel authorizes you to call for tenders for the erection of the building.

His Honor the Superintendent, Blenheim.

C. E. HAUGHTON.

No. 77.

The Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION to His Honor the SUPERINTENDENT, Marlborough.

SIR,—

Immigration Office, Wellington, 8th November, 1873.

It is very desirable that some of the immigrants arriving in your Province, should at once leave the town and its vicinity, and proceed into the country districts, either to become settlers on their own account, or to accept employment from settlers.

To enable this to be done, I shall be inclined not only to allow a moderate expenditure for the cost of transit, but also a proportion of the expense for renting suitable buildings, if any are available, as temporary depôts for the immigrants, in the country towns or villages.

The scarcity of house accommodation is such in many of the country districts, that immigrants, especially families inclined to settle or seek employment in the country, may find themselves deterred from doing so on account of the want of adequate shelter.

It has suggested itself to me that it would be very desirable to erect, at different points where employment was available, serviceable but cheap four-roomed cottages or huts, not exceeding in cost £100, for the purpose of letting to the immigrants. Where the Provincial Government have land to spare in the vicinity of railway works, small areas of land might be included with the cottages in a lease. This, however, I leave to the consideration of the Provincial authorities.

I am willing, as a means of thus settling immigrants, to place a certain amount of money at your Honor's disposal, to build such cottages or huts, on the following conditions:—

1. That these be let to newly-arrived immigrants with families.
2. That the Provincial Government undertakes and guarantees to return to the General Government the amount expended, with interest at 5 per cent., in four instalments, on the 1st January, 1875, 1876, 1877, and 1878.

I leave you to make such arrangements for building the cottages, and to let them on such conditions other than those stipulated, as may seem to you desirable.

If you approve of this proposal, I shall be glad to receive any suggestions from your Honor on the subject, as also to learn the amount of money you think you would require during the current year.

His Honor the Superintendent, Marlborough.

I have, &c.,
JULIUS VOGEL.

No. 78.

His Honor the SUPERINTENDENT, Marlborough, to the Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION.

SIR,—

Superintendent's Office, Blenheim, 19th November, 1873.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant (No. 35, 1873), and in reply, to inform you that I quite agree with you as to the desirability of getting immigrants distributed about and settled in the country districts.

Your proposals to advance money to build cottages for this purpose, such money to be refunded by the Province by instalments, shall receive my full consideration, and at an early date I shall be able to make some definite proposition on this subject.

I have, &c.,
A. P. SEYMOUR,
Superintendent.

The Hon. the Minister for Immigration, Wellington.

No. 79.

His Honor the SUPERINTENDENT, Marlborough, to the Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION.

SIR,—

Superintendent's Office, Blenheim, 17th December, 1873.

I have the honor to bring under your notice the scarcity of labour in this Province, and the great demand that exists for immigrants. I trust that you will be able to supply our wants by sending a number of able-bodied men before harvest sets in, and a lot of single women to meet the demand for domestic servants. Although the barracks are not yet built in Blenheim, there is a small depôt in Pieton capable of accommodating from twenty to thirty adults, so that a small stream could be kept flowing into the Province through this channel.

In your letter of 8th November, No. 35, 1873, you say that it is very desirable that some of the immigrants arriving in this Province should at once leave the town and its vicinity, and proceed into the country districts, and that you are willing to allow a moderate expenditure of cost of transit, and also rents for temporary depôts or cottages. I must thank you for this offer, and hope you will give me the opportunity to make use of it by sending the immigrants so urgently needed.

In regard to your further proposal to advance money for building cottages in the country, such