

No. 9.

The OFFICER in CHARGE, Jackson's Bay Settlement, to the UNDER SECRETARY for IMMIGRATION.

SIR,—

Hokitika, 12th April, 1878.

I have the honor to forward herewith, for the information of the Hon. the Minister for Immigration, statement of the accounts of the special settlement at Jackson's Bay, from its commencement to the 31st December, 1877.

With regard to the sum of £4,587 10s. 9d., comprising the indebtedness of the settlers for stores, and which appeared to the Hon. Mr. Macandrew as unusually large, I find, on investigation, that this includes a number of other items, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Amount of indebtedness of settlers	3,223	14	4
Cottages built by Government for settlers	840	0	0
Blankets, clothes, &c., supplied Italians before arrival at settlement	28	4	0
Rent of land charged in account	495	12	5
Total	£4,587	10	9

In looking over the store account as a whole, I find that what appeared to be a large profit made by the Government for the sale of stores arose from the working expenses fairly chargeable to that account not being included in the former statement.

You will therefore observe that, by charging only the expenditure that has been incurred in connection with the stores, the accompanying account shows as a result that the loss on the sale of Government stores is £41 19s. 2d., instead of a profit, so that to the fullest extent the original agreement made in the conditions of settlement has been carried out—viz., that goods were to be supplied at cost price.

With regard to the sum of £3,223 14s. 4d. due to the Government by the settlers for stores, I beg to inform you that the sum of £1 is being deducted by the Resident Agent from the earnings of each settler per month (until further instructions on the matter are received), in accordance with section 5 of the "Notice to Settlers" *re* the state of Government stores, and which runs as follows :—

"Government may deduct from any payments to the settlers rental for their sections, and a rate to be fixed by the Resident Agent on account of their indebtedness to the Government. The maximum deduction on all accounts not to exceed £1 per month, the remaining earnings to be paid as before indicated.

The Under Secretary for Immigration,
Wellington.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD PATTEN.

P.S.—It will take about two years to recover the debts due to the Government.—E. P.

Enclosure in No. 9.

STATEMENT of ACCOUNTS, Government Stores, Jackson's Bay and Okura.

DR.

Dec., 1877.

	£	s.	d.
To goods as per stores account from January, 1875, to 31st December, 1877	19,297	15	7

CR.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Cash remitted to Provincial Treasurer, Hokitika...	10,926	12	1			
Value of goods expended on Government account	1,704	5	3			
Cash paid by Resident Agent for goods	1,337	15	6			
				13,968	12	10
Cash indebtedness of settlers for stores	3,223	14	4			
Houses built by Government for settlers	840	0	0			
Goods obtained by Italian settlers before arrival on settlement	28	4	0			
Rent of land charged in settlers' current account with store	495	12	5			
Sundry accounts	269	13	0			
Contra accounts	259	18	6			
Stock on hand	192	0	6			
				5,309	2	9
				19,277	15	7
Balance				41	19	2
				£19,319	14	9