

Letter: John Morrison to the Superintendent Nelson dated 3 Jun 1858

Archives NZ Wellington Reference IM-N 1/1 1858/13

In accordance with the permission granted by your Honor to state my views and proposition respecting the formation in London of a Provincial Government Agency for the Province of Nelson, I beg leave to do so having given the matter the fullest consideration.

In London, information in detail respecting the Colony, cannot be obtained by parties desirous of Emigrating. This draw back is serious, what little is known is derived from private sources, and does not bear the weight of authority that information would if procured from documents issued and forwarded by Government to their acknowledged Agent there, such information freely circulated would be the means of drawing the attention of interested parties to the benefits of the Province, and securing for it a share of labour which is being diverted to other Colonies, for it may be remarked that Australia, Canada and the Cape have all their separate Agencies in England competing for this boon. New Zealand hitherto has not been represented there and believing that considerable advantage would be gained to this Province by the creation of such an Agency in London, I would solicit the honour of securing from the Provincial Government of Nelson, the appointment of Agent there - acting on its behalf, for the general diffusion of information respecting the Province, being furnished by the Government with all Maps and documents necessary to afford such particulars in detail; to select and superintend the transmission of Emigrants that the Government may require, as well as to obtain for it any information specifications or Tenders, that may be required for Public Works in the Colony or otherwise; also thro the medium of the Government Agency to enable Residenters in England, altho connected with the Colony, to secure such correct information, if to be obtained thro the Government offices, as their interests may require, and to allow parties in the Nelson Province to have a definite office in London where communications can be addressed for missing friends &c. Should the Government permit intending Emigrants to deposit Money in London towards purchases of land and authorize the Agent there to grant Receipts for the same on receiving from the London Bankers notice that the money has been paid and appears in their books to the Credit of the Provincial Government of Nelson, it would offer a great benefit to small capitalists and encourage them in the plan of investing in Land, which they might select within the past 6 months after their arrival in the Colony, should they alter their intentions within that period, the Government could refund them the deposit paid in London, by negotiating on their Bankers there (in whose hands the money would remain until the decision of the Emigrant was obtained) without expense or loss. The transactions might result even if the land order was not taken up, in advantage to Government, by the money so lodged in England being a deposit account at interest, besides the premium of Exchange that would accrue on the Government orders in London. I venture to offer this latter ... to show that the position of the Government would not be affected in the slightest degree by such a policy.

I would also refer for the consideration of your Honor to the subject of assisted Emigration, connected with the purchase of Land. Many suitable Emigrants possessing a small capital might avail themselves of the advantage granted by Government in paying their passage money or part thereof provided they deposited thru the London Agent of the Government a sum equal to the amount towards the purchase of Land, to be selected within a given time after arrival in the Colony, and in the event of... being taken up the Government will retain the Crown Grant until the amount due for passage money is paid, should the Land order not be acted upon the money deposited in London to go to defray the cost of passage out to Nelson. Such assistance granted by the Government would be the means of introducing a superior class of Emigrants, encouraging the sale of land, and yet securing the Province from any liability of loss in the Collection of assisted passage money.

To carry this suggestion it would be necessary to create a fund in England for the payment of the assisted passages, should this militate against the working of it, I may state that I believe the Government of Nelson could obtain facilities in London for carrying on limited operations in this way, and if agreeable would be glad to communicate further on the subject with your Honor. I am aware that the Regulations of the Province require that all Land shall be sold by Public Auction, but it rests with the Government to decide whether this form might not be fully explained to the Emigrant before leaving England. Having stated these views for the consideration of your Honor, I beg to offer my services gratuitously for the establishing and conducting of such an Agency in London, requiring only that the Government should defray the expenses of advertising, printing and postages, all of which together with the general working of the interests of the Colony might be supervised at all times by Mr Tytler under whose instructions it would afford me pleasure to act. I have the honor to be Sir, Your Honor most obedt servant, John Morrison.