

Letter: John Morrison to I. E. Featherston Superintendent of Wellington 11 Apr 1859
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Written from 173 Fenchurch Street , London

Sir, I had the honor to address you last by the February Mail, when I took leave to intimate that I had established myself in London, as Colonial Agent for New Zealand, tendering at the same time my services to the Provincial Government of Wellington. I respectfully renew this application for the consideration of your Honor, and crave your further permission to submit the following proposition respecting immigration to the Province of Wellington.

From personal observation during my tour thro New Zealand it became quite apparent to me that a steady and continuous flow of Immigration was essential to the progress and wealth of the Colony. Since returning to England my attention has been directed towards the best means of developing this essential element by the agency of a complete and reliable influence organised throughout the Agricultural districts of the United Kingdom, as well as the North American Colonies, Sweden and Germany, so as to be the means of selecting Emigrants of sound bodily health, character, and useful occupations, suitable for the Province. To promote this policy I respectfully solicit of the Provincial Government of Wellington permission to forward on their account, any given number of Emigrants they may be disposed to direct, in families, married couples, single men and women; on the following conditions which are submitted for the approval of your Honor:

Rate of Passage Money To be eighteen pounds & eighteen shillings for each adult. Children under 12 years of age nine pounds nine shillings. Under 1 year no charge.

Personal Baggage To be allowed free of charge in the following proportions. Adult 1/4 Ton. Not adults, but above 1 year old, 1/8 Ton. Emigrants and their personal Baggage to be landed at Wellington free of expense.

Payment of Passage Money Half to be paid in London on sailing of the ship, by the Bankers of the Provincial Government, upon production of Certified list of the Emigrants on board, signed by the Captain and Brokers of the ship; the remaining moiety, at the option of the Provincial Government, either in Cash at Wellington, or by their Draft on London @ 30d/s? for the Emigrants landed, on the due and proper completion of the Voyage, according to the requirements of the Passenger Act.

The Selection will be principally made from the Counties of the United Kingdom, as well as from the North American Colonies, while a limited number may be sent direct from Sweden & Germany to form a nucleus for others to follow, these latter localities will be avoided, if so directed.

Time. No period of time to be specified for the introduction of the Emigrants, but due diligence to be exercised to complete the number ordered, consistent with a careful selection.

Arrival in the Colony. Every effort will be made to land the Emigrants at Wellington in larger proportions during the Spring and Early Summer months, than at other periods of the year.

Ships. All ships from the United Kingdom to come under the Provisions of the Passenger Act and to pass the Government Emigration Officers Survey, those from other places, that of the appointed officers of the respective Governments at the ports of sailing. A preference to be given to a medium size of Ship, none to carry more than 150 Emigrant Adults, or equal there to, on account of the Provincial Government; and no ship to be dispatched within (at least) one months time of the departure of the last preceeding vessel, permission being allowed to a slight deviation in the sailing, if required, to meet the arrivals at Wellington for the Summer months.

Delay in Embarkation provision to be made for temporary Board & Lodging at the ports of Embarkation free of Expense to the Emigrant, in case of the ship not sailing on the day named in the order to embark.

Proportion of Sexes and of married and single emigrants to be regulated according to the instructions of the Government, also the size of families, extreme age to be refused, permission being granted to deviate in cases offering other advantages.

Repayment of Passage Money to Government Promissory Notes for the amount of passage money (less any amount that may have been paid towards it) to be signed by each Emigrant before embarkation, payable on demand in favor of the Provincial Treasurer of Wellington which the Emigrant is to pay by instalments within 2 years from date of landing in the colony, or when employed on Government works by a deduction to be made from his wages.

When practicable the Emigrants shall make a payment, towards their passage money, which amounts shall be deducted from the amount for which a promissory note is to be given, and credited to the Provincial Government.

Should these conditions prove satisfactory I shall be ready, on receipt of your authority to act for the Provincial Government of Wellington, a trial of them would not commit the Province to any expense, while the attention I have paid to Emigration, combined with my practical knowledge of the Wellington Settlement, justify me in assuring your Honor, that if favored with such a commission it shall be regulated with care and judgement. I have the honor to be, Your Honor's most obedient servant, John Morrison.