

Letter: William Jenkins to Superintendent Nelson
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Written 26 Feb 1864 from Birmingham, Warwickshire, England.
Received 2 May 1864.

To His Honor the Superintendent [of Nelson].

Sir, Being about to bring my visit to a close - as far as the Maori Chieftains are concerned - I am turning my attention to the subject of Emigration. I am, as your Honor will discover from the enclosed papers, about chartering a ship - in which to convey passengers &c to Canterbury & Auckland those being the two principal ports talked of here at present. I shall not, however, exclude passengers for Nelson. On the contrary I give, in my lectures, prominence to the Nelson Province as a district containing vast mineral wealth believing as I do that it is destined, ultimately to become the Mint of New Zealand.

I have also said much about the West Coast Coal fields, while lecturing in the "Black Country" being between this & Wolverhampton - and I have aroused the energies of some of the most intelligent among the Colliers there. In fact a party is now being made up under the leadership of a clever active young man who is "Mine Surveyor" to the highly reputable firm of Lloyd Foster & Co.? On Wednesday he is leaving a situation with ... of £200 a year and with 8 or 10 enterprising & practical men - purposes accompanying me in May next with a view of doing something among the West Coast Coal fields.

Should this party be completed and arrive in Nelson I trust your Honor will render them every assistance and afford them encouragement in their really praiseworthy enterprise. They are all men born and bred among the Coal pits & will take out all needful apparatus for commencing work forthwith. This staff of practical colliers would be a great acquisition to the Mokihinui Company.

As I lecture again in the Collieries next week I shall know something more definite and will communicate further information to your Honor next Mail.

I purpose devoting the next 10 weeks to Lecturing on Emigration for which purpose I hope to visit most of the principal manufacturing & agricultural districts. I shall do all I can to take out about 60 agricultural labourers & really useful Servant Girls. I regret I had not made some ... on this subject before leaving Nelson knowing as I do, how much this Class of Emigrants is needed there. If I had the means I would soon get the people but there is the difficulty ie. the passage money. I have talked with scores of stout smock frock'd farm labourers who are earning but £8 to £10 per annum (including their keep), who would be very glad indeed to get out to New Zealand. And I have made up my mind should I obtain the means - to bring out a few at my own risk.

As most of the Chiefs who accompanied me are about to return forthwith having seen as much of England as they seem to care about and as certain parties here have offered to relieve me of the expense of their return - which offer we have naturally agreed to accept - My time will now be entirely devoted to disseminating bona fide information about New Zealand as a field for Emigration. This is highly necessary and I am astonished to find how little the mass of the people know on this subject - and what comparative ignorance there exists in the minds of the more intelligent with reference to the prospects open to Emigrants to that Country.

As, I trust, the War is now ended that will no longer be an obstacle in the way of intending Emigrants. I trust there will be no more war in New Zealand. I always felt the greatest amount of confidence in Sir Geo Greys policy - And I have invariably told the English public that Sir Geo Grey & Genl Cameron would have the honors of fighting the last battle between the Colonist & the Maori.

Had the same decision been shown by the late Governor - and the same amount of ability & courage been displayed by the late General in the Taranaki War, I doubt if the Waikato war would have been heard of at all.

Hoping to be able to communicate further particulars next Mail. I have the honor to be Sir
Your Honor Obt Servt W. Jenkins P.S. Your Honor is at liberty to publish that communication
of

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