

John Morrison writes from Invercargill to Superintendent Southland 15 Feb 1868

Archives NZ Wellington Reference SP 2/2

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th inst. desiring to be favored with a detailed statement of my proposal for carrying out a plan of direct immigration in Land payments. Before submitting my view I beg to explain that I am somewhat unprepared to do so. It arises in this way. When writing to Invercargill some months ago I ventured to remark to a gentleman upon the urgent importance of continuing the system of nominated immigration: I observed that should the Government be financially unable to resume the service purchasers might be got in London to purchase Land, provided the money paid for the Land be applied now and henceforth to Immigration. Until my arrival in Invercargill I was unaware the attention of Government had been directed to my suggestion or that the Council was desirous to carry it out. Although most willing to co-operate with your Government you will perceive from what I have stated that I am practically unable to do so; inasmuch as the action which has been taken is premature; I am not the principal in this matter and moreover I reasonably abstain, on account of the official position I occupy, from purchasing Land in New Zealand. However, so important a measure do I consider the resumption of immigration to be for Southland, and being desirous to give immediate effect to the wishes of the Council I beg to state to your Honor that rather than any impediment should arise to delay or stop a gradual flow of population to your Province I will undertake to provide funds for the passages of the Nominated Immigrants you send for to the amount of five thousand pounds until I obtain a purchaser for Land to the extent of five thousand acres. In taking upon myself this position I beg the Government will not recognize me as the principal or buyer of the Land. I accept the personal liability merely to avoid disappointment to many of your settlers and inconvenience to your Government.