

Letter: John Morrison to Immigration Secretary, London 24 Jul 1866
Nelson Provincial Council Proceedings: Introduction of Immigrants by Bishop Suter

Alfred Greenfield Esq.

Sir, I do myself the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No.113, of the 7th May last, informing me that the Immigration Commissioners will be only too glad to avail themselves of the proposal made by the Bishop designate of Nelson, upon the subject of the introduction of immigrants.

Immediately your communication was received I addressed a letter to the Rev. Mr. Suter, expressing the thanks of the Immigration Commissioners for the kind proposal he had made. At the same time I intimated that free passages would be granted to not exceeding fifty female servants, provided they remain 12 months in the Province of Nelson; and that the Commissioners would also advance the passage money for twenty-five young married couples on their giving bonds to repay the same by quarterly instalments within two years after landing. I particularly represented that I was directed to let you know by first opportunity what number may be expected, and when. To-day I am in receipt of Mr Suter's reply, copy of which is enclosed for the information of the Commissioners, by which you will observe that the Rev. gentleman is unable to take any steps towards collecting the people owing to the uncertainty in which he is at present, as to when he may be in a position to leave England, and by what route he may be required to proceed to the colony.

I am given to understand it may be six months or more, before arrangements are likely to be completed to admit of Mr Suter's departure, in which case I hope to have ample time to advise you as to the number of people who are about to accompany him. On the other hand should Mr Suter select the emigrants, but afterwards find he is compelled to take his passage via Panama, instead of with them in a sailing ship proceeding direct to Nelson, I would seek to have the permission of the Commissioners to forward them in the ordinary way, notwithstanding Mr Suter does not accompany them - for I apprehend the Commissioners have soley granted the privilege of free and assisted passages upon the assumption that the people would be accompanied by and under the charge of the rev. gentleman during the voyage, and until you more specifically instruct me, I shall hesitate to grant the passages unless that arrangement is carried out.

It is clear to me that there will be no occasion to take any steps in the matter before your reply to this letter is received, but the Commissioners may rest assured that no impediment on my part shall be caused by which any delay or inconvenience is created. I have &c., John Morrison