

Lyttelton, June 1st 1851.

Sir,

I beg you will lay before the Council a copy of a letter which I have addressed to Mr. Aitken. If the Colonists approve of it I will ratify it by a formal agreement, and act in a similar manner towards other persons applying for pastoral runs. It may be necessary to add that a condition should be appended to all such agreements to the effect that within six months the run shall be stocked, and I suggest that a run shall be considered as stocked, if one breeding ewe for every twenty acres or one head of breeding cattle for every 120 acres, be placed upon it. In my letter to Mr. Aitken no such condition was mentioned, because I knew his run to be already stocked. My opinion as to the absolute necessity of immediately relaxing the strictness of our pasturage regulations is well known to the Council, and, I believe, fully participated in by the Colonists. I am aware that the plan now proposed by me is anything but satisfactory, but Mr. Aitken and other stockholders are content to accept it as a provisional arrangement, and it is the best I can become a party to without danger to myself.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Edward Wright Esquire
Clerk to the Council of Land
Purchasers.

John Robert Godley A.C.A.

Lyttelton May 27 1851.

Sir,

I have had under consideration your application to take a run of 20000 acres at a gradually increasing rent, and in reply beg to explain the terms on which I am prepared to meet your wishes as nearly as I can.

I will undertake not to give during the next seven years to any person not having a legal right to demand it, occupation of the run which you apply for on condition that you engage to take at the ordinary rent, and in conformity with the general regulations, as much land as will produce £10 at the commencement of the first year, £20 the second, £40 the third, £70 the fourth and £100 at the commencement of the fifth year. I am advised that no person has a legal right to demand occupation of a particular district for pastoral purposes, except purchasers of rural lands, who have a right to five acres of pasturage for every acre of freehold. I am prepared therefore to refuse to any other persons than such purchasers license to departure on any part of the 20,000 acres applied for by you unless compelled to do so by legal process. Perhaps it would be as well for additional security that you should make a conditional offer