

and which they have always considered as their own. Though they cannot now assert any legal title, I trust that whenever the native title to the island at large is extinguished, steps will be taken to secure the inheritance of these spots for their families. It would indeed be unfortunate if the advent of the Government should have the effect of depriving of their homesteads these earliest colonists, and if these numerous half-caste children should be left landless in the land which their forefathers were the first Europeans to explore, and of which their maternal ancestors were the sole possessors.

North of Patterson's Inlet, a belt of one or two miles in depth from the coast extends, with few interruptions, to Saddle Point, consisting of ridges of no great height, and of which the greater portion might be brought into cultivation.

Port William being a good harbour, very easy of access, and a most convenient port of call for vessels wind-bound in Fovaux Straits, presents greater inducements for immediate settlement than any other part of the Island. There is an excellent situation for a small township, and it seems probable that colonists would be induced to settle there if the land should be thrown open for sale. Here, as elsewhere, the land is thickly wooded, but many of the trees are suitable for sawing, and the scrub would not be very difficult to fall and burn. When once cleared there is no doubt the soil would be very fertile, and would produce excellent crops of potatoes and other vegetables; or if laid down in grass would afford very abundant pasture.

From all enquiries I made with regard to climate, and from my own observation, I am inclined to think that on the east side of Stewart's Island, north of Port Pegasus, the temperature will be found to be considerably milder than at Invercargill and its immediate vicinity. Certainly, the westerly winds will be much less felt, from the shelter afforded by the mountains in the interior, and from the slopes of the land to the north-east; but it is undoubtedly very wet. It is not probable that the actual rainfall is greater than on the mainland, but small drizzly rain is very frequent. The harbours on the east coast are certainly excellent, being both safe and convenient of access; and all the coast from Saddle Point to Port Pegasus with its deep indentations, presents every facility for communication by boats or vessels of every kind, and the great abundance and excellent quality of the fish will make that a considerable resource. The quality of the Stewart's Island oysters has long been celebrated, and I carefully examined the condition of this fishery. These oysters occasionally adhere to the rocks a little above high-water mark, but they have for the most part been dredged up from certain limited banks, which were found far up the harbours, in about three fathoms water; the few banks hitherto discovered are pretty nearly exhausted. No doubt numbers of other banks will be found, but it is hardly probable that the oysters on them will be found, when taken, to be in so good condition as they were on the old banks, for these last were just in the sort of positions in which oysters are artificially bedded, near the heads of bays at the mouths of small fresh water streams. At all events, it is certain that this fishery can never be a considerable object of industry until the oysters are regularly bedded and tended here as at home. It is impossible that the facilities for doing this should be greater than at Stewart's Island, and there is no doubt that with good management and some little capital, this may be made a profitable and considerable branch of industry.

Ship-building is another pursuit for which this island affords peculiar facilities. The rata timber, which grows everywhere abundantly, of the most suitable sizes and forms for this purpose, makes the best possible frames for vessels. On the whole, it is impossible to resist the conclusion that the colonization of Stewart's Island presents very great difficulties and drawbacks. It will ultimately, I have no doubt, form a very important and valuable part of the colony, but so much labour will be required to be expended before any portion can be made available, that it would be quite idle to attempt to people it by the same means as are applicable to the level, accessible, and well-grassed plains of Southland. If Stewart's Island is to be peopled at all, it must be done by offering special inducements to a suitable class of colonists to settle there. The Nova Scotian Highlanders are the only colonists likely to attempt, and to succeed in, such an enterprise. To these skilful axe-men the forests would present no difficulties, and the facilities for fishing and ship-building would be a great inducement to them. In comparison with the rocky surface and the bitter winters of Nova Scotia, the soil and climate of Stewart's Island would be genial and inviting; and when once the great difficulties of clearing and settling were over, such a community could not fail to become prosperous, and the remainder of the island would then acquire value.

The proximity of such settlers would be of the greatest possible advantage to Southland, both by the increase of trade which it would involve, and by the great supply of labour which it would provide. But, to effect this, it is clear that a special land law will be required, and as this cannot be done for some time, it would be premature to take any steps for topographical survey on an extensive scale.

The Admiralty survey gives a very fair outline of the island, and as any surveys which will be required for many years will be on the east coast only, there can be no difficulty in connecting them, either by main traverse lines across the points, or by a minor triangulation according to circumstances; and the only steps that I conceive it will be necessary to take at an early period, will be the laying off a small township, with a few twenty-acre sections, immediately round Port William; and perhaps defining and marking the reserves it may be necessary to make for native purposes, and the portions of land which may be appropriated to the present inhabitants of the island.

I have, &c.,

THEOPH. HEALE.

To His Honor the Superintendent of Southland.

THE NEWSPAPERS OF NEW ZEALAND.

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PROVINCE OF AUCKLAND.

AUCKLAND.—Daily: *Daily Southern Cross*, *New Zealander*, *New Zealand Herald*. Weekly: *The Weekly News*, *Entertainment (Illustrated)*.

ONEHUNGA.—Weekly: *Onehunga Warden*.

KAIPARA.—Occasionally: *Albert Land Gazette*.

PROVINCE OF TARANAKI.

NEW PLYMOUTH.—Weekly: *Taranaki Herald*, *Taranaki News*.

PROVINCE OF HAWKES BAY.

NAPIER.—Twice-a-week: *Hawkes Bay Herald*. Weekly: *Hawkes Bay Times*.

PROVINCE OF WELLINGTON.

WELLINGTON.—Thrice-a-week: *Wellington Independent*, *New Zealand Advertiser*. Twice-a-week: *New Zealand Spectator*.

WANGANUI.—Twice-a-week: *Wanganui Chronicle*.

PROVINCE OF NELSON.

NELSON.—Thrice-a-week: *Nelson Examiner*. Twice-a-week: *Colonist*.

PROVINCE OF MARLBOROUGH.

PICTON.—Twice-a-week: *Marlborough Press*, *Marlborough Times*.

BIENHEIM.—Weekly: *Wairau Record*.

HAVELOCK.—Twice-a-week: *Havelock Mail*.

PROVINCE OF CANTERBURY.

CHRISTCHURCH.—Daily: *Press*, *Evening Mail*. Thrice-a-week: *Lyttelton Times*. Twice-a-week: *Canterbury Standard*.

TIMARU.—Weekly: *Timaru Herald*.

PROVINCE OF OTAGO.

DUNEDIN.—Daily: *Otago Daily Times*, *Otago Mail*, *Evening Star*. Weekly: *Witness*, *Leader*.

OAMARU.—Weekly: *Oamaru Times*.

DUNSTAN.—Weekly: *Dunstan Times*.

LAKE WAKATIPU.—Weekly: *Lake Wakatip Mail*.

TOKOMAIRIRI.—Weekly: *Bruce Herald*.

CLUTHA.—Weekly: *Molyneux Mail*.

WAIKOUAITI.—Weekly: *Waikouaiti Herald*.

PROVINCE OF SOUTHLAND.

INVERCARGILL.—Daily: *Southland Daily News*. Thrice-a-week: *Southland Times*.

RECAPITULATION.—Daily, 9; Thrice-a-week, 5; Twice-a-week, 8; Weekly, 16; Occasionally, 1; Total, 39.