

1853.

VICTORIA.

PETITION.

(Ordered by the Council to be printed, 6th September, 1853.)

TO THE HONORABLE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF MELBOURNE.

The Petition of One hundred and fifty heads of families in Paisley,

HUMBLY SHEWETH—

That your petitioners are very desirous of emigrating to Australia, as a promising field of labour, they being subjected in Scotland to considerable fluctuations and depressions of trade.

That the cost of the passage for themselves and their families to so distant a Colony is more than your petitioners are able to defray

That your petitioners are informed that there are certain funds, arising from the sale of land, in the Colonial Exchequer, from which assistance is given to persons in the circumstances of your petitioners to enable them to emigrate, or at least that your Honorable Body would not be indisposed, under certain conditions, to provide funds for that purpose.

That your petitioners are most willing to bind themselves to repay, within any reasonable period after their arrival in the Colony, the expenses incurred in assisting them to emigrate, and even with interest, should that be demanded.

That your petitioners, in order to shew their respectability and good character, append a certificate to that effect from the Provost and Magistrates of Paisley, and from the local Clergy of all denominations and other gentlemen of station and influence.

May it therefore please your Honorable Body to take the above premises into your favourable consideration, and to grant to your petitioners the assistance they so earnestly desire, to enable them to emigrate to Melbourne, and your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed in name and by authority of the Paisley Australian Emigration Society,

WILLIAM PURDIE, President.

JOHN McMILLEN, Treasurer.

JOHN SANNOHILL, Secretary.

NOTE.—The Society is composed of the following trades :—Labourers, 32 ; Weavers, 83 ; Tailors, 4 ; Shoemakers, 4 ; Masons, 3 ; Dyers, 3 ; Blacksmiths, 2 ; Tinsmiths, 2 ; Printers, 5 ; Wheelwrights, 1 ; Sawyers, 3 ; Carters, 2 ; Joiners, 3 ; Engravers, 1 ; Brickmakers, 2. But are all willing to do anything they are fit for.

Average present wages, 10s. per week.	
Average ages, Men.....	27.
" " Women	26.
" " Boys	8.
" " Girls.....	7-5.

Signed by

WILLIAM PURDIE, President.

JOHN McMILLEN, Treasurer.

JOHN SANNOHILL, Secretary.

Paisley, 30th April, 1853.