

(G. Rawson)

Moondarra.
September 5th.

To the Minister of Lands

Sir, I received the notice and the form which I return filled up has well has I could understand itt.

Sir I am very sorry that I should give you so much trouble about my rents, but I really could not help itt has I have done all that laid in my power and could not get so much together. Sir when I took up this land I had 80 pounds but by the time I had fallen about 15 Acers of scrub and burnt itt along with survey fees and the first rent and built a house on itt itt was geting done. Sir I have a family of eight children, six boys and two girls which itt has been a very hard struggle and had to go very short sometimes still myself my wife and boys all worked with a good heart has we now what a fine thing itt was if we could pull through has we was brought up to farming in Yorkshire.

Sir last year we cleared about 5 Acers and planted with potatoes and 6 Acers we sown down with English.....potatoes for seed was very dear hear and likewise grasses. To have the money to by our seeds and keep my family we run in dett to the storekeepers then they got afraid and stoped our credit just when our rent became due in November so we had to take some scrub to fall from one of our neibors but having to look after our own crop has well with such a large family to keep we really could not get the rent together. Sir no-one knows but our selfs what I and my wife have suffered in mind about itt never going to bed but itt was the topmast and could not sleep the boys we dare not let them now about itt.

Then we used to think that we could pay itt when our potatoes was ready but when they were ready we could not get them to Market without horses so we had to make money for two horses and saddles. Pack our Potatoes into Walhalla and pay for them has soon has we could, the storekeepers wanting their bills paying and pushing all the time that they would not let us have a shilling to save and we was all the time thinking that we would be able to make up the rent first one week and then another until our crop was completely done. Sir we have paid of all our detts but about ten pounds and has got three horses and pack sadles of our own. Sir the five acers of land that I have down in the form is cleared for potatoes this year and the seven Acers is what was potatoes last year. 3 Acers of it is sown down part peas and part Oats and the reast (rest) is planted with Potatoes and parsnip, carrott Sugar Beet and Mangle and vegetables. Now this

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Ground we have grubbed all of the stumps out of itt that is all the scrub stumps has this is very.....land heasel and dogwood.....eighteen inches thick and has.....to Gether has they can stand all is very heavy clearing but the soil cannot be beat we are now falling another ten Acer peice for next year. Sir I would ask you to cause an inspection to be made so to prove to you what can be done in eighteen months by a familys own labour.

Sir I do not know how to speak on this case has we have done all that ever laid in our power to do we do sincerely pray to you to deal with us has well has ever lays in your power to do has if we were trown (thrown) out of our land I do not now what ever would become of our family no money or home has now we have got over the hardest time and got a fine prospect before us the work we have done could not be done paid labour less than 410 pounds please Sir would you be so kind and do the best you can for us has we must try to borrow the money has soon has ever we can please let me now how am I to do and if I must pay the money and when, but do not turn us from our home for this time.

(Copy of letter sent by G. Rawson showing difficult times in the early settlement of his land).