

Tiree  
21<sup>st</sup> February 1893

W<sup>m</sup> Sproat Esq.

Sir,

Observing with satisfaction that an act, the Small Holdings Act, has been passed by the late government to provide a means by which persons of the class we are and who are desirous to hold land for cultivation may receive greater facilities for securing their object, we the undersigned cottars seeing that others are sending in their application for the benefit of said Act, do here claim that the benefit of said Act be extended to us likewise. We are in poor circumstance, no remunerative employment is to be had in this Island. We are therefore dependant for the support of ourselves & families on the little we do at fishing and Kelpmaking in Summer, and the gathering of tangle in Winter. Fishing as is known cannot be prosecuted to any extent in the Island for the want of proper harbours. We have no land in which to plant even a single potatoe but the practice of getting the use of a bit of land from the Crofters to plant potatoes in is followed. This practice, it must be said, is less followed than it used to be, for the price charged by the Crofter for the bit of land is so high, that when the cost of manuring it is also taken into account little or nothing is had for the expenses. Poor people are also greatly pressed for the want of fuel, for all the coals sold on the Island is brought from Ayrshire, and therefore sold at a very high price. We also can say that all or the most of us were formally in possession of Crofts. Of these we were deprived and forced to build our houses in most cases a little above the seashore. There is, as can be proved, as much land out of cultivation in the Island as would supply three times the number of Cottars in the Island with Small Holdings. We fully hope that this our claim for the benefits of the Act be taken into earnest consideration and that something be done to enable us to support ourselves and families in a somewhat comfortable condition.

We are Sir

Your ob<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>ts</sup>

Hector McKinnon	fisherman	Kilmoluag
Angus McInnes	Cottar	"
John Cameron	"	"
Archd. McLean	"	"
Hugh McLean	"	"
John McDougall	"	"
Hector McKinnon	"	"
Archd. McLean	"	"
Colin McDougall	"	"
Colin McLean	"	"
Hector McLean	"	"
John McLean	"	"
Hugh McLean	"	"
Donald Kennedy	"	"
Roderick McKinnon	"	Balevullin
Alex. Campbell	"	"
Archd. Kennedy	"	"
Charles McNeill	"	"

Neil McMillan	"	"
Neil McNeill	"	"
John McNeill	"	"
Neil McMillan	"	"
John McMillan	"	"
Donald McIntyre	"	"
Donald Kennedy	"	"
John Kennedy	"	"
Alex. McLean	"	"
Archd. McLeod	"	"
Duncan Campbell	"	"
Neil Brown	"	"
Archd. McKinnon	"	"
Hector Kennedy	"	Sandaig
Charles McArthur	"	"
Donald McKinnon	"	"
Malcolm Campbell	"	"
Dugald McLean	"	"
Neil Kennedy	"	Moss
Neil Cameron	"	"
Neil McDonald	"	"
Alex. McIntyre	"	Kilkenneth
John McDonald	"	"
Neil Kennedy	"	"