

I'll Make This Land My New Home

Words and Music: Nigel Harbron

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff lines. The lyrics are: "Though we have farmed these few fields for ever, The times have changed, my future's re-arranged for better. It's time for me to head to the port; life here's too fraught: I'll make this land my new home, I'll make this land my new home." The chords are: C, G, Dm, Em, Am, E, A, Am7, D7, F, Am, Em, F, Am, G, Am, F, Am, G, Am.

Though we have farmed these few fields for ever,
The times have changed, my future's re-arranged for better.
It's time for me to head to the port; life here's too fraught:
*I'll make this land my new home,
I'll make this land my new home.*

It's getting harder each to make ends meet,
Whate'er I try, the cows are dry and not thriving.
Life here holds less than nothing for me; I guarantee:
*I'll make this land my new home,
I'll make this land my new home.*

My parents don't see these things just as I do.
They say, "Stay here, what's there to fear in this country?"
I look around and see what they've lost; too great's the cost:
*I'll make this land my new home,
I'll make this land my new home.*

I know the voyage will be long and full of danger,
But on board I will go, though winds will blow all around us.
I'll use the time to plan my new life - quite free of strife:
*I'll make this land my new home,
I'll make this land my new home.*

I've heard from friends who went out there before me.
They say life's good; I don't think they would deceive me.
I'm quite prepared to work hours long; my body's strong;
I'll make this land my new home,
I'll make this land my new home.

When coins I've started to save from my earnings,
Some I won't lack, I'll send them back to my parents.
With luck, they'll help the old farm survive - while here I thrive:
I'll make this land my new home,
I'll make this land my new home.

If I'm lucky I'll find a good woman.
Married we'll be, and then we'll see about children.
We'll work from dawn to sunset each day, we'll earn our pay:
I'll make this land my new home,
I'll make this land my new home.



Apiti is little township and district situated some 30 miles north of the town of Feilding, in the south of North Island, New Zealand. Apiti means "gorge", and the upland area is renowned for its gullies and gorges. •

The first European settlers arrived in Apiti during July, 1886. They had been allotted their bush-covered sections as members of the Feilding Small Farm Association. The government of the day was intent on 'putting the small man on the land' and the development of special settlement schemes was the result. Associations were formed so that members could ballot for land which they were able to pay for in installments. The 'Feilding Special Settlement' group was allocated 10,000 acres of heavy bush country which was cleared for farming over the next twenty years. Some of the fine timber was milled, but much of it was burnt so that farms could become productive as quickly as possible. The Post Office (above) was an early construction, reflecting the settlers' desire to maintain links with the homeland.