



NEW ZEALAND
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

PROVINCE OF CANTERBURY.

Published by Authority.

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By His Honor's command,

RICHARD PACKER,
Provincial Secretary.

VOL. IV.]

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1857.

[No. XIII.]

Address of his Honor the Superintendent on Proroguing the Provincial Council, on Tuesday, June 30, 1857.

MR. SPEAKER, AND GENTLEMEN OF
THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL,—

Fifteen Bills have been presented to me for my assent, of which eleven are public, and four private bills.

Of the former I have assented to eight, namely :

- ✓ The French Magazine Ordinance.
- ✓ The Scab and Catarrh Amendment Ordinance.
- ✓ The Education Ordinance.
- ✓ The Canterbury Association's Reserves' Amendment Ordinance.
- ✓ The Public House Amendment Ordinance.
- ✓ The Roads Diversion Ordinance.
- ✓ The Governor's Bay Road Ordinance.
- ✓ The Appropriation Ordinance.

Three I have reserved for the assent of his Excellency :

- The Akaroa Jetty Ordinance.
- The Kaiapoi Town Ordinance.
- ✓ The Provincial Council Extension Amendment Ordinance.

And one I have disallowed :

- The Superintendent's Payment Ordinance.

Of the four private bills I have assented to two :

- ✓ The Inwood's Mill Ordinance, and
 - ✓ The White's Kaiapoi Bridge Ordinance.
- And the other two :

The Fuller Remission of Purchase Money Ordinance, and
Peacock's Wharf Ordinance,

I have reserved for his Excellency's assent.

I have disallowed the Superintendent's Salary Ordinance, because I find it provides for the payment of the salary of a Chaplain. It is clear that this is contrary to the intent and design of the Bill, which was to provide for payments to be made to members of the Legislature, in order to avoid the unseemliness of their having periodically to vote money to themselves. I can see no reason why the salary of any other public servant should be included in such a Bill. It may or may not be desirable on other grounds to have a Civil List created ; but I think that question ought first to be fully considered by the public ; at all events, the arguments in favor of permanently providing for any public servant are wholly different from those for provid-

ing for the payments of the members of the Legislature, who are entrusted with the public purse. If the Session had not been so long protracted I would have returned the Bill to you for amendment; but considering that all the salaries to which it relates are provided for in the Estimates, and that no alteration will be made in the payments for the present year, I thought you would probably agree with me that the subject had better stand over for reconsideration to another session.

It is a matter of very great congratulation to me, that the measures which you have passed tend to complete and confirm the line of policy which I laid before you when we commenced our duties in 1853.

The Diversion of Roads Bill, read along with the Roads Bill of last year, constitutes a law for the Province respecting roads, which will be most valuable, and of which I believe, as time goes on, the public generally will gladly avail themselves. The plan of making the justices of the peace the sole arbitrators of the damage done by taking new and necessary lines of Road through private properties, is strictly in accordance with English Law, in cases where the amounts in arbitration are small. Such will be the case with almost all alterations of roads in this Province. When interests of great magnitude are likely to be affected by the law, it may be desirable, at some future time to reconsider it. We shall then have had the advantage of seeing how it has worked with the most simple machinery which can be provided.

I am especially gratified that an Education Bill has been passed before the term of my office expires; not that I wholly approve of that measure, but that it is a very great improvement upon the former plan, and that it gives stability and permanency to a system of Education. For this reason alone it gave me great pleasure to assent to this law.

I am greatly gratified that you finally decided to establish permanent agencies in the Australian Colonies, and to establish a postal communication with Melbourne. I fully believe that you will find the Province amply repaid by this expenditure at the end of a year.

Equally glad I am, Gentlemen, that you have determined to adhere, in the appropriation of the sum voted for

Immigration, to the terms of the Immigration Act. I entirely agree with those who think it is possible to spend that sum unwisely, and even that it may prove too large a sum to spend in one year. On the other hand, it is possible, and not at all unlikely, that three years hence, the Province may determine to spend forty thousand instead of four thousand pounds in the service of Immigration. The rapidity with which labor should be introduced depends solely on the rapidity with which capital is introduced or accumulates in the country, and so far as I know, upon nothing else; and no one in a new country can foresee for three years, or even for one year, what the economical conditions of the colony will be. For this reason I believe you will always do wisely to place at the disposal of the Government every year, even a larger sum than you think is likely to be wanted, in the full confidence that a rash use will not be made of it. With regard to the sum you have voted for the present year, I have the most entire conviction that long before it can possibly be spent, the Province will call for the expenditure of still larger sums, to provide for the demand for labor merely to carry on the ordinary occupations of the Colony—to till the land which has been bought, to shear the flocks, and to make the indispensably necessary roads. And I say this, Gentlemen, from my own experience of the available labor in the Colony during the last four years, of which the Government contracts afford a very good index.

Gentlemen, you have done me the honor to reiterate a request made to me by a great number of the electors of the Province, that I would myself undertake the Immigration Agency in England. I certainly did not think that it would be worth while sending home an Agent at so great a cost merely to spend the small sums specified in your resolutions—but, gentlemen, if the Government of this Province be about to undertake the work of real colonization for the next three or four years, I shall be glad to resume again the labors which I underwent in 1850, as one of the most active Agents in the colonization of this country; and I earnestly hope with similar success.

The Council is aware that the loan which I was authorized to raise some months ago has not yet been raised.

The reason is that the Union Bank of Australia offered to negotiate the loan upon terms fair and reasonable in all respects but one—namely, to charge the same commission upon monies raised in England and to be spent in England in immigration, as upon monies raised in England and sent out to the colony. It is clear that the two transactions differ by the cost of transmitting money to the colony. Subject to this deduction, I agreed with the Bank for the loan; but on being referred to Sydney, the managers, to my great surprise, declined to ratify the agreement. A good many months were thus lost. I sent immediately to Melbourne to have the debentures prepared, and am now daily awaiting them. But so long as the land-fund retains its present rate, it will not be possible to borrow money with any advantage in this country. The Treasury is, in fact, more than supplied. I shall propose, therefore, to raise the whole loan in England—raising it as wanted to pay for ships, and providing that, if there should be any necessity for money in the colony, the Local Government can draw upon the English agent for what is required. But I believe that with sufficient Immigration, the land fund will more than supply all that can be spent in the country, and that the whole of the loan will be available in England for Immigration, to be expended as it is voted by the Provincial Council year by year.

I have transmitted the Bill for the Extension of the Provincial Council and the re-arrangement of the Electoral Districts to Auckland with a request that the Writs for the new elections may be returned by the next steamer. And I will make every arrangement to facilitate the making up of the Electoral Rolls, so that the elections may take place as soon as possible.

The Public Works are being carried on as speedily as the supply of labor will admit. The Sumner-road will be open for the passage of carts by the temporary track over the head of the tunnel, on the 1st of September. The Weka Pass will, I hope, be open by the same time; as soon as that is done a cart will be able to travel from Lyttelton to the Hurunui river without obstruction. This, gentlemen, is the line of road on which you may anticipate most of your future land sales will take place. The other line is the Lower Lincoln-

road, and I am arranging for carrying on that work with the greatest expedition. I think within the year you will be able to ride from Christchurch into Lyttelton by that road, and even from Christchurch to Akaroa harbor; both branches passing through a very fertile district, in which several thousands of acres of land will be open for sale in the neighbourhood of good wood and water.

With respect to the vote for a bridge over the Waimakariri river, which you rejected, it is my duty to acquaint you that I have had a report from the Provincial Engineer, from which it becomes apparent that the river is silting up so rapidly that no ferry will much longer be possible anywhere near the line of the north road, and a bridge will become indispensable. The site for the proposed new ferry, which was selected two years ago, is now destroyed. The present ferry has been sold to a person who is willing to work it on the present fares, taking a lease from the Government for two years. I think it will not be desirable to go to any expense for an object so uncertain; I therefore propose to make such a lease, in the hope that you will determine in the mean time to build a substantial bridge.

I am sorry that the Council has not re-considered the question of selling a site for a mill in Hagley Park or the Government Domain, as suggested by the Message which I addressed to it upon that subject. A severer blow to the prosperity of the Province cannot be inflicted than the creation or encouragement of monopoly, or the placing restrictions on mercantile or manufacturing enterprise. The refusal of the Council to allow the occupation of the best, I may say the only available site for the erection of a mill in the neighbourhood of Christchurch, will be a great drawback to agricultural enterprise for the next year:—not for more than a year, for I am satisfied the next Council will reverse this decision.

The Government will consider what steps it will be most proper to take to get rid of the nuisance created by watercresses in the rivers in the neighbourhood of Christchurch. But the first thing to be done, is to collect information on the subject from all quarters. The Government has therefore determined first to offer a reward for the best plan which can be suggested before committing itself to any operations

which may be at once costly and ineffectual.

Gentlemen, your duties are now at an end, and I cannot allow you to separate without thanking you most sincerely and cordially for the disposition you have ever shewn to view with consideration and candour the acts of the Government over which I have presided.

It will ever be deeply grateful to me to consider that throughout the four years during which we have been connected in the Government of this Province the utmost cordiality has prevailed between the Executive Government and the Provincial Council, and still more that that cordiality has prevailed amidst much difference of opinion upon many points of public importance; and I earnestly hope that the example which has been set by the first Provincial Council in this respect may long be remembered and imitated in the Province.

J. E. FITZ GERALD,
Superintendent.

PROCLAMATION.

I, JAMES EDWARD FITZ GERALD, Superintendent of the Province of Canterbury, in exercise of the powers vested in me in that behalf, *do* hereby this day Prorogue the Provincial Council of the said Province, and the said Provincial Council is hereby Prorogued accordingly.

Given under my hand at Christchurch this thirtieth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven.

JAMES EDWARD FITZ GERALD,
Superintendent.

By command of His Honor,
RICHARD PACKER,
Provincial Secretary.

God save the Queen.