




NEW ZEALAND  
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

PROVINCE OF CANTERBURY.

Published by Authority.

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By His Honor's command,

JOHN OLLIVIER,  
Provincial Secretary.

VOL. V.]

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1858.

[No. II.]

*Provincial Secretary's Office,  
Christchurch, Jan. 20th, 1858.*

**H**IS Honor the Superintendent opened the Provincial Council this day with the following

ADDRESS.

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the  
Provincial Council,—*

In meeting you for the first time I am happily conscious that many of the difficulties which my distinguished predecessor so anxiously struggled to overcome have entirely disappeared. I may therefore congratulate you on the prospect of a brief session, and exemption from the more laborious routine of duty that so heavily pressed upon the late Council.

You are aware that the General Assembly will shortly meet, clothed with an accession of power that will enable them to effect very material alterations in the constitution of New Zealand—alterations that might very considerably modify and restrict the

legislative functions of the Provincial Councils. Contemplating the possible exercise of this power during their approaching session, and feeling in such case the great importance of this Province being fully represented, I am anxious that those gentlemen who hold seats in both the General and Provincial Legislatures should have an opportunity of serving the Colony in each capacity.

The meeting of the Provincial Council in order to secure this advantage must be either prior or subsequent to the meeting of the General Assembly.

For a variety of reasons it has seemed to me expedient to call you together at this time, in order to the despatch of routine business—the enactment of one or two very short bills, and of some very simple, yet important and highly necessary amendments of the Waste Lands' Regulations. I shall also request your serious attention to a very imperative duty, namely, the making of some proper provision for the cus-

tody and careful medical treatment of lunatics.

It is my intention to lay before you estimates of financial requirements for the half-year ending 30th September next, and while regarding your present meeting as a session of emergency, I propose to defer the consideration of certain defective Ordinances; among others the Cattle Trespass Ordinance, until your next session, when it will be my duty to send down for your deliberate discussion various amendments of the law, which the progress of the Province has rendered advisable.

But as it is possible that the General Assembly may entertain a very important and extensive exercise of their powers, and in a manner calculated to excite a very material influence on the scope of your legislative action, you will agree with me that it would be wise, so far as is practicable, to postpone to a future session the enactment of new laws, in the hope that the relative positions and respective functions of the General and Provincial Legislatures will in the meanwhile have been accurately and unmistakeably defined.

There are, however, several matters with which it is the business of your body alone to deal, and to these I shall call your immediate notice.

It has been found necessary that certain doubts as to the interpretation of particular clauses in the Waste Lands' Regulations should be at once removed; to which end I shall submit to you a short bill, having for its object a more effective declaration of the principles that are intended by the spirit of the Regulations to govern the administration of the Waste Lands, a vagueness in that clause which relates to the exercise of the pre-emptive rights having led to inconveniences almost amounting to injustice in individual cases that have come within my observation.

I would also suggest to you the addition to the regulations of a provision enabling Government to reserve a right to lay out public roads through all sections of land in unsurveyed districts which may hereafter be bought of the Crown—the consideration for such reserved right being an additional acreage allowed to the purchaser at the time of purchase. It will be for you to determine what percentage of land shall be given in respect of such reserved right, which I would suggest should be exer-

cised by Government, or abandoned within a period of five years from the date of the purchase.

I shall also lay before you a bill to provide suitable reserves of lands, being part of the late Canterbury Association's estate, for the use of certain organized religious bodies within the Province.

The extension of secular education and religious instruction being a matter seriously important to the social well-being of the Province, I shall ask you to sanction small reserves of land in the different settled districts which have been suggested as convenient sites for churches and schools.

The rapidly increasing imports of the Province having rendered the provision of extended accommodation in the offices of Her Majesty's Customs a matter of urgent necessity, I shall therefore, in pursuance of arrangements entered into with the Representative of the General Government, ask your assent to a bill enabling me, under the provisions of the Public Reserves Act, to convey to the General Government the site of the Custom-house as reserved by the late Canterbury Association, upon which site it is proposed by the General Government to erect a Custom-house and other buildings necessary to the public service.

In perusing the several statistical returns which will be laid before you, you will be gratified to observe the great increase of our exports and imports during the past year. On reference to the returns of previous years you will perceive that the extension of our commerce grows in a greatly increasing ratio each succeeding year—a fact affording the strongest presumptive evidence that the balance of trade must very shortly be materially in favor of the Province.

At an early period of the session you will be put in possession of your estimated Provincial Revenue for the ensuing year, from which you will gather that an increase in the sales and rentals of the Waste Lands of the Province quite in proportion to the increase in the Customs' Revenue is reckoned upon. This estimate is justified by the experience of the last financial year, at the commencement of which the late Government anticipated receiving an amount which was at that time generally considered large; yet, in fact Government realised a sum

very considerably in excess of their estimate. This circumstance affords an additional pleasing illustration of the prosperity of the Province.

The most important business to which I shall invite your attention during this short session is the provision of means for the prosecution of Public Works now in progress, as also of those additional works which I shall recommend as being immediately necessary to the extension of our commerce, and the opening up of new districts for settlement. You will be gratified to learn that our financial condition is equal to the execution of public works to a much greater extent than could be advantageously entertained with the labour now available. And after a large expenditure on rapid immigration, I calculate on such a balance remaining in the Treasury as will permit of the immediate employment of all immigrants whose services on their arrival may not be required in the ordinary avocations of the Province.

The correspondence which has passed between the Provincial Government and the Inspector of the Union Bank of Australia relative to the Loan authorised by an Ordinance of the Provincial Council, Session VII, No. 3, will be laid before you, from which you will gather that it has been expedient to cancel the debentures printed in Canterbury and substitute another form prepared at the suggestion of the Inspector of the Union Bank of Australia, in conference with Mr. Fitz Gerald, the accredited Agent of the Province. The new forms having arrived are in course of completion. Arrangements have, as you will ascertain, been made to prevent any inconvenience or delay interfering with the operations of the Emigration Agent on his arrival in England. Meanwhile, it is a source of satisfaction to me to acquaint you that Mr. Selge, a gentleman to whom we are much indebted for his many disinterested good offices, has provided for our immediate exigencies by the despatch of the *Roehampton*, with a considerable number of useful emigrants, whose arrival may be looked for during the ensuing month. On referring to the accounts of the Canterbury Association's Estate you will find that,

in accordance with a resolution of the Provincial Council, I have directed a further payment in liquidation of the capital sum due to the members of the late Canterbury Association.

The ordinary expenditure of the Province, so far as I can at present judge will be only very slightly in excess of that of the present financial year, and only to such an extent as is absolutely necessary to maintain the enlarged operations of Government.

On the estimates for public works, you will perceive, among the larger items, a considerable sum suggested for expenditure on the improvements of our principal Port, improvements that are indispensable to the transaction of our very considerable commerce. Another for the erection of a bridge across the main branch of the river Waimakiriri, a work of the greatest public utility. I also propose to ask your sanction for the employment of a considerable sum for providing access to the several large pastoral districts recently discovered—in laying out and improving the great trunk roads, North and South—the improvement of the River Heathcote—the establishment of a thorough system of arterial drainage—the extension of inter-provincial postal communication—and the encouragement of steam navigation. You will be diligently furnished with every information as to the nature and cost of, and the necessity for, each of these undertakings, which I doubt not you will cordially assist me to effectively carry out.

Before you enter on the business of this, your first session, I would state that I am by no means insensible to the inconvenience that must result to many gentlemen of your number by reason of your being called at this season of the year. During the progress of your duties, I believe you will discover the expediency of the step I have taken. I trust that during all the period of my association with you in the conduct of the Government of this Province there may subsist the same good understanding and mutual self respect that so happily characterized the intercourse of the late Superintendent and Council, and that, like them, we may, at the close of our public labours leave lasting evidence of united earnestness and integrity in the discharge of our respective functions.

It is now my duty to declare this Council duly opened for the despatch of business.

WILLIAM SEFTON MOORHOUSE,  
Superintendent.

## NOTICE.

*Province of Canterbury to Wit.*

WHEREAS a Writ under the hand of William Sefton Moorhouse, Esq., the Superintendent of the said Province, bearing date the 19th day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven hath been directed to me, Henry Arthur Scott, Esquire, as Returning Officer, for the Heathcote District, requiring and commanding me to cause to be elected, in manner and form by law prescribed, *one person*, to serve as a member of the PROVINCIAL COUNCIL for the HEATHCOTE DISTRICT, in the room of RICHARD JAMES STRACHAN HARMAN, Esq., resigned. *Now therefore, I*, the said HENRY ARTHUR SCOTT, the Returning Officer for the said Heathcote District, do hereby, in pursuance of the said

recited Writ, GIVE NOTICE that a Public Meeting of the electors of the said Heathcote District will be holden at Christchurch Quay, on Friday, the fifth day of February next, at twelve o'clock at noon, for the purpose of nominating *one person* to serve as a Member of the Provincial Council for the said Heathcote District, and in the event of a poll being demanded for the candidates or any of them, such polling shall take place on Saturday, the sixth day of February, 1858, at Christchurch Quay, and at Mr. Archer's house, Lower Lincoln Road.

The voting to commence at any time after nine o'clock, a.m. of the said day, and to close at four o'clock, p.m., of the same day.

HENRY A. SCOTT,  
Returning Officer.

January 19th, 1858.