



NEW ZEALAND  
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE  
(PROVINCE OF NELSON).

Published by Authority.

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By His Honor's command,  
ALFRED DOMETT, Provincial Secretary.

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NELSON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1861.

No. 3.

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1861.

THE Eighth Session of the Provincial Council was opened this day, at One o'clock, upon which occasion the following Address of the Superintendent was delivered:—

MR. SPEAKER, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE  
PROVINCIAL COUNCIL—

1. It will I doubt not be as satisfactory to you, as the representatives of the various districts of the Province, as it is to me, to meet after the lapse of nearly eight years since the introduction of representative institutions, in a building the property of the people, instead of being obliged to hire, as has hitherto been the case, one from other public bodies of the Town. The building in which you are now for the first time assembled, will, I trust, be found not only sufficient for your requirements as a legislative body, but also for carrying on the chief departments of the Public Service; and this Hall in particular will, I hope, be found useful in several ways in contributing to the public welfare and happiness. That so long a period should have passed without this Province having been possessed of a suitable building wherein to carry on its necessary public business, may appear remarkable when it is remembered that several Societies, forming sections of our community, have for some years past been in possession of edifices suitable to their requirements. The delay however will not, I believe be regretted, since it has in some measure justified the erection of one, which, while it amply provides the room requisite for all the departments of the Public Service for which it was designed, is

also in its external appearance worthy of our position as a Province.

2. In my address to you, on the opening of your last Session, I deemed it my duty to express to you the doubt I entertained that the Revenue of the Province might be diminished by the requirements or claims of the General Government, to a larger portion than five-eighths of the Customs Revenue. This was intimated in the despatch of the Colonial Secretary, a copy of which was laid before you. But in deference to the opinion of the House of Representatives no reduction has been made in the three-eighths allotted to the Provinces. This proportion of the Customs Revenue added to the amount received from the Land Fund, made the revenue for the past year exceed my Estimate, and enables me again to congratulate you on the financial position of the Province. The total Customs Revenue for the year ended 31st March last, amounted to £17,813 0s. 8d.; the Province's share of which, exclusive of Gold Duty, amounted to £6,410 14s. 9d., being £910 14s. 9d. above my estimate; while the Land Revenue accruing to the Province for the same period amounted to the sum of £22,840 13s. 8d. (exclusive of £1,203 8s. 6d. paid to the Central Board of Education) being £7,840 13s. 8d. in excess of the amount estimated by me, making a total from these two sources of revenue of £29,251 8s. 5d., and of £8,751 8s. 5d. above my estimate.

3. It will I am sure be satisfactory to you to know that through this healthy condition of our finances I was enabled to render assistance to the families of our unfortunate fellow-colonists of Taranaki, who sought refuge amongst us from the dangers and disasters attending the native rebellion, which it is to be hoped will be shortly brought to a satisfactory termination. You generously, and with a confidence for which I am thankful, left it to my discretion, in

conjunction with my advisers, to advance such sums as the exigency of the circumstances might require; and it cannot fail to be to you, as it has been to me, a source of much pleasure to know that the sum of six thousand pounds which I advanced before arrangements could be made by the General Government, aided materially to ameliorate the condition of those whose unfortunate position presented so strong a claim on our sympathies and support.

4. In consequence of this advance, some portion of the Public Works, for the execution of which this sum had been voted, were delayed, while others have for the present, in consequence of the lateness of the season, been postponed until the coming spring. The districts which have been least attended to under these circumstances have been those containing the smallest population, and as such are likely to be put to the least inconvenience.

5. The Public Works carried on since your last Session have been chiefly such as were already commenced when I last addressed you. The New Wharf has been, as you are aware, some time completed, and realizes to the fullest extent the advantages anticipated from its erection. The iron lighthouse, sent for to England before your last meeting, was to be shipped, as I learnt by the last mail, with every appurtenance for the erection of the building and the maintenance of the light in the completest order, on board the *Glenshee*, on the 25th of February last. The letters detailing these arrangements will be laid before you; and I take this opportunity of publicly expressing my sense of the obligation under which, I think you will agree with me, the Province of Nelson lies to the gentleman to whom the power of accepting the contract, and deciding on other matters connected with the work, was entrusted—Mr. James Stuart Tytler, of Edinburgh, who on so many occasions has evinced, by active services, the interest he takes in the settlement of which he was one of the most valued pioneers.

6. The large sums voted by you, and placed at the disposal of the respective Road Boards, have enabled them, not only to keep the main Trunk lines in a state of good repair, but by aiding in several instances the residents on and near the Branch lines, to put those lines into such a condition as will in many cases bear comparison with the main ones and contribute much to the prosperity and convenience of those resident in their neighborhood.

7. The Gold Fields' Act having made the Collingwood and part of the Takaka District, an almost totally distinct and isolated part of the Province, so far as their government is concerned, and there being no provision on the Act whereby either the Superintendent of the Province, or this Council can claim to be made acquainted with its operation, I am unable to give you any official information as to its progress or otherwise. I have however caused the sums, which I placed on the Estimates and which were voted by you, to be expended under circumstances with which you will be more fully informed by the correspondence which will be laid before you. The sums expended by me on that District since the Act came into operation amounted to £7,893 15s. 1d. up to the 31st of March last. These works I considered to be necessary for the present requirements and future progress of what I am still desirous of viewing as a component and important part of our Province, and I shall have occasion to request of you to vote some further sums for the improvement of certain portions of the works and for some repairs rendered necessary by the late disastrous floods.

8. On former occasions I have alluded to the great lines of Road to the different out-lying Districts of the Province, on the construction and extension of

which its advance so greatly depends. The middle line to Canterbury by the Wairau Gorge and the Acheron may now be considered a good and convenient bridle road, for the summer, though the heart of the Province, though some improvements remain to be effected which are now in progress.

9. The road thence through the Amuri District to the Coast and some other works in that quarter have for reasons which I have before stated, as well on account of the great demand on the time of the Provincial Engineer for other works, been unavoidably postponed to next season.

10. The branch road from the Middle line to the Grey District by Lake Tennyson and the upper Waiau, which from the explorations of last year it was expected would be found practicable along the whole route, appears from the reports of the last explorers, to present more difficulties about the passes into the Valleys leading into the Grey District than were anticipated. The line opened by Messrs. Travers and Maling, alluded to in my Address last year, was pursued by Mr. Lewis, of the Survey Department; but the two streams supposed by that gentleman to lead into the Ahaura (a great tributary of the Grey) were found by the subsequent explorations of Messrs. Maling and Handyside to turn suddenly to the eastward and fall into the Waiau River. Further explorations may yet prove a pass to be practicable to the Grey in that direction, when some of the natural difficulties of the country have been removed by a little road-making. In the meantime the attention of Government has been directed to opening a route on the northward and westward by Mount Arthur and the valleys running south from the Karamea River to the Buller, recommended by Mr. Rochfort, and across the last named river by the Inangahua or Thackeray Valley to the Grey. Mr. Skeet is now exploring the former part of this route, and if the result of his labors prove satisfactory, it will form a continuation of the road to the new diggings in the neighborhood of the Wangapeka.

11. The road to these diggings at present in use is the old one over Spooner's range from Fox Hill to the Motueka Valley by Norris's Gully. A party is now employed in continuing this dray road up the Tadmore Valley, and across the Tadmore range to the Sherry and Wangapeka plains; so that in about a month's time a dray road will be opened from Nelson to the head of the Wangapeka plain, within ten miles of the spot where the diggers are actually at work. This last ten miles of the road will be opened as a bullock track in about a fortnight.

12. A new road, by which a saving of fourteen miles in distance to the diggings will be effected, has been indicated and partially explored, and there is little doubt that the result of these explorations, which are still going on, will be a practicable route for drays from Waimea West, by a valley which has been named Dove Dale, into the Motueka Valley and thence up the Wangapeka River to the plain of that name. This line will also open up a considerable quantity of available agricultural land, in the valleys intervening between Waimea West and the Motueka, which it is highly desirable to render accessible for settlement, either by our old settlers or newly arriving immigrants.

13. For greater facility of communication, and also to open up the available land in Pigeon Valley, a bullock-track should be made, connecting the road up the latter valley with the one from Waimea West through Dove Dale to Motueka.

14. The new tracts of available land to which I have just alluded, in addition to those already surveyed and for sale, supply, as I have said, the means of settling a considerable population, and sufficiently

prove the groundlessness of the notion—which has certainly been produced, and possibly owes its origin to the comparative superiority in this respect of some more favored provinces—that the land available for the location of immigrants in the Province of Nelson has been exhausted. Of lands already surveyed and for sale, at prices varying from five shillings to one pound per acre, and of course of various qualities, and at distances from the central town more or less considerable, we have now about forty-five thousand acres, independently of the Amuri lands, and other lands surveyed but not yet assessed. It is obvious that to turn this valuable property to account, the first thing necessary is to make it accessible by good dray-roads; and I confidently expect that you will agree with me that our most liberal votes should be for the formation of this class of Public Works, even though to the diminution of votes for the maintenance and repair of roads already made in the old settled and peopled districts.

15. The power of legislating on Crown lands is vested, as you are aware, exclusively in the General Assembly. But as that body refused to legislate on some subjects affecting these lands last Session, until it had been shown that the proposed legislation had the approval of the Provincial Council of the Province concerned, it may be presumed that any alterations or amendments in the Land Regulations recommended by you would be given effect to by the General Assembly. Certain amendments in those Regulations will be proposed for your approval in the shape of resolutions which can be embodied in an Amendment Act by the Assembly. The chief of these relate to some improvements which I think should be made in the mode of leasing the mineral lands of the Crown, and which will, I doubt not, receive at your hands that consideration which the importance of the subject demands. By others of these amendments I propose that provision should be made for payment in land for road-making, to a limited

extent, in districts about to be opened for settlement. These clauses will meet the case of intending settlers who desire to occupy a particular district, and may be willing to pay for the land they wish to purchase, in labor on the roads made under the direction of Government to render the lands accessible. This system, which has been adopted and legalised in the neighboring Province of Canterbury, would, I believe, greatly encourage and facilitate the settlement of perhaps the best class of immigrants, on lands at some distance from the Town of Nelson.

16. The praiseworthy sacrifices of time and trouble made for the public good by the Volunteer Companies of the Province—to which it is in all probability owing that the more general and irksome duties of the Militia service have not been imposed upon the public—seem to entitle them to every acknowledgment and assistance the latter can render them. I have, therefore, thought it only just that the ordinary expenses incurred by the companies should be defrayed out of the General Funds. I have accordingly placed a small sum on the Estimates for this purpose; and, in order that their exertions may not be virtually thrown away by the impediments to sufficient rifle practice which the expense of ammunition would otherwise create, I have set down a sum sufficient to double the allowance made to them by the General Government.

17. The most important subjects which demand legislation are those which, as I have said, can only be dealt with by you in the way of resolutions. Bills on some minor points of local requirement have been prepared which will be immediately laid before you.

18. I have now only to express my sincere desire that your labors may tend to promote the happiness and prosperity of all classes of the inhabitants of this Province.

I now declare this Council open for the dispatch of business.

J. P. ROBINSON,  
*Superintendent.*