


NEW ZEALAND
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE
(PROVINCE OF NELSON).

Published by Authority.

 All Public Notifications which appear in this Gazette, with any Official Signature thereunto annexed, are to be considered as Official Communications made to those Persons to whom they may relate, and are to be obeyed accordingly.

By His Honor's command,

J. C. RICHMOND, Provincial Secretary.

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NELSON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1863.

No. 31.

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1863.

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

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

1. The meeting of the General Assembly, which is ordered to take place within a few weeks, has imposed on me the necessity of assembling you on the present occasion in order that I may, in accordance with the intimation made to you at the commencement of your last Session, submit for your consideration such proposals for amending the Land Regulations as the future welfare of the Province appears to me to require.

2. A draft of amended regulations will therefore at once be submitted to you. It will be found to contain the most important features of the regulations approved by you in your ninth Session, and which were passed by the House of Representatives, but rejected by the Legislative Council, chiefly, I understand, in consequence of the late period of the Session at which they were introduced to that branch of the Legislature.

In addition to the alterations which received your approval in the Session referred to, the new regulations provide that every description of land within the Province, when required, shall be assessed for sale by the Waste Land Board, and, with one exception, submitted to auction. That exception provides that Rural Land required for immediate occupation may be obtained at all times, by persons requiring it, at the fixed price of forty shillings per acre.

This departure from the auction system will, I believe, on the whole, prove beneficial, for, although I have endeavored as far as possible to remove the only valid objection I know of to that system of land sales by keeping the surveys well in advance, and having a large number of sections in various parts of the Province ready for sale at fixed prices, still cases have occurred in which land has been required for immediate settlement in districts where no surveys had been made; I hope, therefore, by the alteration proposed, to meet the requirements of newly arrived settlers, by affording to them the opportunity of acquiring land, immediately on their arrival, in any part of the Province, without waiting for an extended survey of the district where it is situated, or the delay necessary

if it has to be submitted to auction. This will prevent, in future, such loss of time and capital as a rigid adherence to our present system has, no doubt, in some cases produced.

I also propose to extend the principle of making grants of land, under conditions to be approved by you by special Act, for public works, whereby even railways may be constructed, thereby preventing the absorption of the greater part, if not the whole of the public revenue for one particular line of road and depriving every other portion of the Province of the means necessary for its development and improvement.

Several other provisions will be found in the draft, intended to clear up doubts or to improve the administration of the law as it exists.

I think the Legislature and Executive are agreed as to the general principles to be embodied, and I trust that, by your care, the proposals I have made will be matured into a consistent system which may meet the sanction of the Assembly, and remain for a long time the law under which the provincial estate may be advantageously administered.

3. A Loan Bill will be laid before you empowering me to raise £70,000 for the development of the coal-fields and for the construction of waterworks. As the proposal to raise this loan has already received the sanction of the General Government, and the works to be carried out by it are of a reproductive character, I trust the measure will meet with your approval.

4. I have to express to you the regret I feel at assembling you at a season of the year so opposite to that at which you have expressed your desire to meet. The importance of the subjects, with the necessity that appears to me to exist of submitting the proposed Land Regulations to the Assembly, will, I hope, be to you a satisfactory reason for the course I have pursued, and I hope, notwithstanding the importance of the subjects to be considered, that, as the measures now to be laid before you have previously received a considerable amount of your attention, the present Session need not be of long duration.

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

J. P. ROBINSON,
Superintendent.