




NEW ZEALAND
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE,
(PROVINCE OF NELSON.)

Published by Authority.

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By His Honor's command,

ALFRED GREENFIELD, Provincial Secretary.

VOL. XV.

NELSON, TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1867.

No. 20.

Superintendent's Office,
Nelson, 11th June, 1867.

THE SUPERINTENDENT directs it to be notified that a Writ issued for the Election of a Member of the Provincial Council, for the district of Suburban North, has been returned with a certificate to the effect that

EDMUND WASTNEY,
of Suburban North, Freeholder, has been duly elected.

ALFRED GREENFIELD,
Provincial Secretary.

Superintendent's Office,
Nelson, June 11th, 1867.

THE SUPERINTENDENT directs it to be notified that a Writ issued for the Election of a Member of the Provincial Council, for the district of Buller, has been returned with a certificate to the effect that

JAMES BENTLEY,
of Nelson, Householder, has been duly elected.

ALFRED GREENFIELD,
Provincial Secretary.

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1867.

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

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL—

1. I am glad to commence my first address to you in the position of Superintendent of this province by informing you that the Estimate of the Revenue for the year ending on the 31st of March has been exceeded by the sum of £3914; the estimated amount, exclusive of a sum of £5799 in the Treasury at the beginning of the year, being £71,778, while the actual receipts were £75,692. On the other hand, the expenditure has exceeded the actual receipts by the sum of £6952, which, after reduction by the Treasury balance above-named, still leaves a sum of £1153 to be provided for out of the revenue of the current year.

The provincial share of the Customs duties, estimated at £22,000, amounted to £24,261, showing an excess of £2261. The Land Revenue, estimated at £10,000, reached the sum of £13,587, exceeding the estimate by £3587. The Gold-fields revenue, estimated at £6000, amounted to £7436, or £1436 above the estimate. The Gold duty, on the contrary, proved to be £2798 below the sum calculated upon, the receipt being £17,232, while the estimate was £20,000.

As the two Appropriation Acts passed by you during the financial year provided for an expenditure of £108,560, you will be aware that the execution of a large number of the public works you had in contemplation has necessarily been postponed, but I hope my anticipations of an increased revenue during the present year will be so far fulfilled as to enable me to carry out the more important of them.

2. For a record of the various public works in all parts of the Province, to which the revenue has been devoted during the financial year, which expired before my election to the office I have the honor to hold, and for the reasons, apart from financial considerations, which have prevented the commencement or completion of several of those you desired to have executed, I refer you to the very full and able report of the Provincial Engineer, which will be laid before you.

3. The great increase which is taking place in our Departmental Expenditure leads me to commend the subject to your serious consideration, with a view to make provision for its speedy reduction, in the event of the revenue showing symptoms of decline. I do not see any reason to apprehend that such a decline will take place at present; on the contrary, I think there is fair ground to believe that the resources of the Province will continue to increase for some years to come; but the rapid diminution of the revenue derived from the Gold-fields in Otago, and the symptoms which already present themselves of a corresponding falling off in that accruing to the exchequer of Canterbury, should lead us to provide for the possibility of a similar collapse in our own. I would therefore suggest to you the prudence of framing conditions upon which all Departmental Officers on the Gold-fields shall for the future be appointed; so that in the event of their services being no longer required, the Government shall be in a position to dismiss them on terms declared and agreed to on their appointment. The adoption of regulations of

this kind would not only relieve the Executive Government, should the contingency I have referred to arise, from much of the unpleasantness of their duty, but would also prevent the occurrence of individual cases of hardship and injustice which would arise from the impartial execution of it.

4. The visit with which this Province has been honored by His Excellency the Governor took place so shortly after my accession to office that I fear the measures taken for his reception and entertainment were not so complete as might otherwise have been the case. I have the pleasure however to communicate to you, at the Governor's request, that His Excellency was highly gratified by the warm and friendly reception which he met with from the people of Nelson, amongst whom he has many esteemed friends, and in whose welfare he has always taken a strong interest.

5. The state and progress of the West Coast Gold-fields were so fully dwelt upon by the late Superintendent, in his address to you on the opening of your short session in January last, that I need only assure you that their progress and extension since that date have been in the highest degree satisfactory.

The reports which I receive convince me that the movement of a large number of miners to the neighborhood of the Buller River will be of a permanent character, and that there is strong reason to believe that Westport will before long become one of the most important ports upon the West Coast of this island.

For this encouraging state of things we are in a great measure indebted to the liberal policy so wisely adopted by Mr Saunders, and so ably and indefatigably carried out, in the first instance by Mr Blackett, and, latterly, by Mr Commissioner Kynnersley, whose services Mr Saunders was fortunate enough to secure. I am confident you will agree with me in the wisdom, as well as the justice, of continuing in the course which has been marked out, and in devoting every shilling of our rapidly increasing revenue which a fair consideration of the claims of other portions of the Province will permit, to promote the progress and prosperity of the mining community. The expenditure of the funds which you place at my disposal for this purpose is entrusted almost entirely to the judgment and discretion of Mr Commissioner Kynnersley, in whom I have entire confidence, and who has achieved the difficult task of giving the highest satisfaction both to the Government in whose service he is, and to the community whose special interests are in his charge.

6. When the estimates for the expenditure of the current financial year are in your hands, you will see that I have proposed to you to make a most liberal appropriation for the South West Gold-fields, both in providing for the large staff of officers which the rapidly increasing population of that district renders indispensable, and for the public works in the shape of roads, tracks, bridges, wharves, and buildings for public purposes, which the interests of the Gold-fields, as well as those of the whole Province, imperatively require to be executed.

But while recognising to the fullest extent the value of the gold producing districts, not only to this Province, but also to the Colony as a whole, which I firmly believe they have rescued from impending financial difficulties of no ordinary character; I cannot concur in the view, which is commonly expressed on the part of the mining community, that the whole of the gross revenue derived, either directly or indirectly, from their industrial occupation of the Waste Lands of the Crown, is necessarily and as a matter of right to be expended in the particular portion of the Province whence that revenue is

derived—and that the remaining districts of the Province are to take upon themselves the expense of that Government, to which the population of the gold producing districts are indebted for protection in their industry, and for the means of pursuing their avocations.

The Gold Duty is levied as payment for the use and occupation of the Waste Lands of the Crown, and any surplus which there may be after defraying departmental expenditure upon the Gold-fields, becomes available, as a portion of the Land Revenue, for surveys and explorations in new districts, for the construction of roads and other public works, whether within or without the particular districts in which it has been raised, for immigration, and generally for all purposes calculated to promote the occupation and settlement of all parts of the Province.

The Provincial share of the Customs duties, I consider to be available for the general expenditure of the Province, without regard to the district in which it has been collected. I do not conceive, for instance, that the City of Nelson, or its immediate vicinity, has any claim superior to that of the most distant part of the Province to the Customs revenue, on the ground that the greater portion of it is collected at this Port, and, if that be admitted, the same rule clearly applies to the ports of the West Coast.

Had the principle against which I am contending been acted upon in past years, the large sums which have, year after year, been drawn from the other parts of the Province to be expended upon the West Coast, while it was yielding little or nothing to the revenue, could not have been so appropriated, and the development of that district would necessarily have been retarded.

7. I have received a communication from Mr. Francis Stevens, in which that gentleman offers to go to England at his own expense to negotiate for the construction of the proposed Nelson, Cobden, and Westport Railway, provided that certain additional concessions are made to capitalists willing to construct the work.

The leading novelty in Mr. Stevens' proposal is that the line, instead of being leased at a nominal rental, to the company constructing it, for twenty-one years, should be made over to them in fee simple.

The papers connected with Mr. Stevens' proposal will be laid before you, and I am confident that you will give to them that earnest consideration which the importance of the subject demands; in order to determine, in the first place, whether the terms which Mr. Stevens proposes should be offered to capitalists are more liberal than is necessary or politic; and, secondly, whether the prospect of Mr. Stevens' success is sufficiently promising to warrant us in deferring negotiations in any other quarter for the time which Mr. Stevens stipulates for, to enable him to reach England, and to bring the question under the consideration of capitalists likely to embark in such an undertaking.

8. A proposition has been made to me to lay down a railway between the towns of Westport and Charleston, in consideration of certain privileges to be conceded by the Government, and of a grant of one thousand acres of land. The proposal received the recommendation of Mr. Commissioner Kynnersley, and was favorably entertained by the Executive Council.

At present the town of Charleston receives the chief part of its supplies in duty paid goods from Canterbury, considerably to the loss of our Provincial revenue; but the construction of a railway to Westport would probably bring the trade with Charleston

to that port, to the manifest advantage of this Province. The details of the proposition, together with a Bill to enable me to carry it into effect in accordance with the provisions of the Waste Lands Act, 1863, will be submitted for your consideration.

9. The want of extended telegraphic communication upon the West Coast becomes daily more apparent, and I propose, with your sanction, to make arrangements with the General Government for the immediate construction of a line from Greymouth, by way of Brighton and Charleston, to Westport—undertaking on the part of the province to be responsible for any deficit which may arise between the receipts and the cost of maintenance, inclusive of interest on the sum expended on the work.

The cost of the line is estimated at about £7,000, interest upon which will probably be reckoned at the rate of six per cent. per annum. When the new line has been completed, not only will the towns of Cobden, Brighton, Charleston, and Westport, be supplied with intermediate telegraphic communication, but they will also, though by the very circuitous route of Hokitika, Christchurch and Blenheim, be connected by wire with this town.

10. The vexed question of the existence of a practicable line for a dray road from the valley of the Motueka to that of the Karamea, across the Mount Arthur range, has occupied much of my attention.

I have satisfied myself that much of the apparent discrepancy between the statements of different explorers in that district, has arisen from a confusion as to the part of the Karamea which would be reached by the route so long insisted upon by Mr. Hough; and as, although I am convinced that what is known as the "Karamea Bend," cannot be directly approached by Mr. Hough's route, I consider that a practicable road to any part of the Karamea Valley would be of the utmost importance to the development of that district—which has long been known to be auriferous—as well as to Motueka, the Waimeas, and the town of Nelson, I have despatched a carefully selected exploring party, who I trust will set the question at rest one way or the other. At the same time, the track ordered by Mr. Barnicoat, when Acting-Superintendent, to be cut in a comparatively direct line from the Motueka, up the course of the Graham, and over the part of the Mount Arthur range known as the "Loadstone," to the Karamea Bend, is being proceeded with; and although there is probably no prospect of a dray road by that route, I hope for the formation of at least an effective horse-track.

11. A contract has been entered into for building a Hospital on the Waimea-road, upon the plan submitted to you during the last session of the Council. The cost of the building will, however, greatly exceed the sum you then appropriated for the purpose; but the demands for hospital accommodation, consequent upon the rapid increase of the mining population upon the West Coast, make the erection of a building upon the contemplated scale absolutely necessary.

The present Hospital is, as you are aware, under the sole management of the Superintendent, whose other engagements make it impossible for him to exercise the needed supervision; and I think it is essential to the well-being and comfort of the patients received within its walls, that an immediate change should be made in this respect; more especially having reference to the enlarged scale upon which the institution will be established when the new building is completed. It appears to me that the "Hospital Act" of 1859 contains provisions for the efficient management of the establishment; and

I hope you will agree with me that it is most desirable to put those provisions into action without delay, by your appointment of two members of the Committee of Management, to act in conjunction with a third to be nominated by myself.

12. The question of the erection of a Patent Slip or Dry Dock, in Nelson harbour, has engaged much of my attention. Mr. Barnicoat, while Acting-Superintendent, applied to the General Government for the services of the Marine Engineer, to advise upon this and other practicable improvements in the harbour; and Mr. Balfour has recently paid us a very short visit, during which he conferred with the Provincial Engineer, and made a hasty inspection of the harbour. Before offering any opinion on the subjects referred to him, he requested that soundings might be taken, and other data furnished, on receipt of which he would make such further examination of the locality as might appear to be necessary, and report upon the whole subject of harbour improvements.

Pending the receipt of Mr. Balfour's report, it would be premature to take any definite steps for the erection of a slip or dock, but as the "Patent Slip or Dry Dock Act, 1864," has nearly lapsed, a Bill will be introduced to you authorizing the Superintendent to guarantee interest on the sum of £25,000 to capitalists willing to expend that amount on the erection of a Dry Dock or Patent Slip.

13. Some further correspondence between this Government and that of Canterbury respecting the bridge over the Hurunui will be laid upon your table, from which you will see that a contract has at length been entered into for the erection of the bridge, at a total cost of £6,000, and that I informed the Superintendent of Canterbury that I would propose to you to vote the sum of £2,500 as the contribution of this province to the amount. When this subject was last under your consideration, it was supposed that the cost of the work would be considerably more than it has proved to be, and you appropriated £2,000, in addition to £1,000 to meet equivalent subscriptions to be raised in the Amuri district, making altogether a proposed contribution from the province of £4,000.

14. The site for the Waimea bridge has now been fixed by the Government, who were influenced in their decision chiefly by engineering considerations, to be on the line of the Appleby road. The iron-work ordered from England by the late Superintendent may be expected to arrive in the course of a month or two, and in the meantime the timber will be ordered, so that this important work may be proceeded with as rapidly as possible.

15. The construction of the reservoir for the Nelson Waterworks has now been commenced, and the remainder of the plant may be expected to arrive from England in the course of next month. I trust therefore that before the end of the year this city will be furnished with an abundant supply of pure water, which is so much required upon sanitary considerations, and that its inhabitants will be relieved from the perpetual fear of the wholesale destruction of their property by fire.

16. The necessity for the erection of a Lighthouse on Cape Farewell, or on the Sandspit forming the western boundary of Golden Bay, has long been felt, and pressed upon the Colonial Government by

the Nelson members of the Assembly. I am glad to be able to inform you that the Marine Engineer has been despatched to the locality in question to decide upon the most desirable spot, and that it is the intention of the Colonial Ministry to lose no time in providing by that means for the safety of vessels approaching Cook Strait from the westward—a measure which our increasing commerce renders daily more essential.

17. In the Estimates of Expenditure which are about to be submitted to you, I have recommended a more liberal appropriation to the support of the Volunteer Force than has hitherto been made. I think that you will agree with me, that the removal of her Majesty's troops from the colony makes it desirable to encourage, in every practicable way, the training to arms of a portion of the population, and more especially of the rising generation. Quite independently, moreover, of the duty of providing for defence against foreign aggression, I look upon it to be highly expedient to provide for the younger members of our society an occupation for their leisure hours, which will at the same time lead them to the acquisition of habits of obedience and self-control.

18. The laws regulating the licensing of public-houses have been found to require amendment, both as regards their operation on the gold-fields, and in the more settled parts of the province; a measure to effect this object will therefore be brought before you.

19. In the last Session of the General Assembly a resolution was agreed to by the House of Representatives, to the effect that certain provisions of the "Nelson Crown Lands Leasing, Act, 1865," are highly impolitic and injurious to the interests of the community. To a certain extent the Waste Lands Board agree with the purport of this resolution, while they have found the Act to be in many respects unworkable in practice, and consequently ineffective to secure the ends which the Council had in view in passing the resolutions upon which it was founded. I have, therefore, in conjunction with the Commissioner of Crown Lands, prepared for your approval, previously to its being submitted to the General Assembly, a draft Bill, which, while founded more strictly upon the spirit of the resolutions passed by you in 1865, is at the same time free from the objections referred to by the House of Representatives.

20. A measure for the amendment of the 38th Section of the "Education Act," will be proposed to you. This section was introduced into the Act to enable the Roman Catholics to bring their schools under its operation, but has failed to effect that very desirable object.

The proposed amendment has been drawn after consultation with the head of the Roman Catholic persuasion in this province, who has pronounced it to be satisfactory to that body, and to be sufficiently liberal to enable them to bring their schools under the working of the Act.

I hope you will agree with me in the great importance of securing the adherence of the Roman Catholics to our Educational system, and in the opinion that the proposed amendment can be made without endangering its secular principle.

OSWALD CURTIS,
Superintendent.