



THE
NEW ZEALAND
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE
(PROVINCE OF NELSON).

Published by Authority.

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ALFRED GREENFIELD, Provincial Secretary.

VOL. XXIII.

NELSON, MONDAY, MAY 11, 1874.

No. 21.

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1874.

THE Twenty-fifth Session of the Provincial Council of Nelson was opened this day at Twelve o'clock, when the following Address was delivered by his Honor the Superintendent:—

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.—

1. The short time that has elapsed since your late session, during which you disposed of the important matters then submitted for your consideration so far as the limited powers remaining with the Provincial Legislature enabled you to do so, makes it unnecessary for me to address you at much length.

2. The annual account of the Provincial Treasurer shows a slight improvement in the receipts of revenue as compared with those of the preceding year, and I think there is fair reason to believe that the improvement will be both permanent and progressive.

3. The accounts of the province are however still conspicuous for the almost entire absence of the feature which forms the chief item in the revenues of the southern provinces, and supplies the only fund derived from current revenue out of which public works of any magnitude can be constructed, namely, the proceeds of sales of land.

4. It rests with the General Assembly to decide whether this province shall be placed in a position to complete those main lines of communication without which the lands of its interior, much of which may by these means be made available for permanent settlement, as well as immediately valuable for their minerals and timber, must remain uninhabited and unproductive.

5. The legal questions which were raised in the Province of Wellington shortly after your session ended, and are still undecided, relative to the action of the Government of that province in raising money for the execution of public works in anticipation of the authority of Parliament, led me to think it desirable to suspend acting upon your resolution empowering me to borrow the sum of £60,000 for the completion

of the main road between Nelson, Greymouth, and Westport, until I had learned the views of the Colonial Government with regard to it.

The result of consultations with the Premier and other members of the Ministry has been the abandonment on my part of my intention to raise the sum I have referred to on the ground that to do so would endanger the success of our proposed application to Parliament for a loan of £250,000; and the acceptance of an advance from the Colonial Government of £20,000 for the completion of the main road connecting the Upper Buller, as far as the Maruia, with the port of Nelson, in order to render the blocks of land reserved for special settlement available for that purpose.

A portion of this work is already in progress, and tenders for the remainder will be called for as soon as the necessary surveys and specifications can be completed.

6. Amongst the measures which will be presented to you are—A Bill for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; a Bill to give security over the Buller Reserve for the cost of construction and maintenance of the railway from Westport to Ngakawaho; and a Bill to empower me to hand over the Waterworks and Gasworks of the City of Nelson to the newly formed Corporation, in consideration of relief to the province from the liabilities and expenditure it has incurred with respect to them.

7. Resolutions will also be submitted to you recommending the consolidation of the laws regulating the sale and leasing of the waste lands of the Crown within the province, with such minor alterations as the course of administration has proved to be desirable.

These laws, spread as they now are over a number of statutes, are complicated and difficult to understand, and I think you will concur with me in the opinion that it is highly expedient that they should be compressed into a single Act so as to be more readily accessible and comprehensible to intending immigrants, as well as to those already settled amongst us.

I propose also that the land laws should as far as possible be made uniform throughout the province,

whether within or without the goldfields, relying upon the provisions of the "Resumption of Land for Mining Purposes Act, 1873," in the event of land disposed of for agricultural or pastoral purposes being subsequently proved to be auriferous. The operation of this Act has already at your request been extended by the proclamation of his Excellency the Governor to this province.

8. The Minister for Public Works having now accepted tenders for the construction of the Lake Hochstetter Water-race, I trust that this work will at last be pushed on to completion, and that it will prove the means of giving profitable employment to a large number of gold miners in the Grey Valley.

9. The steady progress making in the exploration and energetic working of the gold-bearing reefs of the Inangahua and the Lyell, together with the late promising discoveries at the Mokihinui and the Anator, induce me to believe that this branch of industry will take a prominent and permanent position in the province.

10. The formation of the first company, with a capital sufficient to work efficiently a portion of the iron and coal fields of the Para Para and Collingwood, gives good reason to hope that this valuable mineral district will before long afford the means of support to a large and thriving population.

11. The survey of the line of railway from Foxhill to Brunnerton having now been completed, the Colonial Government will be in a position to make application to the General Assembly for an appropriation of money for the construction of a further portion of it, in accordance with the understanding arrived at during the last session of Parliament.

12. The building of the new Lunatic Asylum is in progress, but as the amount of the funds placed at my disposal will not be sufficient to complete and furnish it for the reception of patients, you will be requested to make further provision for that purpose.

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

OSWALD CURTIS,
Superintendent.