



THE  
NEW ZEALAND  
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE  
(PROVINCE OF NELSON).

Published by Authority.

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ALFRED GREENFIELD, Provincial Secretary.

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No. 6.

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1874.

THE Twenty-fourth 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—

In accordance with the intention which I expressed during the late election, I have called you together at this unusual time in the year in order to lay before you proposals for submission to the General Assembly, empowering the Provincial Government to raise money for the construction of public works essential to the further settlement and prosperity of the province.

The sum which I think this province may prudently borrow, and profitably expend, is two hundred and fifty thousand pounds, and the various works which I shall submit to you as those to which I consider that the

proceeds of the loan should be devoted have been carefully selected as being best calculated to open up the interior of the province, and to enable its resources to be utilised in the most speedy and effectual manner.

Although the General Assembly has, from the passing of the Consolidated Loan Act in 1867, steadily set its face against the raising of loans for Provincial purposes, the events of the late session of Parliament show a decided tendency towards a change of policy in this respect.

In common with the Superintendents of most of the other provinces, I introduced a Bill to authorise this province to raise a loan of £110,000 for the construction of certain specified public works. But although the Bill received the assent of the House of Representatives, it was rejected, together with the other similar measures to which I have referred, by the Legislative Council.

The necessity for supplementing the main trunk lines of Railway, the construction of which has been authorised, and in some cases commenced, by branch roads and bridges connecting them with the surrounding country, was, however, almost universally recognised

in both branches of the Legislature, and there is, I am confident, little reason to fear the rejection of a well-considered measure of this character, presented on behalf of the Province of Nelson, at the approaching session of Parliament.

The increased demand for labor, which will necessarily arise during the construction of the public works I am now proposing to you to provide for by means of borrowed money, combined with that arising from the works already in progress or in contemplation by the General Government, induces me to recommend to your consideration the policy of taking immediate steps to obtain such an addition to our population as will enable these works to be carried out without materially interfering with the progress of the permanent industrial occupations of the colony. Resolutions requesting the General Government to make provision for the introduction of one hundred and fifty immigrants per month will be submitted for your approval.

In the event of your acceding to the proposals I now make to you in reference to Public Works and Immigration it appears to me that in all probability it will be necessary for me to summon you to a special session immediately after the prorogation of the General Assembly, and that under these circumstances it will be worthy of your consideration whether it will not be expedient to save yourselves the trouble and inconvenience, and the public the expense, of holding three sessions in one year by making provision during your present sitting for the conduct of the business of the province until November next, when the result of the proposed application to Parliament for a loan will be before you, and you will therefore be in a position

to deal more effectually and more satisfactorily with the financial and other affairs of the Province.

The completion of the main coach road from Nelson through to Greymouth and Westport is of so much urgency and importance, that I feel justified in suggesting to you the expediency of authorising me to obtain a temporary advance, in anticipation of the proposed permanent loan for the purpose. The sum required will be about £60,000.

With a view to establish an Executive Council upon a broader basis and under conditions satisfactory to the public and to yourselves, I have again separated the offices of Provincial Secretary and Treasurer, and have also given a seat in the Council to a gentleman resident on the goldfields, in order to secure the special representation of the interests of those important districts. Some pecuniary provision will be required to carry out these alterations, to which your assent will be asked.

I am glad to be able to inform you that the survey for the main line of railway from Foxhill to Brunner-ton is now being rapidly pushed forward; that the survey of the line from Westport to Ngakawhao is also being energetically proceeded with; that tenders for the town section of the Nelson and Foxhill line will be called for within ten days from this time; and that the construction of the line from Brunner-ton to Greymouth has made considerable progress.

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

OSWALD CURTIS,  
*Superintendent.*