NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

FOR THE

PROVINCE OF NEW PLYMOUTH.

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New Plymouth, October 29th, 1853.

THE following Circular Despatch is published for general information.

CHARLES BROWN,
Superintendent

(Circular)

Civil Secretary's Office, Wellington,
12th August 1853.

No. 1047.

SIR,—It has appeared to Governor Sir G. GREY that it may often be for the interest of a particular Province, with a view to encourage the occupation of the Land, to undertake surveys upon a larger scale than the receipts of the Land Fund would at the time justify the General Government in undertaking.

In such cases the Provincial Council might feel disposed to make advances from the share of the General Revenue which they are empowered to administer, for the purpose of increasing the survey staff and expediting the surveys, relying upon the probable increase of the Land Fund from such a measure, for the reimbursement of the expenses incurred in carrying out this plan.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands has accordingly received instructions that, if the Provincial Government should at any time undertake to pay the additional expense of the Survey Establishment, if increased beyond the limits which His Excellency has authorised, the Establishment is to be immediately augmented to such an extent as your Honor may guarantee the expense of. All the costs of the augmentation to the fixed Establishment must be paid directly by the Provincial Government, and not by the Commissioner. Even if the Land Fund should increase to such an extent as to enable the extra expense to be defrayed from it, that officer is not to appropriate it to such a purpose until His Excellency's authority has been received, but must disburse the Fund in the proportions directed by the general instructions on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED DOMETT,
Civil Secretary.

His Honor the Superintendent
of the Province of New Plymouth.

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New Plymouth,
October 29, 1853.

By Order of the Provincial Council the following Report and Estimates are published for general information.

C. W. Richmond,
Acting Clerk of Council.

REPORT
OF THE
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON THE
ESTIMATES.

October 18, 1853.

The Committee, in presenting to Council a report of the result of its inquiries, has to call attention to some alterations which it has been deemed advisable to propose, and which will be found in the amended Estimates annexed.

These suggestions are now submitted for the consideration of Council; but having on certain points no data to serve as a guide in estimating probable expenditure, the committee has in these cases either taken the sum named by his Honor, or put down such an amount as was considered likely to be sufficient to cover the outlay necessary for these purposes.

In the alterations made in the amended Estimates now presented to your notice, the opinion of the committee is not given without considerable diffidence, arising not from any unwillingness to express the conviction arrived at as the result of the evidence which has been obtained, but because the difficulty of forming a correct judgment on the wisest course to be pursued on many points is such, that the committee is not disposed to urge upon the Council to adopt its views in every case.

In the Superintendent's Department it is proposed to allow £250 as the salary of his Honor; because the committee considers the amount placed on the Estimates insufficient to admit of his maintaining the position in a manner creditable to the Province.

It has also been thought advisable that a house should be retained by Council as Superintendent's residence; since, whatever changes may take place, it must always be desirable that the Superintendent for the time being should reside in the town. The sum of £40 is therefore proposed to be allowed for rent.

In the Department of the Provincial Council, the salary for the Provincial Attorney has been included in one sum with that of Clerk to Council, because no objection is seen to the union of the two offices in one individual, whilst an evident advantage would thus be derived from the council obtaining the services of a more efficient clerk than a due regard to economy in expenditure would probably admit of were a different course adopted.

With regard to the Provincial Treasurer, there is not sufficient evidence before the committee to admit of a decisive opinion being arrived at, whether it is expedient that a separate officer should exist, or whether the duties might not be discharged without the expense of an additional officer.

An amount has been placed on the Estimates providing for the payment of certain sums to the Speaker and Members of Council. On this subject the committee declines to express an opinion, but has deemed it advisable, considering the expenses which must be immediately incurred, and some of which, though necessary now, will not recur for a considerable time, to recommend nothing under that head in the present year.

In the Resident Magistrate's Department there appears no reason for making any alteration in the salary of the Clerk to the Bench, or in that of the Gaoler; although in the latter case it is the opinion of the committee that, whatever duties may fall upon the Inspector of weights and measures and the Inspector of slaughter houses, can be performed by the Gaoler without additional pay. The sum allowed for contingencies in this and other departments is estimated from the expenses of previous years, allowance being made for any extra outlay which may have appeared necessary.

The Harbour Department is one of the most important matters to which your committee has had to direct its attention. The necessity for placing it on a better footing appears so strong, that the committee has felt justified in recommending some considerable alterations (based upon the evi-

dence obtained), with the view of increasing the efficiency of a department, the importance of which to the prosperity of the Province can scarcely be over-rated.

The sum allowed for occasional boatmen has been estimated from the charges on that account for the past six months; but this is liable to considerable fluctuations.

With a view to secure a sufficiency of men at all times, and under all circumstances to man the pilot boat, and to serve as a nucleus for the cargo boats when required, the committee recommend engaging a permanent crew at the wages named.

As these men would not be entirely occupied with the boats, their services would be generally available on public works within such distances from the flag-staff as would not prevent them from being at hand when required by the Harbour Master. While, therefore, £390 for this crew appears under the head of harbour expenses, a portion of it is in reality chargeable elsewhere; but as the committee is unable to estimate the amount which should be deducted, the whole is left as a harbour charge.

The sum allowed for boat-shed, ropes, paint, repairs, &c., is considered insufficient, and is therefore proposed to be increased to £200. Of this, about one-half is a charge on the years's revenue, which would not be repeated for some time: the remainder would be an annual expense.

The amount placed by his Honor under the head of Armed Police Force, has given your committee much difficulty. A sum of £200, with horse allowance, is proposed for an Inspector of Police; but it appears from the best information obtainable, that but a small proportion of the duties performed by the gentleman holding this appointment belong to the Police Department. Without, therefore, questioning the necessity of his services as negociator with the Natives for the purchase of land, the committee cannot admit the justice of charging the Province with his salary as Inspector of Police, when his services, as it appears, are not required in that department; and the committee considers that it should be, like the salary of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, a first charge upon the Land Fund.

It is therefore proposed that in lieu of an Inspector the present Sergeant Major should be made Sub-Inspector, and have the addition to his salary named in the amended Estimates annexed.

Having carefully inquired into the efficiency of the police force as at present existing, the committee cannot recommend a less number than six privates to be continued; and has allowed in the amount proposed for contingencies for the issue of extra clothing to the men for night duty, in addition to the charges as calculated from the outlay of last year.

With regard to the Inspector of sheep, no opinion can be formed until the bill proposed to be introduced to you shall have regulated the duties of that officer; the salary is, therefore, left on the Estimates without alteration.

The allowance for rent of council chamber, furniture, printing, stationery, &c. &c. is what is supposed likely to be required; that for furniture, however, will not, like the rest, be an annual charge.

The committee has no evidence enabling it to form an opinion on the best manner of expending that portion of the Land Fund which will be available for the disposal of Council; but considering it is most consistent with true economy to engage the services of some competent person to give general superintendence to the roads and to the expenditure of money in improving them, have proposed to place upon the Estimates a sum for the Road Surveyor which it is considered will secure the services of a scientific person for that duty.

Income.

The committee are of opinion that it will not be prudent to anticipate a greater amount of available Customs Revenue than £2260 for the ensuing 12 months, but estimates that there will be in addition about £90 from Licences, and a further sum of £400 as receipts from the boating establishment.

The probable receipts from the Land Fund cannot yet be calculated with any

degree of certainty, but that portion likely to be payable to the Province may be put down at about £735.

(Signed) G. R. Burton,
Chairman.
G. Cutfield.
I. Newton Watt.

SELECT COMMITTEE'S

ESTIMATE OF THE EXPENSES

OF THE PROVINCE OF

NEW PLYMOUTH.

For the year commencing 1st October, 1853, and ending 30th September, 1854.

Superintendent's Department.

Superintendent's Salary ..	£250			
Residence and Offices ..	40			
Secretary	50			
			340	0

Provincial Council's Department.

Clerk of Council (also Attorney of the Province)..			150	0
Provincial Treasurer ..	40			
Clerk	0			
			40	0
Attorney of the Province (also Clerk to Council)..			0	0

Magistrates' Court.

Clerk to the Bench ..	91	10		
Gaoler (also Inspector of Weights and Measures, & Slaughter Houses ..	91	10		
Interpreter to the Bench (also sub-Inspector of Police	0	0		
Contingencies—Rations for Prisoners, &c. ..	30	0		
			213	0

Harbor Master's Department.

Harbor Master, with an annual increase of £10	120	0		
Coxswain	78	0		
Six permanent boatmen, at £65 each per annum	390	0		
Occasional boatmen ..	250	0		
Boat-shed, capstan rope, outhaul rope, small rope, paint, tar, repairs, &c.	200	0		
			1038	0
Coroner's Fees..			5	0

Armed Police Department.

Sub Inspector (also Interpreter)	125	0		
Horse allowance ..	25	0		
Six Privates at £65 each per annum	390	0		
Contingencies.. ..	40	0		
			580	0
Inspector of sheep			20	0
" slaughter houses			0	0
" weights & measures (also Gaoler)			0	0

Miscellaneous.

Rent of Council Chamber	40	0		
Furniture for ditto ..	20	0		
Printing, stationery, &c.	150	0		
Contingencies.. ..	50	0		
			260	0
			£2646	0

Chargeable on Land Fund.

Road Surveyor ..	125	0		
Horse allowance ..	25	0		
Roads, &c., and contingencies	500	0		
			650	0
Total			£3296	0

Signed on behalf of the Committee,
(signed) George Kutt Burton,
Chairman.

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