



NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

FOR THE
PROVINCE OF NEW PLYMOUTH.

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.

CHARLES BROWN, Superintendent.

VOL. IV.

NEW PLYMOUTH, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1856.

[No. 14.]

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

MONDAY, 17th NOVEMBER, 1856.

THE Superintendent opened the Fourth Session of the Provincial Council at 11 o'clock, A.M.; when His Honor delivered the following

ADDRESS.

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN—

The present may probably be the last opportunity I shall have of addressing you previously to the dissolution of the present Government, and it may not be considered inappropriate to make a few observations as to the past years of our mutual labours.

New as I may truly say we all were to the duties and the business of Government and Legislation, and small as have been the means and assistance the Province has enjoyed, I believe it will be found that, whether regarding the Public Works of the Province, or the amount devoted for Immigration, no Province has surpassed New Plymouth, considering of course the means at our disposal. The measures of Government and Legislation during the period of our trust are public property and must be judged by their results.

Incident to the newness of the Institutions we have had to introduce, much time and money have been expended in establishing an organisation applicable to the requirements of the Province, and we should indeed be fortunate could we say that all our efforts had been exempt from mistakes, but that was not to be expected and it is satisfactory to know that whatever expenditure has taken place has been satisfied out of the current revenue of the Province, and that the first Provincial Government of New Plymouth will enjoy the enviable satisfaction of being the only one of the Provinces of this Island that will at the close of its labours leave a Government unincumbered with debt to its successors.

In fact it will be found that this is the only one of the three Provinces of the Island that meets its current expenses out of its current revenue.

Of the Departments handed over by the General Government to Provincial control, the Harbour Department, the most important of all, was perfectly disorganised, and deficient of the necessary means and appliances; these latter have been supplied and efficient men have been obtained for the performance of the duties, and it is now admitted that the department has no equal in the Colony. Referring again to the subject of Revenue and Expenditure, in this department alone the added value to the property of the Department, estimated far below the cost price, is upwards of £1500.

In the present suspended state of the commerce of the Colony the Harbour Master has not considered it advisable that all the moorings obtained should be laid down, thus the present wear will be saved until the improved commerce of the Settlement requires their use. The same may be said of the commercial facilities which the Warehouse connected with the Department was intended to afford for the reception of cargoes landed or for shipment, when a steady demand shall again call the Harbor Establishment into activity.

The Police Department, maintained by the General Government at an expense exceeding £800 a year, is now supported by the Province at a sum little exceeding £300. This, however, is no doubt greatly due to the better social order and respect for the laws, growing out of Representative Institutions which make all alike influential as interested in the good Government of the Country.

During the last and present year upwards of twelve miles of forest roads have been opened, which are for the most part a chain wide, and indicate the steady occupation of the Bush Land of the Province. Irrespective of the sums granted for this purpose, six hundred pounds have been appropriated out of the surplus of the general revenue of the Province in aid of the Rates for

repairing Roads, and for Bridges, making with the rates of the several districts an aggregate of about £2000, largely enhancing the value of property and supplying important facilities to the producers of the several districts. Also from the surplus fund, in a more prosperous state of the Revenue, a thousand pounds, of which a large portion will be repayable into the Treasury, was remitted at the close of last year to assist the relatives and friends of settlers to come out from England, and the Immigrants are expected shortly to arrive. And another sum of about £350 was expended in promoting Immigration from Victoria, the results of which have been very satisfactory.

In common with the rest of the colony this Province is at present suffering great commercial depression, and all the inconveniences of a diminished revenue, but although the present pressure is great, we owe it to the large amount in the Provincial Treasury at the commencement of this year that the amount receivable by the Provincial Government under the new dispositions of revenue made by the General Assembly, and that from our ordinary revenue, and from other sources, will provide ample funds for all the present and accruing liabilities of this year, and the Province will commence the coming one with a balance in the Treasury.

But amongst other things, and perhaps before all besides, we should congratulate ourselves that our united efforts succeeded in obtaining for the Province the military protection which had become necessary to its very existence. The time had then arrived when the point was to be determined whether New Plymouth should exist as a Settlement or be given up to the Natives as a reserve in fulfilment of the former policy of the General Government. But with our self gratulation should be mixed a large measure of thanks to the Officer then administering the Government of the Colony for having under his temporary authority undertaken the responsibility of the measure.

Several measures, which had been prepared before I was made acquainted with your intention to address His Excellency to dissolve the Council, will be submitted for your consideration.

CHARLES BROWN,
Superintendent.

New Plymouth,
17th November, 1856.

TOWN RATES.

Speaker's Office,

New Plymouth, 20th November 1856.

Sir,—I have the honor to forward a certified copy of a certain Resolution adopted by the Provincial Council at the sitting held on Wednesday the 19th November, 1846.

I have the honor to be, &c.

I. NEWTON WATT,

To His Honor
The Superintendent, New Plymouth, Speaker.

Resolution of the Provincial Council at the sitting held on Wednesday the 19th day of November 1856.

Moved by R. Parris, seconded by G. R. Burton—

“That this Council (in conformity with the Petition signed Hurathouse & Smith) do recommend to his Honor the Superintendent the suspension of the sale of Town Sections as advertised by his Honor the Superintendent until after the next meeting of the General Assembly.”

THE Ordinance under which these Rates were imposed provides for appeals against the validity of all proceedings at meetings held thereunder, and declares that the validity of such proceedings shall

in no other way be called in question. Provision is also made for the hearing and final determination of all appeals against the rates imposed thereunder; and with a special view to the position of absentee Proprietors it further provides that no sales shall take place until eighteen months after the date of its being passed. A period of nearly two years has elapsed, and two sessions of the General Assembly have already taken place since these rates were imposed. Of these various opportunities of offering objections the agents of the absentee holders have not seen fit to avail themselves, nor are any objections urged until the final clauses of the Ordinance are brought into operation.

The rates imposed on Residents have all been paid, and the amounts due by absentee owners have been advanced by the Government, and applied for the maintenance of Public Works as provided by the Ordinance. Under these circumstances, and in justice to those by whom these rates have been cheerfully paid—without reference to its mischievous tendency as a precedent—no reason appears to exist for compliance with the foregoing resolution.

CHARLES BROWN,

Superintendent.

Superintendent's Office,
50th November, 1856.

THE following Memorial and reply to it are published for general information.

CHARLES BROWN,

Superintendent.

Superintendent's Office,
19th November 1856.

To His Honor the Superintendent of New Plymouth,

The Memorial of the undersigned Electors humbly sheweth—

That your Memorialists understanding that a dissolution of the Provincial Council of this Province is impending, rendering fresh elections necessary, beg to call the attention of your Honor to the (in your memorialists' opinion) imperative necessity of an increase of the number of members of the Provincial Council, and an Executive Council to be responsible to the Provincial Council for the fair and proper government of this Province, so as not to leave the entire control of the business of the Province to the Superintendent, who has in your Memorialists' opinion been hitherto irresponsible.

Your Memorialists do therefore most humbly pray that your Honor will be pleased, prior to the dissolution of the Council, to introduce a Bill to meet the above requirements.

And your Memorialists will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 47 signatures.]

Superintendent's Office,

New Plymouth, 18th November, 1856.

Gentlemen—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Memorial requesting me, previously to the impending dissolution of the Provincial Council, to introduce a Bill to enlarge the number of its members, and to constitute an Executive Council for the government of the Province.

As I have, since its receipt, been informed the

the Clerk of the Provincial Council has been instructed by that body to draft the required Bill, it becomes unnecessary for me to take any step until the Bill has been passed by the Council and is presented to me.

To the measure proposed I have not personally any objections to offer, although I am sensible of grave objections to that portion of it by which the responsibility vested by the Constitution Act in the Superintendent becomes transferred to a majority of the Provincial Council, and is at the same time divided among three salaried officers. But as the elected guardian of the interests of the Province, I am naturally anxious that any change which it may be thought necessary to make should be made deliberately and with due caution—and in effecting so important a change as the one proposed in the Government of the Province, I require to be assured that it is desired by a majority of its inhabitants. To such an expression of opinion it is my duty to give effect, though I should not feel justified in conceding to the request of one tenth of the electors a change which must so largely affect the interests of the whole community.

A copy of the memorial will be transmitted with the measure for the consideration of His Excellency's Government; in the meantime it is open to the memorialists to obtain additional signatures to it, or further signatures to another copy.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your very obedient servant,

CHARLES BROWN.

To the

Gentlemen signing the Memorial.

NOTICE.

Superintendent's Office,
November 20th, 1856.

THE PASTURAGE of the unenclosed lands lying waste and uncultivated within the undermentioned Districts in the Town of New Plymouth and Town Belt, will be put up for sale on WEDNESDAY the

24th day of December next, at Noon, at the Office of the Provincial Treasurer, in Courtenay Street, for the term of One Year, commencing on the 1st of January, 1857. The sale is pursuant to the provisions of the Ordinance of the Province, Session II, No. 2; and to the subjoined conditions.

PARTICULARS:

District No. 1.—North of the Mangatuku, and West of Queen Street.

District No. 2.—South of the Mangatuku and West of Robe Street and Queen Street.

District No. 3.—North of Devon Street and bounded East by Hobson Street and West by Liardet Street.

District No. 4.—South of Courtenay Street and bounded East by River Henui and West by Carrington Road.

CONDITIONS.

1. Each District shall be put up at the sum fixed by the Auctioneer; and if any dispute shall arise as to the last or highest bidder for any District, the same shall be put up again at a former bidding.

2. No person shall at any bidding advance less than one pound—or retract his bidding.

3. The purchase money will be payable as follows:—Ten per cent at the auction, and the remainder by equal instalments of ten per cent, payable on the 1st of January, 1857, and on the first of each subsequent month until the full amount is paid.

CHARLES BROWN,
Superintendent.