



NEW PLYMOUTH
NEW ZEALAND
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

Published by Authority.

VOL. V.]

NEW PLYMOUTH, SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1857.

[No. 11.]

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 6TH MAY, 1857.

THE Superintendent opened the Fifth Session of the Provincial Council at the Council Chamber, at 2 o'clock p. m., and delivered the following

ADDRESS.

Mr Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Provincial Council—

When I last addressed you in this Chamber I could have had no idea that an omission of a formal nature connected with the Ordinance under which you were assembled had occurred and rendered your constitution void. In my correspondence with the General Government I endeavoured to avert the evil of a fresh election, but a second appeal to the different constituencies was deemed unavoidable, and I am happy to have this occasion of expressing the satisfaction I experience on finding that the Electors received the appeal as one of form, and returned the same members without a contest.

Some little delay in convening you has occurred by two of your members who had accepted office resigning their seats in the Council in terms of the Ordinance, this rendered the issue of new writs necessary, and has resulted in the re-election of the same gentlemen, whom as Members of my Executive, I trust to see possess the confidence of this Council, for I need not say that without confidence in the Executive, the free and responsible Government we now enjoy, cannot be properly or advantageously carried on.

The difficulties already adverted to, which for a time deprived me of the aid and authority of a Council, obliged me to meet the current expenditure of the Province, since the Appropriation Act expired on the 31st March last. The exigences of the service left me no alternative, and the expenditure referred to, is included in the Estimates which will be

laid before you. They have been framed on as economical a scale as is consistent with efficiency. In regard to the Harbor Department (which has been reduced) from the best evidence I have been enabled to collect, it is essential that two boats' crews be permanently continued, particularly with regard to the due despatch of the Inter-Provincial Steamers, which we may soon look for, and I am glad to add that these boats' crews will nearly maintain themselves; I have, therefore, only to ask for a Grant in aid of this service.

The want of land still continues so pressing, and the Natives themselves are so agitated on the subject of the sale of it, that I have placed myself in correspondence with the General Government with the view of obtaining the appointment of a Provincial Officer who shall be empowered to undertake negotiations with the Natives, feeling assured that if only as an experiment it must be a welcome change to the present system, which prevents even willing natives from selling. More than this however I am fully persuaded that if the means and authority were forthcoming, land might be obtained, and should the Nelson Gold Fields not considerably enhance the price of potatoes (an article produced by the Natives with greater facility than by ourselves) I confidently rely on a considerable extension of valuable territory. The correspondence referred to is not yet closed, and I have reason to hope that some understanding will be arrived at, which, if it do not literally amount to acquiescence in the original proposition, will serve equally to promote the object in view. I may add that a small but fine block of land was offered to the Government a few days since, but the offer is so surrounded with difficulties that it has not been considered prudent to do more than report it to his Excellency the Governor.

In this state of affairs, having regard to the scarcity of land and the possibility of the Nelson Gold Fields withdrawing labour from our market, in the event of increasing inducement, it would seem inadvisable to expend the remaining

money in the hands of Messrs Willis & Co. in Immigration. On this subject papers will be laid before you shewing the expenditure on account of Immigrants by the ship Cashmere, and the balance of the original sum remitted to England, to the credit of the Province.

Connected with land, as deriving its only endowment from it, is the subject of Education, which has engaged my serious attention for some time. As a preliminary and right step it would be desirable to appoint an Education Board. This would materially facilitate any legislative measure the Council might hereafter agree to upon the subject. An equally necessary step appears to be the revising of the Land Regulations, and the altering of the proportions of land now appropriated for Educational purposes. The large quantities of land now set apart defeat the scheme, the land not being sufficiently valuable to form an endowment for present usefulness.

The Rural lands in the Waiwakaiho and Hua districts have already been offered to the holders of original Suburban and Rural land orders, under the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly, and they are now ready to be offered for purchase under the Land Regulations of the Province, so soon as the Council shall approve of a Notice to that effect.

Bills on the following subjects will be laid before you :—

Annuling Town Sales
Appropriation
Public Works Amendment
Cart
Fencing
Charge for Custody of Grants
American Blight
Impounding Amendment

The Public Works Ordinance is of considerable practical utility to the Province, but it has failed to fulfil the designs of its framers. I have deemed it expedient to make such alterations respecting roads as may render it more useful, by obliging an annual rate, which will for the future prevent them from getting so seriously out of repair. The Cart Bill will, I trust, receive the serious consideration of the Council. It is framed with the object of relieving the land from a maximum rate by taxing the carts and carriages which really destroy the roads. I am in great hopes that the Natives may in this way be induced to contribute their quota towards the repairs of the highways. The want of a law regulating fencing and the apportionment of it between adjoining owners, has been much felt. The fencing bill has been prepared with a careful attention to the requirements

of the Province, but dealing as it does with a variety of private interests, I would recommend its provisions to your serious consideration.

I find I have not been able in this address to speak of ourselves apart from the Natives, so intimately are we associated, notwithstanding the difference of race. We have happily witnessed the termination of the native strife without being drawn into it. It was not carried on for upwards of two years without exciting those apprehensions which the near approach of wild and hostile tribes, seeking each others' lives, was sure to occasion, and the Government, whilst it resolutely declined to interfere in the feud, met our appeal by despatching a powerful land Force from both points of the Island to protect our neutrality. Since which a feeling of security for life and property has been uninterruptedly enjoyed, and should the Natives, unhappily, at any future time be at variance, we shall still feel we are sufficiently protected. For this it will afford me the utmost pleasure to unite with the Council in a formal expression of thanks to His Excellency Colonel Wynyard, the Commander of the Forces, to whom, whilst the Officer Administering the Government, we now owe the presence of a Garrison in Taranaki.

GEORGE CUTFIELD,

Superintendent.

New Plymouth, 6th May, 1857.

NOTICE.

Council Chamber,

New Plymouth, May 7th, 1857.

SUBJECT to the approval of the Provincial Council of the Province of New Plymouth, I have appointed

RICHARD CHILMAN

to be Clerk of the Provincial Council, the appointment to date from the 6th instant.

E. L. HUMPHRIES,

Speaker.

Provincial Treasurer's Office,

New Plymouth, 2nd May, 1857.

LIST of Persons to whom Licenses have been granted to act as Auctioneers for the year ending the 24th April, 1858 :—

FRANCIS ULLATHORN GLEDHILL, Merchant, Town of New Plymouth.

ALEXANDER KING, Auctioneer, Town of New Plymouth.

ROBERT PARRIS,

Provincial Treasurer.