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Provincial Secretary's Office,
20th February, 1857.

THE following Despatch from the Colonial Secretary is published for general information.

I. N. WATT.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Auckland, February 9th, 1856.

Sir.—With reference to writs for the election of Members of the Provincial Council of New Plymouth which have been returned by the Returning Officer of that Province, I have the honor to direct your attention to the circumstance that the 30th Section of the Constitution Act provides that no Bill passed by the Provincial Council of any Province, and reserved for the Governor's assent, shall have any force until the Superintendent shall signify to the Provincial Council or by Proclamation in the Government Gazette, that such Bill has been laid before, and assented to by, the Governor.

The Ordinance to establish an Executive Government of the Province of New Plymouth and to enlarge the Provincial Council being a bill so reserved and assented to, it is necessary that it should be notified in the manner prescribed and having hitherto been unable to discover that your Honor's predecessor had in this respect complied with the provisions of the Constitution Act I cannot without further information, authorised the persons returned in the respective Writs to be Gazetted as duly elected, as in the event of the Governor's Assent not having been notified in one or other of the prescribed forms the recent election of members for the Provincial Council cannot be considered as valid, the number of members returned for each Electoral District being in excess of that specified in Sir George Grey's proclamation under the Constitution Act and only authorised under the provisions of an Ordinance which does not become law until proclaimed by the Superintendent.

Should therefore the assent of the Governor to that Ordinance not have been notified previous to the late election of members for the Provincial Council I have to request that your honor will cause it to be proclaimed in the Government Gazette and transmit to me a copy of such proclamation in order that new writs may be issued for the election of members for the Provincial Council in

accordance with the provisions of the above mentioned Ordinance.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your Honor's most obedient servant,
E. W. STAFFORD.

His Honor the Superintendent,
New Plymouth.

P.S.—Your Honor will also perceive the necessity under the above mentioned clause of the Constitution Act, of delivering a duplicate of the Ordinance and of the notification of the Governor's assent thereto, duly attested, to the Registrar of the Supreme Court or other proper officer, to be kept among the records of the Province.

E. W. S.

**NEW ZEALAND STEAM POSTAL
SERVICE.**

Superintendent's Office,
New Plymouth, Feb. 19, 1857.

THE subject of Steam Postal Communication between Australia and the various Provinces of New Zealand having been referred by His Excellency's Government to the Provinces for the purpose of obtaining an expression of opinion on the most preferable line to be adopted, I, George Cutfield, Esquire, Superintendent of the Province of New Plymouth, hereby appoint a Public Meeting to be held at the Masonic Hotel, New Plymouth, on Saturday, the 28th day of February instant, at 6 o'clock in the afternoon, for the object stated.

A copy of the *New Zealand Government Gazette*, containing documents referring to the establishment of the steam service, is deposited at the Post Office for general reference and information.

GEORGE CUTFIELD,
Superintendent.

Provincial Secretary's Office, 7th February, 1857.

RETURN of ORDINANCES passed by the Provincial Council of New Plymouth, Sessions 1 to 4 inclusive.

No.	TITLE.	Date of Passing.	Date of Assent.	Remarks.
<i>(SESSION 1.)</i>				
1	An Ordinance to appropriate money to the Public Service for the Province of New Plymouth.	26 October 1853.	5 November 1853.	Printed, Gazette Vol. 1, No. 4.
2	An Ordinance to regulate the appointment of Provincial Officers.	26 October 1853.	12 November 1853.	Printed, Gazette Vol. 1, No. 5.
3	An Ordinance to appropriate money to the Public Service for the Province of New Plymouth.	23 December 1853.	13 January 1854.	Printed, Gazette Vol. 2, No. 1.
4	An Ordinance to authorise the raising of a Loan for the purchase of Native Lands within the Province of New Plymouth.	4 February 1854.	6 February 1854.	Printed, Gazette Vol. 2, No. 3.
5	An Ordinance to facilitate the acquisition of Native Lands within the Province of New Plymouth.	7 March 1854.	8 March 1854.	Disallowed. Printed, Gazette Vol. 2, No. 5.
6	An Ordinance to regulate the Municipal Police of the Town and Province of New Plymouth.	23 December 1853.	18 March 1854.	Printed, Gazette Vol. 2, No. 6.
7	An Ordinance to declare that Publicans' Licenses and Auctioneers' Licenses shall henceforth be issued by the Treasurer of the Province.	22 March 1854.	29 March 1854.	Amended Sess. 3, No. 5. Printed, Gazette Vol. 2, No. 7.
8	An Ordinance to authorise and regulate the Impounding of Cattle and to provide for the summary recovery of compensation for damage done by Cattle trespassing.	5 April 1854.	8 April 1854.	Printed, Gazette Vol. 2, No. 9.
9	An Ordinance to appropriate money to the Public Service for the Province of New Plymouth.	5 April 1854.	8 April 1854.	Amended Sess. 2, No. 11. Printed, Gazette Vol. 2, No. 11.
10	An Ordinance to regulate the expenditure of money applicable to the promotion of Immigration.	4 February 1854.	8 April 1854.	Printed, Gazette Vol. 2, No. 12.

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No.	TITLE.	Date of Passing.	Date of Assent.	Remarks.
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No.	TITLE.	Date of Passing.	Date of Assent.	Remarks.
<i>(SESSION 2.)</i>				
1	An Ordinance to appropriate money to the promotion of Immigration into the Province of New Plymouth.	11 October 1854.	12 October 1854.	Not Printed.
2	An Ordinance to regulate the occupation of certain unenclosed lands in the Town of New Plymouth.	10 October 1854.	12 October 1854.	Printed, Gazette Vol. 2, No. 21.
3	An Ordinance to make certain Fees, Fines, Forfeitures, and Penalties, payable to the Treasurer of the Province for the public uses thereof.	28 November 1854.	28 December 1854.	Not Printed.
4	An Ordinance to appropriate the Revenue of the Province from the 30th day of September 1854 to the 31st December 1855.	21 December 1854.	4 January 1855.	Not Printed.
5	An Ordinance to prevent the extension of the contagious disease in sheep called "Scab."	28 December 1854.	25 January 1855.	Not Printed.
6	An Ordinance to establish and regulate Ferries.	28 December 1854.	25 January 1855.	Not Printed.
7	An Ordinance to constitute the Offices of the Provincial Government and to establish a Public Seal.	11 January 1855.	25 January 1855.	Not Printed. Repealed.
8	An Ordinance to make general provisions respecting the Form, Interpretation, and Effect of the Ordinances of the Province of New Plymouth.	11 January 1855.	25 January 1855.	Not Printed.
9	An Ordinance to provide for the maintenance of Public Works within the Province of New Plymouth.	4 January 1855.	1 February 1855.	Printed, Gazette, Vol. 3, No. 2.
10	An Ordinance for taking an Annual Census of the Province of New Plymouth.	18 January 1855.	1 February 1855.	Not Printed. Disallowed.
11	An Ordinance to amend the Impounding and Cattle Trespass Ordinance.	25 January 1855.	13 February 1855.	Printed, Gazette, Vol. 3, No. 4.
12	An Ordinance to declare the non-liability of the Officers of the Provincial Government in respect of engagements entered into by them on behalf of the Provincial Government.	31 May 1855.	31 May 1855.	Not Printed. Disallowed.
13	An Ordinance to provide for the clearing of road lines by the Owners of land having frontage thereon.	22 March 1855.	14 June 1855.	Not Printed. Disallowed.
14	An Ordinance for taking an Annual Census of the Province of New Plymouth.	31 May 1855.	14 June 1855.	Printed, Gazette, Vol. 3, No. 11.
15	An Ordinance to extend and facilitate the remedy for recovery of rates made under the Public Works Ordinance.	26 April 1855.	3 July 1855.	Printed, Gazette, Vol. 4, No. 12.

No.	TITLE.	Date of Passing.	Date of Assent.	Remarks.
<i>(SESSION 3.)</i>				
1	An Ordinance to prevent the spread of the Scotch Thistle.	26 December 1855.	2 January 1856.	Printed, Gazette, Vol. 4, No. 1.
2	An Ordinance to appropriate the Revenue of the Province of New Plymouth from the 31st day of December 1855 to the 31st day of December 1856.	26 December 1855.	2 January 1856.	Not Printed.
3	An Ordinance to restrict the sale on Sundays of intoxicating Liquors.	8 April 1856.	11 April 1856.	Printed, Gazette, Vol. 4, No. 5.
4	An Ordinance to provide for the clearing of road lines by the Owners of land having frontage thereon.	8 April 1856.	28 April 1856.	Not Printed.
5	An Ordinance to amend the Municipal Police Ordinance of the Town and Province of New Plymouth, Session 1, No. 6.	22 October 1856.	27 October 1856.	Printed, Gazette, Vol. 4, No. 15.
6	An Ordinance to authorise the construction of certain lines of road.	22 October 1856.	27 October 1856.	Printed, Gazette, Vol. 4, No. 13.
<i>(SESSION 4.)</i>				
1	An Ordinance to establish an Executive Government of the Province of New Plymouth and to enlarge the Provincial Council.	19 November 1856.	Reserved.	Not Printed. Assented to by the Governor, 11 Dec., 1856.
2	An Ordinance to appropriate money to the Public Service of the Province of New Plymouth.	19 November 1856.	22 November 1856.	Not Printed.

I. N. WATT.