



NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

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By His Excellency's Command,

ANDREW SINCLAIR, Colonial Secretary.

VOL. III.] AUCKLAND, FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 1855. [No. 19.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The Officer administering the Government opened the General Assembly at the Assembly House, at two o'clock, p.m., when His Excellency delivered the following

ADDRESS.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,
and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,*

When I prorogued the General Assembly of New Zealand in the month of September last, I did not then entertain an expectation that it would become my duty to be present, in the same capacity, at the opening of another Session.

It is however, a source of great satisfaction to me that it has pleased Her Majesty to permit me to continue in the Government of this Colony sufficiently long to see the accomplishment of that ample measure of self-government, which this Assembly, and I believe the Colonists in general, have so ardently desired.

Whatever may have been the differences of opinion during the former Sessions of this Assembly, as to the time or the manner of introducing without reserve, "Ministerial Responsibility" in the conduct of the Legislative and Executive proceedings of the Government, we were all, I feel assured, sincerely anxious that the Colonists of New Zealand should have conferred on them, without unnecessary delay, the advantages of that form of Government in its integrity.

At the close of the session it became my duty to transmit to the Secretary of State the representations which I had received praying for the establishment of Responsible Government, and it afforded me much gratification to add that which I believe will be highly conducive to the welfare and advancement of the Colony.

On its being communicated to me that Her Majesty's Imperial Government had complied with our wishes, I took the earliest opportunity of making known that fact to the Colony, by the publication in the *Government Gazette* of an extract from the Secretary of State's Despatch, and since then I have placed in your hands a copy of that Despatch, in order that you might be made aware of the preliminary measures which are required to be taken by the General Assembly, and of the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

Gentlemen of the Assembly,—

It now rests with you to take the next step; on my part I can assure you that whatever remains to be done by me for the complete and satisfactory establishment of Responsible Government, will, without hesitation, be most cheerfully performed.

The influence of that mighty struggle which is agitating Europe, and especially our native country, has as yet been but little felt in these islands, and I am happy to be able to congratulate you that, while we have suffered nothing from foreign enemies, our domestic peace has not been seriously disturbed.

Our relations with the Aborigines for the most part continue to be of the most friendly character; indeed I am not aware that with the exception of New Plymouth, there exists, anywhere, at the present moment, any cause for anxiety in this respect.

It is true that in that Province, a serious feud has arisen amongst the Natives themselves, but although there are two powerful parties arrayed in hostility against each other, yet both have hitherto been upon the most friendly terms with the settlers, and profess an anxiety to continue so.

A few months ago, I thought it my duty to visit New Plymouth and personally enquire into the origin and nature of the feud, and the means best adapted to bring about an amicable termination, and especially to make the Natives acquainted with the position of the Government and settlers.

I regret that my efforts to establish friendly relations between the contending tribes, although productive of some advantages in mitigating for a time the spirit of hostility which existed, were not so successful as I had at one time some reason to hope they might have been.

Looking at the present state of the native population in that settlement, isolated as it is and distant from every other, the settlers possessing no efficient means of defence, and without the possibility of retreat, I feel assured that a state of things exists which requires to be carefully dealt with, to avoid what may otherwise lead to disastrous consequences.

Although at present all the natives profess to be, and I believe feel, most friendly disposed towards the settlers, yet the relative position of the two races is such, that should either of the contending parties of natives seek shelter and protection in the town, it would expose the inhabitants to considerable danger of being dragged into a collision with the one party or the other.

Fully impressed with the belief that at this time the Settlement of New Plymouth requires the special protection and care of the General Government, I have made arrangements for stationing there, while the present season lasts, a detachment of the 4th Regiment of the King's troops, of the greatest strength available under the present circumstances, and the first detachment for this service will embark in the "Duke of Portland," a transport hired for the purpose.

The objects that I have in contemplation in taking this step are confined to assuming a position to insist upon the neutrality of the European population being respected, and to afford the Government an opportunity to negotiate with greater effect for the purpose of bringing about friendly relations between the parties now engaged in hostility.

In a country where the means of transport, and even of communication, are so imperfect, the lodgment of small bodies of troops at a great distance from each other, is highly objectionable; but the present position of New Plymouth is not an ordinary one, and I hope to receive your ready co-operation in carrying out those measures which the present circumstances appear to me imperatively to require. All the correspondence and papers affording information on this subject shall be laid before you without delay.

The revenue for the past year, ended 30th June last, will, I do not doubt, exceed the estimates made at its commencement; the amount actually received for the first two quarters, which are all that we have yet received complete accounts of, has been £110,557 11s. 11d., and there is reason to expect that the half year which has since closed will be equally favourable.

Should such an expectation be realised, the increase over the estimated revenue of the year will be about £21,000.

There was, during the same period, a small excess of expenditure over the sum voted by the General Assembly.

I shall immediately transmit a full statement of the accounts, with an explanatory Message.

The great advantages derived from the steam communication which has been carried on between the Provinces for the last twelve months, cannot but be regretted that it should have been interrupted by the late agreement with the *Nelson* Company, and I was anxious to have the service continued for some months longer, and to have the Government to enter into any arrangement which might be proposed for a sale; such a proposal I did not feel myself justified to entertain, and I cannot recommend, as I very much doubt its expediency, that the Colonial Government should again become ship-owners.

Anxious that the communication between the Provinces should not be entirely cut off, I authorised instructions to be given to the Collector of Customs at Wellington to renew my offer of an engagement with the *Nelson*, and in the event of that being still declined by the agents of the owners, to negotiate with the owners of the *Zingari* to secure her services, if possible, to supply the place of the former vessel.

The result has been that the services of the *Zingari* have been engaged for three months certain, with a view to enable the members of the General Assembly to attend the present Session, and at its close to return to their homes. I have also made a conditional arrangement that the engagement may be extended to twelve months, and I shall recommend to the House of Representatives to make provision for this service.

I shall transmit for your consideration a communication which I have received from the Governor-General of Australia, suggesting the details of a plan by which the establishment of a monthly line of steam packets may be secured to keep up the postal communication between Great Britain and the Australian and New Zealand Colonies.

This is a subject that demands your earliest attention, and I do not doubt that the great inconvenience which has been felt in New Zealand from the discontinuance of steam communication between England and Australia, will tend to induce you favourably to entertain any reasonable proposition for assisting in its re-establishment.

I do not anticipate that the present Session need be a protracted one. Legislation on important subjects, not at the same time urgent, will not, it appears to me, be desirable in our present state of transition.

It has been communicated to me by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that I may shortly expect my successor in the Government, and it has also been intimated to me that he has been placed in possession of the views of Her Majesty's Imperial Government on several of the most important subjects which engaged the attention of this Legislature during its former Sessions. Not only these subjects, but indeed every other involving any important question of Policy, would, I think, be more properly dealt with after the Executive Government of the Country shall have passed into the hands of his Majesty's Ministers, who will rest the responsibility of administering the laws which shall be enacted.

In the present position of the affairs of the Colony, the most suitable course, as it appears to me, would be to limit the business of the Session to what is absolutely necessary to be done,

and that another Session of the General Assembly should be held as soon as the Constituencies shall have had an opportunity of electing those in whom they place confidence, and the Ministry, which shall be formed, shall have been enabled to make due preparation for meeting the Legislature.

Entertaining these views, it is my intention to lay before you only two measures for your consideration; the one, of the nature indicated by the Secretary of State's Despatch, with a view to the complete establishment of Responsible Government; and the other, for the appropriation of the Revenue for so long as may be deemed necessary to afford the Ministry time to lay their financial policy before the Assembly.

I am not aware that there is any other business so urgent as to demand immediate attention, or indeed, that would not be better left to be disposed of after the contemplated changes in the Government shall have taken place.

I trust, Gentlemen of the Assembly, I need hardly assure you that, during the short time it yet remains for me to administer the Government of this Colony, I shall feel it a pleasure, as well as my duty, to afford my humble, but earnest co-operation in all measures calculated to promote the welfare and happiness of both races of Her Majesty's subjects.

R. H. WYNYARD,
Officer Administering the Government.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Auckland,
16th August, 1855.

THE Officer administering the Government has directed that the following replies to his Address, which His Excellency has received from the Houses of the Legislature, should be published for general information.

By His Excellency's command

ANDREW SINCLAIR,
Colonial Secretary.

To His Excellency Colonel R. H. Wynyard,
C. B., the Officer administering the Government
of New Zealand, &c.

We, the Legislative Council of New Zealand, in reply to the speech with which your Excellency has opened the third session of the General Assembly, beg respectfully to assure you of our continued desire to afford your Excellency every co-operation and support, so long as your Excellency may be called upon to administer the Government of New Zealand.

As regards the principle of Responsible Government, which your Excellency informs us will shortly come into operation, we feel grateful that Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to accede to the prayer of the Legislature, and has sanctioned the introduction of that element, in all its integrity, into the government of the Colony.

We beg to assure your Excellency that we shall be prepared to afford our aid towards its complete and satisfactory establishment.

With reference to the Native difference, which unhappily exists at New Plymouth, and which is a source of great anxiety to the Colony in general, we are gratified to be informed (pending the production of the papers and correspondence upon that subject) that measures of a precautionary nature have been adopted by the Government; and we fervently trust that the protection of the settlers, the maintenance of our friendly relations with the aborigines, and the prevention of

collision between the natives themselves, may be thereby secured.

In conclusion, your Excellency may be assured that we shall be prepared, as heretofore, to afford our careful attention to any measures that may be submitted for our consideration in the course of the Session.

Legislative Council Chambers,
9th August, 1855.

To His Excellency the Officer administering the
Government of the Islands of New Zealand,
&c.

The Commissions of New Zealand, assembled in their House of Representatives, have received with sentiments of high respect the speech addressed to us by your Excellency at the opening of the present session.

We desire to convey to your Excellency our acknowledgments for the efforts made by you towards obtaining from the Imperial Authority the establishment of Responsible Government for this Colony.

We deeply regret to hear that native disturbances have occurred at New Plymouth which threaten the peace, and may endanger the safety, of that settlement. We trust that the measures about to be taken by your Excellency may produce the desired result of restoring and establishing its tranquillity on a permanent basis.

Until we shall have had an opportunity of examining the correspondence and information alluded to in your Excellency's address, we cannot express any opinion as to the policy there intimated of the operations of the troops being confined to the securing of such a position as to insist upon the neutrality of the European population being respected.

The House entirely concurs with your Excellency in the importance of inter-Colonial Trade Communication, and will not fail to promote that object by all means in its power.

Considering the small amount of business likely to be brought before us, we trust that your Excellency will be pleased so to expedite it, that the session may be brought to a close in the month of September, and the members be enabled to return to their homes by the steamer, which will leave Auckland in the ensuing month of September.

House of Representatives,
11th August, 1855.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Auckland,
11th August, 1855.

HIS Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to appoint

Mr. JOHN SMARF,

to be Returning Officer for the Town of Nelson, at the election of Members of the Council of that Province under "The Council Enlargement Bill."

By His Excellency's command,

ANDREW SINCLAIR,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Auckland
14th August, 1855

IN pursuance of the 29th and 31st sections of the "Merchant Shipping Act 17 and 18 Vict. cap. 104, His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, has been pleased to appoint

Mr. H. S. MCKELLAR,

to be Surveyor of Shipping under that Act for the Port of New Plymouth.

By His Excellency's command,

ANDREW SINCLAIR,
Colonial Secretary.

[REDACTED]

SECRET

[REDACTED]

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