



THE
NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE.
 EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

WELLINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1873.

*Memoranda relative to the Resignation of the
 Honorable Mr. Waterhouse.*

Colonial Secretary's Office,
 Wellington, 4th March, 1873.

THE following Memoranda, which have passed between His Excellency the Governor and the Honorable Mr. Waterhouse, are published for general information.

WILLIAM FOX.

Memorandum for His Excellency the Governor.

MR. WATERHOUSE has the honor to place in His Excellency's hands the Honorable John Hall's resignation of his office as Colonial Secretary.

This resignation, which was altogether unforeseen by Mr. Waterhouse at the time he joined the Ministry when formed by Mr. Vogel, so materially affects his own position as Member of the Legislative Council, and also, indeed, as Minister, that Mr. Waterhouse feels compelled, as already stated to His Excellency, to place in His Excellency's hands his own resignation of the seat he holds in the Executive Council, and of his office of Premier.

As it is not the wish of Mr. Waterhouse, nor is it that of his colleagues, that his resignation should be regarded as involving that of the Ministry, Mr. Waterhouse would venture to hope that it will be similarly regarded by His Excellency; at the same time, he does not presume to dictate to His Excellency as to the course to be followed.

Mr. Vogel, who was honored by His Excellency's commands to form the Ministry, is expected to return from Australia in a few days. With a view to preventing any inconvenience to the public business, Mr. Waterhouse is prepared, with His Excel-

lency's permission, to continue to discharge his ministerial duties until Mr. Vogel's return to the Colony.

Mr. Waterhouse has no reason to anticipate that Mr. Vogel will experience a greater difficulty now than at the period of his originally forming the present Ministry, in nominating for His Excellency's approval a suitable person to the office of Colonial Secretary.

G. M. WATERHOUSE.

Wellington, 20th February, 1873.

Memorandum by the Governor.

THE Governor has carefully considered Mr. Waterhouse's Memorandum of the 20th, submitted to him in its present shape on the 27th instant,—also all the circumstances connected with the case.

The Governor is compelled to differ with several of the statements made or implied in the Memorandum; and, in common with Mr. Waterhouse's colleagues in the Executive Council, he fails to perceive any sufficient ground for the action which that gentleman proposes to take. The resignation of the Prime Minister must, in accordance with constitutional usage, *ipso facto* dissolve the existing Ministry. It is hoped that Mr. Waterhouse's sense of public duty will prevent him from persevering in so grave a step at a moment so inconvenient to the public interests of the Colony,—that is, on the eve of the departure of the Governor, and of the temporary assumption of office, as Administrator of the Government, by the Chief Justice.

If Mr. Waterhouse should persist in his proposed course, it appears to the Governor that it would become the duty of Ministers to advise the summoning of Parliament at the earliest period practicable. Sir George Arney would thus be enabled to have recourse to the advice and assistance of the

Legislature in the formation of a new Ministry; while Mr. Waterhouse would have an opportunity of fully explaining the motives of his conduct.

If the Governor were able to remain long enough in New Zealand, he would himself deal with the whole question so unexpectedly raised; but, as Ministers are already aware, this is impossible, for the instructions of the Secretary of State are imperative that the Governor should proceed without delay to Victoria.

It will, of course, be the duty of the Governor to consult at Auckland with the Chief Justice, who will so soon succeed him. Meanwhile, he cannot be a party to suddenly breaking up the Ministry by accepting the resignation of the Prime Minister, who will doubtless, as urged by his colleagues, reconsider his position.

G. F. BOWEN.

Government House, Wellington,
28th February, 1873.

Memorandum for His Excellency the Governor.

MR. WATERHOUSE has the honor to acknowledge the receipt, this morning, of His Excellency's Memorandum of yesterday's date, communicating His Excellency's remarks upon Mr. Waterhouse's letter of the 20th instant, submitted to His Excellency, at His Excellency's request, in the shape of a Memorandum, upon the 27th instant.

As His Excellency does not mention the statements made or implied in the Memorandum with which His Excellency feels compelled to differ, it is not in Mr. Waterhouse's power to remark thereon. Mr. Waterhouse feels it his duty respectfully to express regret that His Excellency should make the reference to Mr. Waterhouse's colleagues which he has done. Mr. Waterhouse would, with all deference, submit that so long as he occupies the position of Premier, it is he and not His Excellency who is the mouthpiece of the Ministry; and he feels bound further to observe that the numerous interviews which His Excellency has had with Mr. Waterhouse's colleagues, and the formal meeting which, prior to the receipt of Mr. Waterhouse's resignation, His Excellency arranged to have with them, but to which Mr. Waterhouse, although Premier, was not invited, have not been in accordance with recent constitutional practice.

Mr. Waterhouse, in his Memorandum previously referred to, has not called in question His Excellency's right to regard his resignation as involving that of the Ministry. He has only inferentially called attention to the exceptional nature of his connection with the Ministry, in the hope that His Excellency would continue to Mr. Vogel that confidence which His Excellency must have placed in him when he originally intrusted to him the task of forming an Administration.

Mr. Waterhouse cannot recognize that his resignation at the present moment will be attended with the inconvenience to the public interests of the Colony which His Excellency predicts. No actual necessity exists for His Excellency proceeding to the seat of his new government *via* Auckland and Sydney. By adopting that route, His Excellency is not likely to reach Melbourne prior to the middle or end of April; while his departure from Wellington to Melbourne direct would give His Excellency ample time to make all necessary arrangements for overcoming the present Ministerial crisis, and enable him to arrive in Melbourne earlier than by the indirect and longer route.

Mr. Waterhouse feels it to be his duty to persist in his proposed course, and to leave his resignation in His Excellency's hands. At the same time, he

cannot allow that it is the duty of Ministers to advise the summoning of Parliament, as suggested by His Excellency. His Excellency, in the first instance, intrusted the formation of the Ministry to Mr. Vogel, because that gentleman possessed a parliamentary majority. Mr. Waterhouse has no reason to believe that Mr. Vogel's parliamentary influence is less now than at the day of prorogation; and undoubtedly it does appear to Mr. Waterhouse, that if Mr. Vogel was competent to be intrusted in the first instance with the formation of an entire Ministry, he is equally competent to suggest a person to fill the office lately held by Mr. Hall, being the only Ministerial portfolio now vacant.

Mr. Waterhouse regrets that while His Excellency refuses to accept his resignation, he should yet, as Mr. Waterhouse learns while writing, be ignoring him in the government of the country. His Excellency's Aide-de-Camp, when delivering His Excellency's Memorandum this morning, by His Excellency's instructions requested that the correspondence should be regarded as terminated, and be forthwith published in the *Gazette*. Mr. Waterhouse rejoined that the correspondence not being complete its publication would be premature, and that he could not sanction it. Mr. Waterhouse now learns with regret that His Excellency forthwith sent for one of Mr. Waterhouse's colleagues, and by his means sought to obtain the publication which Mr. Waterhouse, as Premier, had declined to sanction. Mr. Waterhouse respectfully submits that by such a proceeding His Excellency has practically sanctioned his resignation.

G. M. WATERHOUSE.

Wellington, 1st March, 1873.

Memorandum by the Governor.

THE Governor acknowledges the receipt of Mr. Waterhouse's Memorandum of the 1st instant.

He has read with much surprise the remarks therein relative to communications between the Governor and the other Ministers now in Wellington; for Mr. Waterhouse is fully aware that the only object contemplated was most friendly, namely, to dissuade him from a step which the Governor, in common with Mr. Waterhouse's colleagues, regrets extremely, both on public grounds and also for Mr. Waterhouse's own sake.

As for the Governor's visit to Auckland, it is well known that it is very important that he should be present, if possible, at the Maori meetings to which he has been invited; but he has always intended to return to Wellington before leaving New Zealand, if the exigencies of the public service should require it.

With regard to the concluding paragraph of the Memorandum under acknowledgment, the facts of the case are very simple. Major Pitt informed Mr. Waterhouse that the Governor wished to speak to him on public business; Mr. Waterhouse took the unusual step of declining to attend this summons; when the Governor was compelled to request one of the other Ministers to say to Mr. Waterhouse what he (the Governor) had proposed to say himself.

Mr. Waterhouse will feel that, however desirous the Governor may be to further his wishes by releasing him from his official duties, this cannot be done until a new Prime Minister has been appointed. In conformity with the advice tendered by Mr. Waterhouse, Mr. Vogel, on his return to the Colony, will be requested to undertake that office. Meanwhile, no advantage would be derived from a prolongation of this correspondence.

G. F. BOWEN.

Government House, Wellington,
1st March, 1873.

Memorandum for His Excellency the Governor.

MR. Waterhouse presents his compliments to His Excellency the Governor, and feels it his duty to bring to His Excellency's knowledge that he (Mr. Waterhouse) has seen it stated as of authority in the public press, that it is His Excellency's intention finally to depart from Wellington to-morrow morning at 10.30 a.m.

Mr. Waterhouse desires to bring under His Excellency's notice the grave inconveniences that would arise to the public interests from His Excellency's abrupt departure at the present moment. As His Excellency is aware, the most important office in the Government, that of the Colonial Secretary, is actually vacant. Mr. Waterhouse respectfully declines to make any nomination thereto. Should, therefore, His Excellency depart from Wellington before this office be filled up, the whole machinery of the Government will be brought to a standstill.

Under these circumstances Mr. Waterhouse, with regret, has arrived at the conclusion that he would not be justified in affording any facilities for His Excellency's departure, and has instructed Captain Fairchild not to leave Wellington without the express authority of the Premier.

Mr. Waterhouse entreats His Excellency to reconsider his decision regarding his own (Mr. Waterhouse's) resignation. Nothing would give Mr. Waterhouse greater pleasure than the withdrawal of the Memoranda which have passed between His Excellency and himself upon the subject; and Mr. Waterhouse is satisfied that His Excellency must perceive that its continuation and eventual publica-

tion cannot be of advantage to the public interests.

G. M. WATERHOUSE.

Wellington, 2nd March, 1873.

Memorandum by the Governor.

THE action taken by Mr. Waterhouse this day renders it imperative on the Governor to release him forthwith from his offices of Premier and Member of the Executive Council, by formally accepting his resignation of both positions.

G. F. BOWEN.

Government House,

Wellington, 2nd March, 1873.

Memorandum for His Excellency the Governor.

MR. Waterhouse has the honor to acknowledge the receipt, subsequent to the despatch to His Excellency of Mr. Waterhouse's Memorandum of this day's date, of His Excellency's Memorandum of yesterday.

Mr. Waterhouse is equally anxious with His Excellency that this correspondence should not be prolonged; but feels it due to himself to state that he cannot acknowledge the accuracy of His Excellency's account of his interview with one of the other Ministers on Saturday, and would respectfully remind His Excellency that the object of his summoning that Minister was to induce him to authorize a proceeding that, through his own Aide-de-Camp, His Excellency was aware Mr. Waterhouse had declined to sanction.

G. M. WATERHOUSE.

Wellington, 2nd March, 1873.

By authority: GEORGE DIDSBURY, Government Printer, Wellington.

