



Auckland Provincial Government Gazette.

EXTRAORDINARY.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

Vol. XXIII.]

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1874.

[No. 30.]

Superintendent's Office,
Auckland, 24th November, 1874.

THE following Correspondence which has passed between the Superintendent, and The Honourable the Secretary for Crown Lands, and The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, is published for general information.

J. WILLIAMSON,
Superintendent.

No. 1.

Superintendent to Honourable Secretary for Crown Lands.

TELEGRAM.

Auckland, 30th October, 1874.

To the
Honourable Secretary for Crown Lands,
Wellington.

As Mr. D. A. Tole, Commissioner of Crown Lands, is likely to be absent from the Province of Auckland for several months on business connected with the administration of the Auckland Waste Lands Act, 1874, I have to request that his duties as Crown Lands Commissioner may be authorised by the General Government to be performed by the Deputy Waste Lands Commissioner, to be appointed by me, under the provisions of the said Law, to act in his absence.

J. WILLIAMSON,
Superintendent.

No. 2.

Honourable Secretary for Crown Lands to Superintendent.

TELEGRAM.

Government Buildings,
Wellington, 31st October, 1874.

To His Honour
The Superintendent,
Auckland.

I have received no application for leave of absence from the Commissioner of Crown Lands at Auckland. When such application is received it will have my immediate attention. In the meantime, I cannot enter into the appointment of a Deputy-Commissioner. No officer of the General Government can be moved without leave first obtained.

H. A. ATKINSON.

No. 3.

Superintendent to Honourable Colonial Secretary.

TELEGRAM.

Auckland, 12th November, 1874.

To
The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary,
Wellington.

It is proposed that the Superintendent of this Province should lose no time in visiting Great Britain, for the purpose of arranging with duly qualified persons, to act as agents on behalf of the Province in promoting Immigration, and in the formation of Special Settlement Associations.

Mr. Dignan will be appointed to act as Deputy Superintendent, in the Superintendent's absence. Will there be any objection on the part of the

General Government, to entrust him with the Governor's powers which are now delegated to me, to be exercised in my absence?

Please reply soon.

J. WILLIAMSON,
Superintendent.

No. 4.

Honourable Colonial Secretary to Superintendent.

TELEGRAM.

Government Buildings,
Wellington, 14th November, 1874.

To His Honour
The Superintendent,
Auckland.

The Government cannot recognise any necessity for your proceeding to Great Britain, for the purpose of promoting Immigration, and the formation of Special Settlement Associations. Mr. Vogel, himself the representative of an Auckland constituency, will be soon in London and will be prepared to receive and to act, if practicable, on any representation which your Honour, in the interests of the Province of Auckland, may think right to make, with respect to Immigration or the formation of Special Settlements; but an independent and possibly antagonistic action such as you propose, could, we think, have no other effect, than to embarrass the general operations of the Government, without procuring any special advantages for the Province of Auckland.

Under these circumstances and in the hope of thus preventing such action on your Honour's part, His Excellency the Governor will not now be advised to make any delegation of his powers to a Deputy of the Superintendent of Auckland.

DANIEL POLLEN.

No. 5.

Superintendent to Honourable Colonial Secretary.

TELEGRAM.

Auckland, 17th November, 1874.

To
The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary,
Wellington.

Your telegram, re delegation of Governor's powers, duly received yesterday.

Will reply by post.

J. WILLIAMSON,
Superintendent.

No. 6.

Superintendent to Honourable Colonial Secretary.

Superintendent's Office,
Auckland, 21st November, 1874.

Sir,

Adverting to my telegram of the 17th instant, I have now the honour to address you upon the subject of your reply to the application which I made for a delegation of the Governor's powers, under certain Acts of the General Assembly, to be conferred upon my Deputy, during the period of my projected visit to Great Britain on public business affecting the welfare of this Province.

In the first place, I must express my surprise and regret at the course which the Colonial Government have considered it necessary to take in this matter.

From the initiation of the Immigration and Public Works Policy, (of which Policy I have always been an earnest supporter,) until the time of my entering upon the duties of my present office as Superintendent, the Inhabitants of this Province have found

fault, and, I think, upon sufficient grounds, with the manner in which they were being treated in reference to Immigration. Their objections were made both as to the number, and as to the quality of the Immigrants despatched to this Province by the Home Agency. While other parts of the Colony were receiving a large and constant stream of Immigrants, the number sent out to Auckland was not nearly equal to the requirements or capabilities of the Province. The disproportion in this respect was so manifest and serious, that the Colonial Government admitted the injustice (which doubtless had been unintentional on their part), and undertook to remove all cause of complaint for the future. I acknowledge that the Government have redeemed their promise, as regards numbers; and we have had for some months past a steady supply of Immigrants, nearly equal to the demand. The objection, however, as to quality, still remains. In saying this, I do not wish to be mis-understood, as reflecting in any degree unfavourably upon the character or moral conduct of the Immigrants themselves. Taking them altogether, I presume they are neither better nor worse than any similar number of residents in the Colony. The objection to which I have referred is, that they are almost entirely selected from one class of the Home population, and are almost exclusively composed of labourers, and artizans. The evils which arise from this system are obvious. In the first place, the Immigrants of the artizan and general labourer class, having no knowledge of farming or country pursuits, are disposed to remain about the centres of population, thus adding to the number of inhabitants of towns which are already too populous in proportion to the sparse population (and settlement of the Country districts. In the second place, those who belong to the class of farm labourers, though they possess a knowledge of farming, have not the means to enable them to take up land and to become settlers on their own account. It is quite true that they now find but little difficulty in obtaining employment; but it must be borne in mind that at present the labour market is in somewhat of an abnormal condition, owing to the large demands being made upon it for the execution of public works. At no very distant date, the bulk of the Colonial works will have been finished, and then several thousands of men will be thrown upon the ordinary labour market. I foresee that much hardship and distress will be the consequence; and that, as a remedy, there will probably ensue a large exodus of the people from the Colony, thus bringing it to pass that the money of the people of New Zealand will have been expended for the ultimate benefit of other Colonies. Another fact of the most serious importance, in connection with this subject, still remains to be considered. There would be no reasonable ground for objection, if the introduction of population, and the settlement of the country, were proceeding hand in hand. We could then afford to look forward, without apprehension, to the time when the public works would be completed; because the increase of settlement and cultivation would then enable the surplus labour to be absorbed without much difficulty. It is a remarkable circumstance, that little or no occupation of new country is taking place within this Province, under the present system of Immigration. I believe I am quite correct in stating that, out of the whole number of people who have come into the Province since the beginning of the present year, not one per cent have taken up land. Notwithstanding the earnest and unremitting exertions of those entrusted with their location, the Immigrants have not been induced to go, in any large numbers, into the country districts. By far the largest portion remain

either in the towns, or in the thickly settled districts bordering on the towns. You will admit, I am sure, that this is not a desirable state of affairs. This is not a new discovery of mine, for it has formed the burden of nearly all that has been written or spoken (in this Province at least) upon the subject of Immigration during the past three or four years. I wish you clearly to understand that I am not finding fault with the Colonial Government for sending so many Immigrants to this Province. On the contrary, the present shipments are being made at the request of the Provincial authorities. I only assert that the original intentions of the framers of the Public Works and Immigration scheme have been departed from. They contemplated an immigration both of labour and capital, while the operations of the Home Agency have resulted in supplying labour only. Indeed, I do not see how the work of inducing people of means to emigrate to this Colony could be thus satisfactorily carried out, and I believe that it is a matter which should have been left to the several Provinces. During the visits which I paid to the various country districts, prior to the last Superintendency election, I drew attention to this subject, and found everywhere an unanimous expression of opinion in favour of prompt and vigorous action being taken to remedy these evils. The announcement which, on nearly every occasion, I then made to the country settlers, of my intention to adopt special means in order to bring about the introduction of Immigrants possessed of capital, and prepared to take up land, was always received with the warmest approval. Again, after the short sitting of the Provincial Council in December last, I had a further opportunity of visiting a number of remote country districts within the Province, and I found that large tracts of country, either already owned or being acquired by the Government, were lying waste and idle, and that few of the settlers had seen any of the Immigrants who were coming by shiploads into the country. It did not require much consideration on my part to lead me to the conclusion that special steps ought to be taken to promote *bona fide* settlement. I determined to seek that object by means of a liberal land law, framed especially to encourage the immigration of people of the small farmer class, possessed of sufficient means for taking up land, and to facilitate the formation of special settlements, either of immigrants from other countries, or of persons already resident within the Province. I was encouraged to hope that by this means I should be enabled to withdraw from the town and suburban districts some of the surplus population, besides encouraging the grown-up sons of old colonists to settle down in their native place, instead of going (as they have been going) to the other colonies and to America. I invited the Provincial Council, upon its re-assembling in May last, to consider these important questions; and the Council readily responded, by the appointment of a Committee to consider the question of the sale and settlement of the Waste Lands of the Province, and by the adoption of the report of that Committee, embodying opinions almost identical with my own. This report was made the groundwork of a Bill, which was introduced by a member of the Provincial Executive into the General Assembly; and, although I could not but regret the action of Ministers in inserting in the Bill several amendments of a restrictive character, I felt, and still feel, grateful to the Colonial Government for the assistance which they afforded me in passing the Bill into law. Part V. of the Waste Lands Act relates exclusively to the encouragement of Immigration, and the formation of special settlements; and Clause 57 provides that "as it is expedient

"that the immigration to the Province of persons desirous to settle at once upon suitable land should be encouraged, it shall be lawful for the Superintendent to appoint duly qualified persons to act as agents on behalf of the Province in promoting such immigration, and in the formation of special settlement associations." The language of the Act was perhaps sufficient in itself to give notice of my intentions. But, during the session of Assembly, I informed members of the Colonial Government of my determination to visit Great Britain, in order there to select suitable Agents, and personally to inaugurate such a system of immigration of small farmers and capitalists, as would not be antagonistic to, but rather the necessary complement of, the Colonial system. From that time, until a few days ago,—when I applied for the necessary permission to enable the Waste Lands Commissioner to accompany me,—I had no reason whatever to believe that the Colonial Government regarded my intended action otherwise than favourably. Since my election as Superintendent, I have been in correspondence with many persons, both in the colony and at home; and I do feel confident, as I have always felt, that I should have been able to accomplish the object which I had in view, within the time at my disposal.

You state, in your telegram, that "the Government cannot recognise any necessity for" my "proceeding to Great Britain for the purpose of promoting Immigration, and the formation of Special Settlement Associations." But for the paragraph immediately following this statement, I should be inclined to think that the Colonial Government do not look favourably upon the formation of special settlements. I desire to place on record that, in the opinion of myself and of a large majority of the settlers of this Province, the system of "special settlements" is the only system calculated to produce satisfactory results, on a large scale, in the Province of Auckland. The experiments previously made have been eminently successful. The Special Settlements at Waipu, Okaihau, and Puhoi, have proved a complete success; and the Non-Conformist settlements of Central Kaipara, although for a long time in a languishing condition, are now beginning to revive and become permanently established. I may refer also to the Special Settlements of immigrants from the Cape of Good Hope and from other places, founded under the auspices of the Colonial Government, on the confiscated lands in the neighbourhood of Waiuku. These instances establish the fact that "Special Settlements" do succeed in this Province, and are eminently adapted to its particular requirements.

You say, further, "that Mr. Vogel, himself the representative of an Auckland constituency, will be soon in London, and will be prepared to receive and to act, if practicable, on any representations which" I, "in the interests of the Province of Auckland, may think right to make with respect to immigration or the formation of Special Settlements." In reply to this, I would offer the following observations:—

1st. I do not think it would be right to ask Mr. Vogel, nor could he, consistently with his duty to the whole Colony, consent, to accept the position of an Agent, for Immigration purposes, of any particular Province. Mr. Vogel, as I believe, entertains a much better appreciation of his position and duty in this respect; and, indeed, he took care to point out to his constituents of Auckland City East, on the occasion of his recent meeting, that, although he was their representative, he was also the Premier of the Colony, and, as such, bound to deal with all questions coming before him, in the latter

capacity. I quite agree with Mr. Vogel on this point, and I consider that the other Provinces would have a just cause of complaint, if the influence and the energies of the Premier of the Colony were to be employed in giving a special impetus to the Province of which he may represent a single constituency in the General Assembly.

2nd. Mr. Vogel is proceeding to London upon other weighty business, which will doubtless fully occupy his time, and prevent him from undertaking the work which this Province desires to be carried out. In fact, the work cannot be done in London. It would be necessary to visit those places in the three kingdoms, where the system which is sought to be inaugurated might be established successfully; and Mr. Vogel's other engagements would preclude the possibility of his visiting those places, within the limited time at his disposal.

3rd. The Waste Lands Act (as above quoted) specially empowers the *Superintendent* to appoint Immigration Agents for the Province. If it had been intended that this duty should be entrusted to the Colonial Government, or to any member of that Government, I presume it would have been so expressed. But, as I have already pointed out, such a duty could not with propriety be undertaken by any Colonial Minister. It was properly left to the Superintendent of the Province to make such arrangements as he might consider necessary, in order to supplement and to derive the fullest possible amount of benefit from the Colonial Immigration system.

Your telegram proceeds to state that, in your opinion, "an independent, and possibly antagonistic action, such as" I "propose, could have no other effect than to embarrass the general operations of the Government, without procuring any special advantages for the Province of Auckland." I must at once unreservedly express my entire dissent from this statement, and from the inference which it seeks to draw. I fail to see why "independent action," such as that which the Provinces of Otago and Canterbury have all along been permitted to use, should not be as useful and beneficial in the case of this Province, as it has proved to them. It appears to me that the action of the Colonial Government creates an invidious distinction, by refusing to Auckland opportunities and privileges which it has permitted the wealthy and powerful Provinces just named to enjoy without restraint or objection. I apprehend that it has not been found, in their case, that their exertions have been "antagonistic" or embarrassing to the "general operations" of the Colonial Government. On the contrary, it appears to me that the agencies have largely contributed to make the Immigration system of the Colonial Government a fair success, so far as Otago and Canterbury are concerned, and such would no doubt be the result of the action proposed to be taken by the Government of this Province. Mr. Vogel has shewn, by his correspondence with the Agent General, laid before the Houses of Assembly, that he thoroughly understands what the weak points of the Colonial system are. The principal defect of that system is, that it fails to ensure a good selection of Immigrants of the classes suitable to the requirements of different Provinces. It may succeed as to numbers; but it fails as to quality. The local agencies of Otago and Canterbury have rendered assistance to the Immigration department in this

respect. It was to this very point that I desired to direct my attention; and I take leave to say that my action would not in any way have tended "to embarrass the general operations of the Government," but that, on the contrary, it would have facilitated and promoted, in no small degree, the attainment of the one common object in view, besides procuring "special advantages for the Province of Auckland." And, moreover, I feel assured, in fact I know, that I would have received the benefit of Mr. Vogel's cordial assistance while at home.

I again express my regret that Ministers should have felt it their duty to advise the Governor for the express purpose of preventing the action which I contemplated. I was advised that my leaving the Colony would not be either illegal or unconstitutional. In fact, as you are aware, the Assembly has from time to time endorsed this view by passing laws to enable Superintendents to leave their Provinces for considerable periods. Neither was my request for the temporary transfer to my Deputy of the delegations now held by me an unusual one, or without precedents.

It is almost unnecessary for me to add that, in consequence of the attitude which the Colonial Government have thought proper to assume in this matter, I have decided to abandon, for the present, my intention of visiting Great Britain. I could not, in justice to the Province, enter upon a work to which the Colonial Government have shewn themselves so unmistakably and extremely hostile. I have entered at this length in reply to your telegram, for the purpose of explaining and vindicating my conduct, which has been in some quarters so much misunderstood and misrepresented, and for the purpose also of placing on record my reasons for the action proposed by me. Having done this, I pursue the question no further. It would have been a source of the deepest satisfaction to me, if I had had the willing co-operation of the Colonial Government in carrying out a scheme which would have thrown open the Waste Lands of this Province, upon liberal conditions, for cultivation and settlement by our fellow countrymen of the United Kingdom, without distinction of race or political opinion, and would have given the Inhabitants of this Province the opportunity of taking the fullest advantage of the Policy of Immigration and Public Works to which the Colony is now committed. Time alone will show, and that before long, whether or not my anticipations are correct of the mischiefs which I have enumerated as likely to arise out of the present system of Immigration, and which I had hoped to avert, in some degree, by the course proposed. If my fears prove groundless, I shall be only too glad to acknowledge my mistake; but if the contrary, then the responsibility for the trouble and hardships which will befall the Immigrants, and for the losses which will accrue to this Province, will rest upon those who placed obstacles in the way of measures being taken which, in my opinion, and in that of many others, were calculated to avert the evils I have pointed out.

I have, &c.,

J. WILLIAMSON,

Superintendent.

The Honourable, the Colonial Secretary,
Wellington.