


NEW ZEALAND
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE,
PROVINCE OF CANTERBURY.

Published by Authority.

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By His Honor's Command,
WILLIAM ROLLESTON,
Provincial Secretary.

VOL. XI.]

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1864.

[No. XV.]

ADDRESS OF HIS HONOR THE
SUPERINTENDENT

*On Opening the Provincial Council, on Thursday,
7th April 1864.*

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL,—

Since I last called you together various circumstances of a special character have appeared to me to render an extraordinary session of the Council necessary. Before proceeding to mention the special points I have in view, I have to announce to you that the Government with which I met you at the last session have resigned their position, and other gentlemen have consented to assist me in carrying on the business of the province. The immediate cause of my summoning you at this time is the necessity that exists to make provision for the prosecution of certain great works, which can no longer be delayed without serious detriment to the interests of the community. I need hardly call your attention to the circumstances which make it more than ever expedient that several of the large rivers, which seriously interfere with internal communication, should be bridged with as little delay as possible. In furtherance of this object I have called in the professional assistance of Mr. Doyne, an engineer of considerable experience and standing; and I have directed him to proceed in the first instance to the Rakaia, to examine and report upon the best means of bridging that river, and to furnish the Government with plans and estimates for that purpose. As Mr. Doyne has only recently arrived, I am not yet in possession of his views on the subject; but he has instructions to make a preliminary report, which shall

be laid before you at an early date. After a careful consideration moreover of the whole question of the internal communication of the province, I am of opinion that the time has arrived when the construction of lines of railway to Timaru on the one hand, and to the Kowai on the other, has become essential to the proper development of our resources. With this view it will be necessary, in the first instance, for purposes both of efficiency and economy, that accurate surveys should be made of both these proposed lines. The report of the Railway and Bridge Commission on the Southern Line will be laid before you, and I am led to hope that, with the exception of the deviation necessary in case of any change in the proposed site of the bridge across the Rakaia, there will be no material alteration in this line of railway. If you concur in the view I have taken of this very important subject, I shall ask your assent to the expenditure of such a sum as will be requisite for defraying the expenses of the necessary surveys, and the outlay incident upon the employment of an engineer. This will enable me, I trust, at the next ordinary meeting of the Council, to place before you the result of these surveys, and to supply you with estimates of cost and all other data necessary to enable you to determine upon the nature and extent of the work to be undertaken. In the meantime it may be desirable that authority should be given for the purchase of freehold property along both lines, in cases where it can be obtained at reasonable rates. I have made a temporary reserve along the line of railway as laid down by the Commissioners, with further reserves at the crossings of the various rivers; and, although these reserves may appear to you to be in excess of the necessities of the case, I shall have to ask your concurrence in them, to the extent requisite for such deviation of the line as may be found expedient upon a

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more complete survey. These reserves will be absolutely necessary in order to prevent the increased cost of construction arising from compensation claims. The formation of lines of railway and other great works can only be provided for by anticipation of the public revenue; fears have, however, been expressed as to the ability of the provinces, under existing financial circumstances in England, to raise money on their own unguaranteed debentures. I think it desirable, therefore, that provision should be made for specially securing the interest and sinking fund upon loans to be raised for these works, either by setting apart special tracts of waste lands, or by specifically appropriating a fixed proportion of the revenue proceeding from ordinary sales of land. Of the two courses the latter appears to be based on principles more in accordance with the system of land sales in force in this Province, and which has hitherto proved most advantageous. Should you concur with me in the expediency of appropriating a specific proportion of the land revenue, I have reason to believe that the funds necessary for the construction of these great works may be obtained on more advantageous terms than might otherwise be expected. A statement will be made to you showing the amount of unvoted expenditure which has been incurred during the present financial year, and the circumstances under which it arose. From this statement, as well as from other considerations, it would seem that a re-organisation of our whole system of administration of public works has become absolutely necessary. With this view I propose that the management of the public works of the Province should be placed under a responsible minister, bearing the title of "Secretary for Public Works," to whom the heads of the departments of public works, railways, and surveys should be subordinate. The professional heads of these departments will receive their instructions from him as their political head, while the other branches of the public service will be responsible as hitherto to the Provincial Secretary. The great difficulty which the Government have felt in obtaining accurate information as to the varied requirements of the several districts of the province, and the results of the expenditure incurred, have shewn the necessity of a certain degree of personal supervision and inquiry on the part of a political officer, who is responsible to you for the financial administration of his department. The establishment of Road Boards, to which the management of roads has been transferred since the last session, will by no means render this personal inspection less necessary. If my views on this subject meet with your concurrence, I shall be prepared, at the ordinary session, to submit to you measures for carrying out a complete system of administration of public works, and for a revision of the civil service of the province. I propose to relieve the revenue of a portion of the additional charge consequent upon the creation of this office by reducing the salary of the Superintendent to £1000 per annum. For this purpose a Bill will be laid before you. A considerable expenditure has become necessary for the erection of several public buildings. It is probable that the next sitting of the General Assembly will take place in this Province, and in providing for its reception, I propose that any building which may be erected should be made subservient to the general design for enlarging our own accommodation, so that the expense incurred in this respect should not be materially in excess of what

would be actually necessary for our own requirements. The plans sent in for the erection of a Gaol, as well as those for the Supreme Court, are found to involve an amount of expenditure which I cannot at present recommend, looking to the great demand upon our resources for works essential to the material prosperity of the country. I shall at once proceed to obtain modified plans, the expense of carrying out which will be more proportionate to our existing circumstances. I have fully re-considered the whole of the immigration arrangements of the province, and after careful enquiry into the relative advantages and cost of the two systems whose merits have been canvassed, viz., that carried on by Her Majesty's Commissioners, and that by our own Agent, I have come to the conclusion that the advantages presented by the latter considerably preponderate. I have, therefore, re-engaged Mr. Marshman as Immigration Agent for a further period of one year, leaving it open to you ultimately to adopt whichever system may most commend itself to you. In connection with the Public Works, Immigration, Railways, Survey, and other departments of Government, returns and papers will be laid before you. The statements explanatory of the financial position of the Province will give assurance that the prosperity of the country is still a matter for congratulation.

I may now express my full confidence that you will give to the various subjects to which I have drawn your attention, the careful consideration which their importance demands.

S. BEALEY,
Superintendent.

Provincial Secretary's Office,
Christchurch, April 5, 1864.

HIS Honor the Superintendent directs the publication of the following Return for general information.

WM. ROLLESTON,
Provincial Secretary.

ABSTRACT of the QUANTITY OF LAND SOLD and GRANTED in the different DISTRICTS for the MONTH ending the 31st MARCH, 1864.

DISTRICTS.	£2 per Acre.	Rural Auction.	Timaru Auction.
Christchurch ...	676		
Ashley ...	1,337		
Timaru ...	3,259		1 3 0
Lincoln ...	266	45	
Mandeville ...	556		
Ellesmere ...	1,092		
Banks Peninsula ...	410		
Lyttelton ...		20	
Waipara ...			
Oxford ...	351	11	
Malvern ...	140		
Ashburton ...	4,785		
Waitangi ...	100		
Total	12,972	76	1 3 0

Provincial Secretary's Office,
Christchurch, April 1, 1864.

HIS Honor the Superintendent directs it to be notified that by Proclamation issued by His Excellency the Governor, dated the Tenth day of March, One thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, the following persons have been declared to have come within the operation of "The Naturalisation Act, 1858," viz:—

VALENTINE BUCHLY,

from the First day of March, One thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, native of Switzerland, farmer; residence—Purakanui, in the Province of Canterbury.

FREDERICK MAHNKE,

from the Fifteenth day of January, One thousand eight hundred and sixty three, native of Germany, labourer; residence—Christchurch, in the Province of Canterbury.

WM. ROLLESTON,
Provincial Secretary.

APPOINTMENT OF REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS,
DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Auckland, March 22, 1864.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint

MATTHEW MORRIS,

to be Registrar of Marriages, and Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, for the District of Mount Grey, in place of Richard Ramsay Armstrong.

This Appointment to take effect on and from the Twentieth day of April, One thousand eight hundred and sixty-four.

THOS. B. GILLIES,

In the absence of the Colonial Secretary.

G. G. Gazette, No. 10, March 25, 1864.

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