



NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

PROVINCE OF CANTERBURY.

Published by Authority.

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

VOL. XII.]

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1865.

[No. XXX.]

ADDRESS OF HIS HONOR THE SUPERINTENDENT

*On Opening the Provincial Council,
Tuesday, May 30, 1865.*

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PRO-
VINCIAL COUNCIL—

When I last prorogued this Council I intended to call you together for the purpose of the ordinary annual session before the expiration of the present financial year. The meeting of the General Assembly, which it was then anticipated would have been held early in the present year, has however not yet taken place, and the measures which may be expected to be proposed to that body in reference to the financial position of Provincial Governments throughout the colony, and to other matters seriously affecting this province, are yet unsettled. As your proceedings with regard to these important questions must depend to a great extent on the action of the General Assembly during the forthcoming session, I have thought it expedient to defer your ordinary meeting until that session shall have been held. I trust you will agree in that decision.

The business to be now submitted to you will therefore be confined to asking for authority for the expenditure necessary to carry on the public service of the province during a limited period after the expiration of the present financial year, and to one or two other questions of pressing importance.

Among the latter I would especially mention the subject of railway communication. It is with much satisfaction I have to inform you that I have concluded a contract with Messrs. G. Holmes and Co. for the construction of a railway from Christchurch to the north bank of the Rakaia

river. The recent financial depression in the colony generally, and the difficulty which, owing to various circumstances, has been experienced in negotiating provincial debentures in the London market, have rendered some delay in the commencement of this important work unavoidable; and have also made it expedient to introduce some special provisions for which your sanction will be asked with regard to the payments to be made to the contractors. I trust that the stimulus which will be afforded to the prosperity of the province by the undertaking of so important a means of developing its resources, and the greater favor with which the debentures of this province appear to be now regarded in the English market, will enable me to take steps at an early date for carrying out the contemplated line of railway communication to the northern part of the province.

Since your last meeting a valuable and extensive goldfield has been discovered on the West Coast, and a large mining population is now congregated in that part of the province. In anticipation of this event I had made preliminary arrangements, which enabled me as soon as the importance of the discovery was ascertained, to take the steps required by the emergency for the maintenance of order and a proper regulation of mining pursuits, as well as for providing improved means of communication between those districts and the eastern portion of the province. I commissioned the Provincial Secretary to proceed to Hokitika with authority to organise the machinery for the government of the goldfields, and with instructions to furnish me with detailed and authentic information as to their condition and requirements. In pursuance of the information thus obtained I have thought it desirable to appoint a Commissioner for the Goldfields, who acts as the representative of the Provincial Government, has the general control

VOL. 12.—No. 30.

of its several departments, and is invested with sufficient authority to deal with all cases requiring prompt action on the part of the Government. This arrangement has been found to work very beneficially.

With a view of remedying the difficulty of communicating by land between the eastern and western parts of the province, I took immediate steps for ascertaining the route best adapted for the formation of a road. The result of these enquiries is embodied in various papers which will be laid before you. Among them is a comprehensive and valuable report from Mr. Dobson, the engineer to the Lyttelton and Christchurch Railway, which leaves, I think, no room for doubt as to the route on which it is most desirable that any considerable expenditure should take place. As soon as this question was determined strong road parties were engaged to improve the existing road by way of Porter's Pass to the Upper Waimakariri, and to open the communication between that locality and the West Coast itself. A good dray road now exists for two-thirds of the distance between Christchurch and the goldfields, and along the remainder of the line a bridle-road is in process of formation, which, although delayed considerably by unfavorable weather, will be completed in a few weeks, and may, if it be deemed expedient, be converted into a dray-road at a moderate cost.

Information very recently received leads me to hope that it may be found practicable to open by way of the Rakaia a second line of communication with Hokitika, which during the greater part of the year will be available as a horse-track, and for the driving of stock. Further explorations are now being made with a view of determining this question. In the meantime the road by the Waimakariri is so far advanced that I have taken steps for obtaining the immediate establishment of an overland mail, and I have pressed on the General Government the necessity which appears to me to exist for the extension of telegraphic communication to the West Coast at the earliest possible period.

The expenditure necessary for the objects above alluded to cannot fail under existing circumstances to be felt as a heavy charge on the revenues of the province, but they are objects calculated to exercise so important an influence on its prosperity and trade, and are so necessary for the efficient administration of its government, that I have no doubt you will approve the steps which in the emergency I have thought it advisable to take.

The subjects to which your attention will thus be called, though few in number, are of more than usual importance, and will, I doubt not, receive at your hands the grave consideration which their character demands.

I now declare this Council opened for the despatch of business.

S. BEALEY, Superintendent.

Provincial Secretary's Office,
Christchurch, May 25, 1865

HIS Honor the Superintendent directs it to be notified that, in pursuance of the powers vested in him, he has been pleased to appoint

PETER PENDER, Inspector of Police,
and
CHARLES DAVIES, Mounted Constable,
to be Inspectors of Slaughter Houses for the Christchurch District.

WM. ROLLESTON,
Provincial Secretary.

Provincial Secretary's Office,
Christchurch, May 26, 1865.

HIS Honor the Superintendent directs it to be notified that he has appointed

HENRY JOHN LE CREN, Esq.,
to preside as Chairman at any Meeting convened under the provisions of "The Municipal Council Ordinance, Session XIV, No. 2," for the purpose of the election of Members of the first Municipal Council of Timaru.

WM. ROLLESTON,
Provincial Secretary.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TIMARU.

NOTICE.

WE, the undersigned, who have signed the Petition for the Constitution of the Town of Timaru as a Municipality, hereby convene a Public Meeting of the Householders, to be held at the Mechanics' Institute, on Wednesday, the 21st June, at 12 o'clock, noon.

H. J. Le Cren.
A. Bainbridge.
R. Turnbull.
F. W. Stubbs.
John King.
J. H. Sutter.
R. A. Chisholm.
C. Jacobs.
Fred. Le Cren.
Geo. Henley.
T. W. Fyfe.
F. F. Wilson.
John Tucker.
Duncan McLean.
David Salomon.
Henry Salomon.
William Butterworth.
R. Simpson.
William Nelson.

CHRISTCHURCH:

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