



NEW ZEALAND
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE
PROVINCE OF CANTERBURY.

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By His Honor's Command,
EDWARD JOLLIE,
Provincial Secretary.

VOL. XII.]

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1865.

[No. LXIV.]

ADDRESS OF HIS HONOR THE
SUPERINTENDENT

*On Opening the Provincial Council,
Tuesday, November 21, 1865.*

MR. SPEAKER, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
PROVINCIAL COUNCIL,—

I have to congratulate you on meeting for the first time in a building in every way worthy of the purpose to which it has been devoted, and which will, I trust, be found not only to afford suitable accommodation for the transaction of business, but will also be an object of ornament to this city, and a credit to Canterbury for the future.

I had hoped, when I last prorogued this Council, that I should have been able to call you again together before the expiration of the three months for which you voted supplies; as, however, the Session of the General Assembly has been protracted beyond that time, and as it is essential to the proper consideration of the affairs of this Province that you should have before you the results of the deliberations of that body, I have thought that I should be acting more in accordance with the interests of the Province, as well as with the spirit of the arrangement come to on this subject during

the last Session of the Council, if I deferred the ordinary Session until all the available information could be obtained as to the exact position of the Province, more especially in a financial point of view.

Full information will be laid before you as to the state of the Provincial Revenue. You will observe that making due allowance for the depression which has prevailed in the Colony generally, the resources of this Province are in a satisfactory condition; while its credit appears to stand higher in the London market than that of any other Province in New Zealand. I attribute this latter result in no small degree to the vigilant control which you have exercised over the expenditure, and the earnest determination which you have manifested to make punctual provision for the claims of the public creditor.

Correspondence will be laid before you, between a member of my Government and the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, in reference to the arrangements contemplated by the General Government, with regard to the proportion of the Customs' Revenue, payable to the Provinces. The Colonial Secretary appears to anticipate no diminution of the share hitherto received, and we may therefore hope that, unless some unforeseen emergency

arises, the Province will continue to receive three-eighths of the whole amount.

The works of the Great Southern Railway have been actually commenced. The material for the first 13 miles has been ordered, and I am in hopes that only a very short time will elapse before a portion at least is opened for traffic. As regards the Great Northern Line, the survey has been completed, and steps are now being taken for ascertaining the extent and value of the property to be purchased.

Contracts have been let for such portions of the Harbour Works in Lyttelton as are immediately required to meet the increasing trade of that town, and for enabling the Province to derive the full benefit of railway communication by the time the tunnel connecting Lyttelton with the plains is completed. A commencement of the larger permanent works recommended by the commission, is now being made by means of prison labour. And although we cannot hope to see at an early period the completion of works of such magnitude and importance, yet it is satisfactory to know that the result of the operations already commenced is very encouraging, and I trust that those works which it has been my privilege to initiate will be carried on without interruption, as the means of the Province will allow, until the accomplishment of an undertaking calculated to advance so materially the interests of the Port town, and to afford such facilities to the trade of the whole Province, shall have been effected. Reports upon this subject will be laid before you.

The investigations as to the capabilities of the Timaru Roadstead, which were initiated some time since, have now been brought to a conclusion, and although the result appears to shew that the works necessary for the formation of a harbour are quite beyond the resources of the Province, yet that a comparatively small sum of money judiciously expended will very much improve the facilities at present available for shipping and landing goods. The report upon this subject will also be laid before you.

The want of regularity in the communication by sea with Akaroa has caused serious loss and inconvenience to the inhabitants of that place, and I hope with your assistance to be able to place this service on a more satisfactory footing.

The sudden and almost unprecedented development of the Goldfields on the West Coast has engaged the unremitting attention of the Government with a view to making provision for the wants of those who have engaged in the arduous work of gold mining in that district. It has been my endeavour, while providing for the efficient administration of the Goldfields, and for the formation of the necessary roads and other public works, to avoid that excessive rate of expenditure on these objects, which has in other cases resulted not only in financial embarrassment to the Government and depreciation of public securities, but also in ruin to private individuals, and severe pressure upon the community generally. The dangerous character of the harbours of the West Coast, and the great destruction of shipping which has there taken place, seem to make it clear that the trade of the Goldfields cannot be carried on with reasonable security until a road fitted for heavy traffic has been completed—connecting the Eastern with the Western side of the intervening range; and I have, therefore, urged on the works necessary for the formation of a good dray road with the greatest expedition that circumstances would admit of. You are aware that these works are of themselves of no inconsiderable magnitude, and require, for their proper performance, a great amount of engineering skill; but in addition to the difficulties arising out of the natural features of the country, the contractors and others engaged in the work have had to contend with the extraordinary inclemency of the weather, very seriously interrupting their operations, and thereby creating a delay in the completion of the undertaking, which would, under other circumstances, have been avoided. I am happy to be able to inform you that all these obstacles will very soon be overcome, and that we may hope in a short time to have a complete line of road from the East to the West Coast. The outlay will, no doubt, be heavy, and I think it will be fair so to adjust the burthen thus created, that it shall not fall wholly upon the agricultural districts of the Province, but that the Goldfields themselves shall also contribute some share of the expense.

I have taken the precaution, in anticipation of the extension of the Railway system to the West Coast, temporarily to reserve land for lines in that direction, and thus

avoid the large expenditure in the extinguishment of private rights, which the neglect of that precaution would otherwise have occasioned. The state of the weather has also caused delay in the completion of the Electric Telegraph, but I have every confidence that, before the rising of the Council, this means of correspondence will be available. It is obvious that, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, the establishment of a communication of this nature between the two portions of the Province is most essential, if not altogether indispensable, for the good government of the whole.

Amendments have been made, at the suggestion of my Government, in the Waste Lands Regulations of the Province, having for their object partly the removal of a technical obstacle to the sale of land on the West Coast, and partly the introduction of terms and conditions better adapted to the circumstances of that district, and calculated to encourage permanent settlement.

You are aware that by an Act of the General Assembly passed during the late Session, two new members have been added to this Council as Representatives for the Goldfields; and it will be left to the Provincial Legislature to take any further steps which may be necessary for the more effectual representation of the Gold Mining interest. I hope that measures of this nature will have the effect of bringing before the Legislature in an authentic form the real wishes and views of a population employed in pursuits so different from those which engage the attention of residents on the eastern side of the range.

It is with much satisfaction that I recognise the importance of the scientific researches undertaken by the Provincial Geologist; and the fact of his having two years ago—in papers laid before this Council—accurately defined the gold districts on the West Coast, is a strong proof of the practical value of his labours, and leads me to expect that the Province will derive great benefit from his knowledge as to the auriferous nature of those lands which it may be advisable to survey for sale.

The repeal of the New Provinces Act of 1858 has deprived the outlying districts of the power to separate from the rest of the Province, unless by means of an Act of the General Assembly, but this appears to me to be no reason for neglecting the recognised claims of the settlers resident in those districts, and it will be my duty to make such recommendations to you for the appropriation of the Land Revenue as shall satisfy every reasonable claim.

I shall invite your consideration of some plan for the establishment of an Educational Institution of a superior class. I do not now propose to lay before you any measure for finally determining the exact mode in which such a plan should be carried into effect. It will be sufficient for the present to indicate its general features, which will then be before the public for consideration and discussion during the recess.

I now declare this Council open for the transaction of public business.

S. BEALEY,
Superintendent.

CHRISTCHURCH :

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