



NEW ZEALAND
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE
PROVINCE OF CANTERBURY.

Published by Authority.

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By His Honor's Command,

F. E. STEWART,

Provincial Secretary.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 1867.

[No. XXXII.]

ADDRESS OF HIS HONOR THE SUPERINTENDENT,

On Opening the XXVIIth Session of the Provincial Council, June 7th, 1867.

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL:

Gentlemen,—I have found it necessary to call you together at this period for reasons which must be obvious to you.

The annual session of the General Assembly was convened for the 29th of this month at the time my proclamation of your meeting was made, and it was my desire that the meetings of the two Legislatures should not in any measure clash.

I regret that the depression which has existed throughout the Province for the last three years has not received any alleviation during the period which has elapsed since I last had the pleasure of addressing you.

You will join with me in congratulations to the Province and to the Colony at large upon the successful junction of the faces of the tunnel connecting the Port and Plains.

I shall ask your consideration of a plan for bridging the River Rakaia. Enquiry into the subject convinces me that the difficulties attendant upon such an undertaking have been much over-rated, and I would urge upon the Council the necessity of entering upon this work in order to relieve a want very much felt by settlers in the central part of the Province.

In accordance with the Resolution passed at your last Session, I have caused a reconnaissance survey to be made of the country through which a line of railway to the West Coast should be carried, and I have the gratification of informing you that I am advised that a perfectly practicable line can be made. Commencing from Horsley Down, the distance to Hokitika is about 100 miles, and the estimated cost of the line, exclusive of rolling stock, would be at the rate of about £6,000 per mile.

Though at present this undertaking may be far beyond the means at our disposal, yet the information and knowledge of the country obtained during the survey not only have an important present value, but will be of the greatest utility in the future, when the natural development of the resources of the Province shall warrant our proceeding with the work.

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With respect to Harbour Accommodation, I shall cause to be laid before you Estimates of Expenditure which is considered necessary for the proper and commodious berthing of shipping.

I have entered into a provisional contract for the purchase of the property known as the Peacock Wharf property, the particulars of which will be laid before you, and upon which I request your early and favourable decision.

A sum of money will be placed upon the Estimates for the purpose of proceeding with the Northern Line of Railway.

I consider that the settlers to the north have a fair and just claim to the execution of this project, which should be carried out immediately upon the negotiation of our debentures.

I have caused an amount of money to be placed upon the Estimates for the purpose of carrying out the proposal made by Mr. Balfour for the protection of the Timaru Roadstead, and I trust that the financial position of the Province will no longer delay the prosecution of this work.

Considerable expenditure will be necessary during the ensuing few months upon permanent buildings and other improvements upon the Lyttelton and Christchurch and Southern Lines of Railway, in order to the proper and efficient management and working thereof.

Correspondence with the General Government, in reference to the consolidation of Provincial Loans, will be laid before you. I consider that the consolidation of all Provincial Loans into New Zealand Stock will have a very material and beneficial effect upon the sale of our securities yet unrealised. It will be necessary, however, to guard ourselves zealously and carefully from concurrence in any measures which may endanger the interests of the Province.

It is not considered necessary to introduce male immigrants at present, and with that view the amount placed upon the Estimates for immigration purposes I propose to devote to the introduction of female immigrants only. The want of this class of population is very perceptible.

Few Bills of any great importance will be laid before you. The probable result of the legislation of the ensuing Session of the General Assembly will prevent the proposal of certain Ordinances concerning Municipal Institutions. I may express a hope that any measure enacted by the General Assembly, having for its object the extension of these institutions, may not have the effect of suddenly revolutionising the present constitution of the Provinces.

Reports by the Westland Commission, and the Mining Conference, and Resolutions recommending legislation in the General Assembly on the subject of the sale and occupation of lands within the Goldfields, will be submitted for your acceptance.

The foregoing matters will necessarily claim your prompt attention. It is also very desirable that many other subjects should be dealt with at an early date. Shortly after the Session of the General Assembly I will call you together, if I am advised that such a course would be profitable.

Estimates of Expenditure for only nine months are prepared, it being my intention to alter the end of the financial year from the 30th June to the 31st March. The Estimates have been compiled with the strongest desire to effect a fair and provident distribution of the revenues over all parts of the Province.

Gentlemen, I trust that your labours may be attended by those great benefits which have hitherto followed your efforts.

I have now to declare the Council to be duly opened for the transaction of business.

W. S. MOORHOUSE,
Superintendent.

CHRISTCHURCH :

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