



OTAGO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

All Public Notifications which appear in this Gazette, with any Official Signature thereunto annexed are to be considered as Official Communications made to those Persons to whom they may relate, and are to be obeyed accordingly.

JOHN L. C. RICHARDSON, Superintendent.

Vol. IV.]

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1862.

[No 162.]

New Zealand, Province of Otago,
4th February, 1862.

SIR,—By virtue of the powers entrusted to us, under a warrant from His Excellency Governor Gore Brown, as declared in the annexed Copy of the *Otago Provincial Government Gazette*, we hereby appoint Matthew Holmes, Esquire, the bearer of this document, to represent us at the Exhibition in question, and give him full power and authority to carry into effect, the purposes for which we were appointed by all lawful ways and means.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient and humble servants,

THOS. BURNS, D.D., *Chairman.*
CHARLES H. KETTLE,
J. RICHARDSON, *Superintendent of the Province of Otago.* } *Commissioners.*

F. R. SANDFORD, Esq.,

Secretary to Her Majesty's Commissioners,
for the International Exhibition of
1862, 454, West Strand, London.

30th September, 1861.

GOLD FIELDS.

MEMORANDUM.

In proceeding to the Gold-fields on the mission which he is deputed to undertake, the Superintendent wishes the Provincial Secretary to avoid pledging the Government to any particular line of action, as no decision will be arrived at until after his report shall have been received and considered. With this view the Superintendent suggests that it would be expedient, as far as possible, to confine his interviews to the Officer of the Gold-fields residing on the ground, or, at least, to avoid any public reception on the part of the miners.

1. The chief point to which attention should be directed is the ascertaining in what manner the Gold-fields can be most profitably developed, and, with this view, it would be well to ascertain what are the ex-

isting obstacles, and the best means of removing them. This consideration will embrace, among other points, the extent of claim to be allowed under various kinds of workings, the turnings of streams, &c.

2. With a view also to the comfort of the miners, it will be necessary to examine the coal deposits as to what extent of ground might be granted to a company (reserving the gold), and under what conditions.

3. How the necessities of the sick could be best provided for, bearing in mind that Government aid is only supplementary; and what provision could be made for the dead by setting aside cemeteries in certain central spots.

4. It will be also expedient to ascertain in what spots, central in their position, one or more townships with suburban acre sections might be profitably laid off, to be leased for three to seven years, bearing in mind that the Government have no power of sale.

5. Subserving to these considerations, but necessarily accompanying them, is the question how we may manage to offer sufficient inducements to the fine body of men who have come to our shores to settle permanently among us. You will bear in mind that townships will be immediately laid off at the mouth of the Tuapeka and Waitahuna, and portions of the Hundreds in those neighbourhoods, as surveyed, thrown into the market; but I cannot conceal from myself the fact that the competitive character of the sale of new lands offers but few facilities to the new comers. A remedy must be sought, otherwise all our efforts will be in vain. It is, therefore, highly expedient that you should remember that the Government desire to see the wastes peopled by a thriving population, the surest element of strength and prosperity.

J. RICHARDSON, Superintendent.

MEMORANDUM:

By the Provincial Secretary to his Honor the Superintendent, on the subject of the Regulations of the Gold Fields, drawn up in accordance with his instructions.

ALTERATION IN REGULATIONS.

The alterations proposed in an Appendix to this Memorandum are fully approved by the Commissioners of the Tuapeka and Waitahuna Gold Fields, as well as by every working miner with whom I conversed on the subject. I may mention that several men of intelligence, energy, and capital who were contemplating leaving the Province, told me they would stay for a week or two to see whether the re-

commendations referred to were adopted or not, and would finally remain if the decisions of the Government were liberal in their character.

COAL DEPOSITS

The supply of fuel to the digging population is undoubtedly of paramount importance, and I think the Government would be justified in going beyond their understood province in securing it. I do not doubt the existence of Coal in the immediate neighborhood of Wetherstone's Gully, and in Waitahuna Flat, and I have seen lignite, a fair substitute for it, in the Waitahuna and Tuapeka Flats. But, although written applications have been made for privileges for working Coal, and I saw specimens of the Coal in the stores, no one with whom I conversed could give me information as to the locality from which it was obtained; but I have seen lignite in the beds of the Tuapeka and Waitahuna River.

Though I cannot make up my mind to strongly recommend such a course, yet I see now no better way of proceeding in this matter, than by advertising for tenders, from persons willing to contract for raising, say 1000 tons of Coal for the Government, at each of the most thickly populated diggings. There are objections to such a course, but they are less weighty than those which exist in regard to the absence of all effort for the supply of fuel during the coming winter.

I am of opinion that a failure to obtain coal will produce much sickness and distress among the mining population as loss to the Province, and vigorous efforts should be made to prevent it.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The amount voted by the Council in the last session is totally inadequate to the requirements of the case. A subscription at the Wetherston, Gabriel and Waitahuna gold fields has been commenced, but without a very satisfactory prospect of its doing much in aid of the Government grant. I have requested the Secretary of each fund to place himself in communication with the Government on the subject.

TOWNSHIPS.

Nothing can be of much greater importance, with the view to making the Gold Fields a means of permanently settling the country, than the sale of Township sites. There will be no difficulty in coming to a correct decision as to where two of these should be—namely, one on the hill at Chaplin's tent. This is central for the population in Tuapeka, Gabriel's, and Wetherston's, and is where the roads to these places diverge. It is well supplied with water, is not very distant from the lignite in Tuapeka, or from the Coal, reported to crop out of the field near Wetherston's. The second Township should be on the banks of the Waitahuna or Waitahuna Flat, where the Mount Stuart Road, the round Hill Road, and the road from Nuggety and Waitahuna gullies unite at the bridge on the road leading to Tuapeka.

The nature of the soil in the environs of each of these proposed Townships is good and well fitted for leasing to small cultivators.

LEASES.

No suggestion of the Government has been welcomed more enthusiastically than the granting of leases of small farms and garden sites. It would cause the substitution of comfortable clay houses for the tents, and besides cheapening to a great extent the provisions of the miner, would change the character of the nomadic population of the Gold Fields in many instances to that of settled residents. Until some such inducements are offered, they will leave their families in other colonies, and return there with the rewards of their industry, instead of expending them in the country from which they have won them.

OFFICERS' QUARTERS.

These are in every case unsuitable for the purpose required. I advise the removal of the camps to the sites of the selected townships, and the erection there of suitable buildings of a warmer, more substantial, and commodious character.

The site of the present camp at Gabriel's Gully I think peculiarly objectionable, and a part of the more central site indicated above should be proclaimed a reserve for the Government use.

Instructions should also be given to the Commissioner on each field to recommend reserves for places of public worship, burial grounds, and temporary townships.

QUARTZ REEFS.

The opinion that quartz reefs exist I find to be very general, and guided by the opinions of authorities on the subject, I recommend that a rule be inserted in the regulations empowering Commissioners to grant rights to successful prospectors for reefs of 200 feet

along the centre, or presumed centre of reefs, and extending 150 feet on either side of it *

WET SINKING.

In places like Wellington Flat, below Wetherstone's Gully, where the bottom rock cannot be reached with out machinery for pumping out the water, I recommend the grant of extended claims. The claims now given are too small to justify miners in fitting up horse pumps or steam power, and claims should be given bearing some proportion to the horse power erected.

MINING BOARDS.

There exists among the miners a pretty general desire for self-government by means of the proclamation of mining districts, and the election of Mining Boards. I am of opinion that it is advisable to proclaim these districts in every case, so soon as the forms of the Act have been complied with.

In one instance this has already been done, and I suggest that the land in the goldfields included in the Water Shed of the Tuapeka, be proclaimed a mining district accordingly.

ROADS.

In Wetherstone's and Gabriel's Gullies the roads require the expenditure of about six hundred pounds immediately. Acknowledging the propriety of helping those who are willing to help themselves, I beg to recommend that power be given to the road inspector of the district, to expend in bridging the creeks in the gullies, and in such other works as may be more immediately necessary, a sum of money equal in amount to double the sum raised by subscription in either of these places.

JOHN HARDY.

* In the Sandhurst Regulations 200 yards in length on the supposed line of reef, by a width at right angles to the said line of 150 yards, is given to prospectors, and 35 yards on any known reef to any individual miner, and to each mining party on a known reef 80 yards.

MEMORANDUM

By Provincial Secretary, of Alterations required in the Goldfields' Regulations:—

Rule 2—Strike out.

Rule 3—Amend in this form.—The extent of ground that may be occupied in alluvial workings by any miner, in respect of a miner's right, shall be—

For surface diggings, an area of 64 yards
Ditto, if to a greater depth than 12 feet 80 "

For ground where sinking and driving is necessary 80 "

Ditto, where the sinking exceeds 50 feet 96 "

" where the sinking exceeds 100 feet 128 "

The Commissioners may grant a claim of any size not exceeding treble the area of primary claims, on land that has been worked and abandoned.

Rule 4—Strike out the word "four" in the third line, and insert "any number," and substitute the word "half" for "two," in the same line.

Rule 9—To this add:—That any Company, formed for the purpose of laying bare and working a river bed, shall be entitled to occupy and use, for each holder of a miner's right in the company, 16 yards in length of the river's bed; and also, the race, or cut, for the conveyance of the water from the point where the claim commenced, to where it is re-delivered into the natural bed of the stream. And also shall be protected in the surface occupation, during the work of a sufficient bank for retaining the water in the race, and of a track 24 feet in breadth along one bank of the river.

Rule 14—I recommend striking out the word "double" in the third line, and insertion of "treble" instead. And to limit the increased grant to four miners.

Rule 15—In this clause, I recommend that powers be given to the Commissioners to grant suspense claims for seven days.

JOHN HARDY,

Provincial Secretary.

NOTICE.

IMPOUNDED on the 27th of January, a Dark Grey Gelding, branded TR on off shoulder.

If not claimed on or before the 6th day of March, 1862, will be sold by auction to defray expenses.

JOHN BARR,

Poundkeeper.