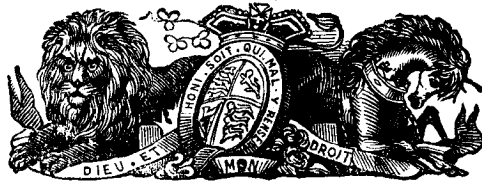


## NEW ZEALAND.



# OTAGO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

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DUNEDIN, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 1869.

No. 613.

[WITH SUPPLEMENT.]

**HIS HONOR** the Deputy-Superintendent directs it to be notified that he will receive Deputations at 2 o'clock on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. A statement of the nature of the business intended to be brought before His Honor, must be left at the Superintendent's office at least one day previous to the day on which the Deputations fix for calling.

JOHN LOGAN,  
Secretary to the Superintendent.

9th June, 1869.

**HIS HONOR THE SUPERINTENDENT** directs the publication of the following Report for general information.

3rd June, 1869.

Survey Office,  
Dunedin, Feb. 22, 1869.

SIR,—In laying the report on Preservation Inlet before you, I beg to state that plans of the work executed will be prepared as soon as possible, all my time there being fully occupied with the field work and calculations, leaving the mapping to be done in the office on my return. The base line is only over half a mile in length, being as long as could be got. It is nearly level, and mostly on the sand between low and high water marks. I made 14 Trig Stations, scattered over an area of over 24 square miles. The nature of the country required so many, to prevent losing more time cutting down bush to see greater distances. I found it impossible to arrange the trigs so as every side of the triangles could be observed, finding the bearing of the third side occasionally by calculation. Convenient to the camp I selected a spot for a Trig Station, where I took all the astronomical observations. I connected it to Table Rock and Cuttle Cove, two of Capt. Stokes's positions, by a series of triangles, determining its latitude and longitude by Plane Trigonometry. Therefrom I started the Survey on the true Meridian,

which I found by taking equal altitudes and azimuths of Rigel, Zeta Orionis, and Procyon, and by way of check taking several sets of forenoon and afternoon observations of the sun.

Accompanying the report are tables of three months' meteorological observations. Mr. Skey has supplied me with the means of his observations for the same time, and a comparison may not be uninteresting:

	PRESERVATION INLET.			DUNEDIN.		
	Bar.	Ther.	Rain.	Bar.	Ther.	Rain.
Nov.	29.80	52	9.40	...	29.79	54 1.72
Dec.	29.68	52	11.79	...	29.65	55 2.25
Jan.	29.86	55½	6.59	...	29.88	57 3.52

The total Rainfall for a period of 91 days is within a fraction of 30 inches. There were only 28 days during this time on which no rain fell, yet notwithstanding this there were no more than five days on which no outside work was done.

A. JOHNSTON,  
Assistant Surveyor.

#### SURVEYOR'S REPORT ON PRESERVATION INLET.

The s.s. Tairaroa, commanded by Captain Tall, and having on board Captain Thomson, Harbor Master, and the Government survey party, after a passage of three days, calling on the way at Port Molyneux, Waikawa, and Bluff Harbor, where she lay a day windbound, arrived in Preservation Inlet on Saturday night, 7th Nov., 1868. Although quite dark, the Tairaroa steamed into the Inlet, by the northern or main entrance, anchoring in a small bay where there has been formerly a whaling station, close under Steep-to or Crayfish Island. All Sunday the steamer lay at anchor. On Monday morning, she steamed round the Island to the southern shore of the other entrance, and landed the surveying instruments and stores on a fine sandy beach, which had been selected as a camping place. After a short cruise up the Sound, the Tairaroa left for Dunedin

during the same afternoon, going out by the same passage she had entered.

The Inlet runs into the interior upwards of twenty miles, and has a width varying from a quarter of a mile to three miles. It possesses many fine anchorages, chiefly within a radius of five miles from the Heads. Price's Beach, immediately inside Gutches' Head, on the north shore, is a safe anchorage in north-west gales. Here Jack Price, a whaler, died and was buried, forty years ago. The slab of totara, marking the spot, on which the name and date is carved, is in good preservation even to this day. Inside Cuttle Cove is the snugest place for a vessel to lie; but almost anywhere on the south shore of the Inlet, from Otago's Retreat to Kisbe Bay, vessels may anchor safely in any weather. Captain Thomson approved of Kisbe Bay as the best site for a township, and here it was afterwards laid off. The Tairaroa, on her second trip to the Inlet, to bring the party back, anchored in two places in the southern entrance: first inside the shoal, over which, at high water, she sailed, anchoring then in Otago's Retreat, convenient to the South Heads, thence sailed out to sea, this being the first vessel which ever made the southern passage. The rocks on the coast line, and for two miles inwards, are chiefly sandstone, succeeded by slaty rocks, which extend four or five miles. After that to the top of the sound the rocks are almost entirely granite, from the base to the summit of the mountains. In the sandstone and slate rocks are numerous fine caves, on the floor of which there is a thin coating of guano. Stalactites were found hanging from the roof of one cave in the sandstone rocks. Through it there runs a fine stream of water. Enclosed in a box in a cave, at a fine sandy beach, two miles from the heads on the south shore, I left a quantity of provisions.

#### *Nature of the soil.*

The soil along the shores is sandy. Away from the beach, where the ground is flat, and on the tops of hills of small elevation, it is composed of vegetable matter, occasionally of a very mossy nature, resting on gravel or rock. It varies in thickness from a few inches to five and six feet. There is very little soil on the steep slopes of the hills, where the trees strike their roots into the crevices and fissures of the rocky face. A piece of ground was cleared for a garden, in which seeds were sown, and cabbages and potatoes planted. This was in the beginning of November—rather too late in the season; and just then the weather was so cold and wet they got a bad start. In three months they came to nothing, only one cabbage out of half a hundred thrived, and it perished of blight. The cress flowered before it was fit for use. The potatoes only seemed healthy and thriving when the party left.

#### *Trees of the Forest.*

The bush begins at high water mark, covers the tops of all the Islands, and clothes the mountain sides to an altitude of 2000 feet. Birch, red pine, ironwood, miro, and totara are the chief varieties. Birch is the commonest and has the greatest range. It grows on the shore, as well as away near the summits. On the top of Steep-to Island one was cut down 18 feet girth. There are some fine red pine 70 to 80ft. high, straight, and taper without branches. Ironwood, at this season, is the prettiest tree in the bush, being covered with scarlet flowers; is mostly confined to the shores and hills of low elevation. It attains a girth of 5 to 6ft. in certain places. Miro and totara for the most part are small and crooked, and not of much use, especially the latter. Although good and useful timber exists everywhere, yet not in sufficient quantities in any convenient locality to keep a mill any length of time employed. The shores, wherever the soil is sandy, and the rocks above high water mark, are adorned with shrubbery of the most beautiful description. A few of the shrubs have pretty flowers. The fuschia tree is plentiful, and the tutu attains the dignity of a tree 20 and 30ft. high. There are several kinds of tree ferns, one of which, the mummuk of the Maoris, is peculiar

to the West Coast. It grows large, is an edible fern, and a great ornament to the bush, especially near the upper end of the Sound. The bush is mostly open and easily traversed, rarely choked with thicket, excepting a belt of supplejacks along the shores of the inlet, varying in width from a few yards to a quarter of a mile. The undergrowth on landslips is impenetrable, and also wherever the bush has been cleared by the whalers. It is seldom dry under foot, owing to the moistness of the climate, and from the number of fallen decaying trees, and the soft spongy nature of the ground, it is very tiresome travelling far into the bush. It is evident, from the fine specimens of mosses and lichens on the ground and fallen trees, that the climate is exceedingly humid. Two or three days' very dry weather unless the bush is dense, gives everything a parched appearance, as if the nature of the soil demanded much moisture. Flax is not plentiful, and is of a different kind from that on the East Coast. The fibre is not so strong, but finer, and more silky in appearance.

#### *Agricultural Land.*

Available agricultural land is very scarce in Preservation Inlet. It is found in any extent in only three places. Between Seek Cove in Preservation, and Southport in Chalky Inlet, there is a piece of fair level land, estimated by Dr. Hector at 1200 acres. Adjoining Kisbe Bay and towards Revolver Bay there is land of similar quality, probably 1500 acres, being comparatively level. Three miles from the entrance to the latter bay, farther up the Sound, there is a fine piece of level land known as the Birch Flat, containing a few hundred acres. Through it runs a fine stream, which in wet weather must rush from the mountains in torrents, because of the great quantity of large trees at its mouth, evidently carried there by the force of the current. Between 2000 and 3000ft. altitude, the hills have all the appearance of being well grassed. Above the latter height they are mostly naked, bare rock. Want of time prevented the ascending of any of the mountains to have a look into the interior. The general appearance of the country, however, is against the supposition that there are any tracts of open land at a low elevation. If there is, it must be behind the hills which rise around and beyond Kisbe Bay. The country from their summits dips away towards Howtoko Lake, discovered and described by Mr. M'Kerrow in his reconnaissance survey of the Waiau and south-western districts. Kisbe Bay is the proper place to start from to explore this hitherto unknown part of the Province. From here clear ground could be reached without much difficulty.

#### *Coal.*

Seams of coal have been discovered in five different places on or near to the Ocean Beach, between Payseur Point and Gulches Head, a distance of miles. Thin seams of coaly matter have also been found cropping out on the cliffs a mile from the Heads, in the south entrance. The seam, which has been worked by a drive, is on the Ocean Beach, round the Heads from Otago's Retreat. It is apparently the best yet discovered. On the face of the cliff it is 2ft. 8in. thick, and gradually increases till the end of the drive, which is about 50 yards in, where it is 4ft. thick. Half-way in there is a break in the seam, where the coaly matter is of a stony hardness, unfit for use. This extends only a few feet vertically; how far it may affect the seam horizontally I cannot tell. Between the break and the cliff the coal is brownish, and has a lignite appearance; from the break inwards it becomes clearer, blacker, and more glossy, indicating an improvement in quality the farther in the drive goes. The dip of the seam inclines to the sea, at the same time dipping inwards, leading to the conclusion that it must be found within the harbor, if a proper search was made. A seam does appear inside at low water, but whether it is the same or no it is difficult to determine, because here the rocky crust has been very much disturbed. Immediately opposite, on the north side of the passage of Coal Island, the cliffs

are again perpendicular, but no appearance of coal until rounding the Heads, where a seam of about 9in. is seen at low water. Probably it is the one referred to by Dr Hector in his report, out of which he took a ton of coal, and, after trying it, reckoned it equal to the best Sydney coal. The coal mined in the drive looked superior to this. Its quality is judged from its outside look, and after seeing it in use. It was used in a small forge in a cave, for sharpening tools, and was found to answer the purpose very well, but it emits a disagreeable sulphurous smoke, rendering a long stay in the cave extremely uncomfortable. Besides the presence of sulphur scattered through the coal, there are pieces of gum found as large as a pigeon's egg, resembling the kauri gum of the North Island. The Tairaroa took two or three tons on board, the men carrying the coal in bags on their backs nearly a quarter of a mile, thence to the steamer about as far in boats. The steamer could come quite close if the coal was found in sufficient quantity to warrant the erection of a wharf. The coal was used as fuel in getting up steam, and commencing the return voyage. The smoke from the funnel was clearer than that of the Newcastle coal. In the furnace it has a greater flame, and burns more rapidly, keeping the firemen constantly shovelling in a fresh supply. They had a great difficulty in keeping the furnace bars free from slagging, requiring a hammer occasionally to break off the clinkers. Twice during the night, whilst the furnace was being cleaned out, the steam went down. The engineer was of opinion that the coal was unsuited for the Tairaroa, but might do in a larger steamer having more furnaces than one, so that whilst one was being cleaned out another might still keep up the steam. It should be mentioned that this may scarcely be considered a fair trial, and before condemning the coal as unfit for the purposes of steam, it should also be borne in mind that though the coal used was a fair sample of what has been mined, that it was taken almost from the surface, and has been lying exposed to the atmospheric influences for nearly twelve months. Then again, it was an exceedingly stormy night, wind dead ahead, so that the best coal being used much way might not have been made in rounding Windsor Point, where, at all times, it is more or less stormy. It should be even taken into account, the fact of its being the first trial of the coal—mayhap raising the common prejudices of the workmen against any new thing, rendering them less careful in attending to the furnace than at other times. The coal on the heap looks as sound and hard as the day it was mined, but a very slight blow of a hammer crumbles it to pieces, so I have no doubt of its having deteriorated through exposure. A good tramway has been formed, nearly a quarter of a mile long, and a quantity of ironwood sleepers are cut and ready for use. At the end of the tramway a shoot could be made, leading to a wharf which could be easily constructed. It would not require to be of great extent, as the water is deep close in shore. There is good anchorage, and the largest of the ocean steamers could come in at any time of the tide, and lie alongside the wharf in safety, excepting in stormy westerly weather, when it would be necessary to anchor away from the Jetty, because of the swell of the ocean. It is difficult to give an approximate estimate of the extent of the coal field, on account of the broken disturbed nature of the country, and no one could do so without boring and making a more thorough investigation than has yet been done.

#### *Birds.*

Nearly all the varieties of birds on the East Coast are met with in the Inlet, and a few more peculiar to the south and west of the Middle Island, such as the crow, the thrush, and the jack-bird, a small whistling bird larger than the robin, black, with a brown back, and long straight beak. The kakapo or green-bird was found everywhere, from the ocean beach to the banks of the fresh water lake at the top of the Inlet. The kiwi, evidently rarer than the kakapo, was also found

throughout the Inlet, chiefly on the slopes of the hills away from the beach. At this season they have young. Two old birds were caught, one of them having one young bird, the other two. They are both night birds, and are taken usually in holes during the day, traced there by means of a dog. Neither of them appear to have any favorite hole or haunt, merely adopting the first that comes to hand when daylight sets in, or when hard pressed. Both are good eating, particularly the kiwi. There are two kinds of wood-hens, black and brown, and are found feeding together on all the beaches. Some suppose the latter, the male, and the former, to be the female bird. All the varieties of duck are common, paradise, black, grey, blue or whistling duck, and the red-bill. Mutton bird frequents the Inlet too in the breeding season. At the top of the Inlet, two white cranes were seen, apparently male and female. Kakas were very plentiful, but this year the pigeons, which at times are equally numerous, were exceedingly scarce.

#### *Streams.*

No large rivers pour their waters into the Sound. The rain seems to run down the steep slopes of the mountains as it does off the roofs of houses, in jets and small streams, forming innumerable fine waterfalls, in sunshine glittering like silver veins on the face of the bold rock. From the amount of fresh water pouring in on all sides, the water of the inlet at its upper extremity is brackish, although the influence of the tide is as apparent here as anywhere, marking its mean range at high water very distinctly on the rocks close under the falls. These falls are from 80 to 100 feet in height, and are very grand. They are caused by the descent in three leaps of the principal river in the Inlet. It is about 30 yards wide immediately above them. By following its banks through the bush a distance of 300 yards, the shores of a fresh water lake are reached. It was first seen by Messrs. Coates and West some time last year. Mr. Fraser, of the Coal Company, went along with the writer of the report to its shores this year. It appears to be about a mile wide, and about three miles from its lower end, retires behind precipitous mountains. Near the top, a sandy beach fronting a small patch of flat bush land can be distinctly seen. The lake scenery is of a wilder description than that of the Inlet, which it resembles very much, with the exception of its being fresh water. The mountains are steeper and steeper, covered with snow at this season, and with streams of water pouring over the naked rocks until reaching the bush line, where they disappear.

Fish of excellent quality are abundant, and can be taken by hook and line in great quantities. They include blue cod, trumpeter, sea perch, groper, and barracouta. At low water, crayfish of a large size can be picked off the rocks or speared on the sandy bottoms along the shores of the Inlet. Of shell-fish the varieties are mutton-fish, mussels, cockles, and limpets. Eels also abound in the lakes and streams.

#### *Climate.*

The chief characteristic of the climate is its humidity; the sky usually dull and cloudy. Rain seldom falls heavily for any length of time, but in showers, or in a soft steady drizzle, in this respect resembling Dreepdaily, the native parish of Andrew Fairservice of Sir Walter Scott. Squalls in wild weather are frequent, rendering sailing in small craft exceeding dangerous. The wind is so unsteady, it requires the utmost caution to keep a boat under sail from upsetting. It blows down the gullies and through the low necks of land furiously, and flies smoking white across the Inlet. Unless by looking up at the cloud drift, it is impossible to tell which way the wind blows outside. The wind commonly blows either up or down the Inlet, excepting where it is at its widest. The swell of the ocean in westerly weather is felt more or less four or five miles from the Heads. It is always coldest when the wind comes from the sea; as soon as it changes to

easterly, especially when it goes south about, fine dry warm weather may be looked for. It seems it is less cold here than at the same latitude on the East coast, and work may be carried on in wet clothes all day long and days together, with seemingly no danger of catching cold. Fog at this season is extremely rare. During the latter part of November, and all December, the weather was wild and stormy, but ever since the commencement of this year it has been fine and calm; clear cloudless skies being frequent night and day, and in weather of this description Preservation Inlet is a pleasant place to live in. There is one serious hindrance to full enjoyment, and that is the sandfly pest; they are troublesome almost to distraction.

The agricultural and pastoral resources of the Inlet are too limited to rank it as a suitable place for settlement in the meantime. Minerals are the hope of the place, and with the exception of the coal nothing valuable has been discovered. It is true the color of gold has been found in several localities. Amongst the shingle on the beach of Steep-to or Crayfish Island a nugget weighing from two to three pennyweights was found by a former party. The sandy beaches and the beds of the creeks glitter with mica, and quartz veins traverse the slate formation, resembling those in which gold is found, but although examined, no traces could be seen. There was no experienced miner in the party, so that any search made may be considered as random work. There are signs of prospecting right at the top of the Sound, leading to the supposition that the shores have at least been searched for the precious metal. Failing all, Preservation Inlet will still remain a safe retreat for the distressed mariner; where the man of science can retire for a while and examine into the mysteries of nature, and where the tourist may wander amongst scenes of beauty and grandeur which may be paralleled, but hardly excelled.

**NOTICE.**—Authority has been granted to the Walton Road Board to place a Toll-bar on the Main District Road, and, on and after the 12th day of July, 1869, to charge the rates mentioned in Schedule B of the Turnpike Ordinance 1866.

D. REID,  
Secretary for Land and Works.

9th June, 1869.

**DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.**—Notice is hereby given that the Partnership hitherto existing between Alexander M'Master and William Henry Teschemaker, in the trade or business of Sheep Farmers and Graziers, under the style or firm of "M'Master and Teschemaker," has this day been dissolved by mutual consent.

Dated the 10th day of May, 1869.

ALEX. M'MASTER.  
W. H. TESCHEMAKER.

Witness:

GIBSON K. TURTON,  
Solicitor, Dunedin.

18s.

**DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.**—Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned James Smith and Andw. M'Laren, carrying on business as Butchers, at Tokomairiro, under the name and firm of "A. M'Laren & Co." was dissolved on the 1st day of June inst.

All debts due to and by the said late firm, will be received and paid by the said Andw. M'Laren, who will continue the business on his own account.

Dated this 5th day of June, 1869.

(Signed) { JAMES SMITH.  
ANDREW M'LAREN.

Witness to both signatures:

(Signed) JOHN L. SOUTTER. 3t—21s.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that the Partnership hitherto existing between George and John Whittingham and David Weaver, trading under the style or firm of Whittingham Brothers and Weaver, at Queenstown, has been dissolved by mutual consent, on and from the 21st day of May, 1869.

All moneys owing the late firm will be received by Whittingham Brothers, who will carry on the business as heretofore.

Dated, Queenstown, 21 May, 1869.

GEORGE WHITTINGHAM.  
JOHN WHITTINGHAM,

By his attorney, George Whittingham.  
DAVID WEAVER.

Witness:

H. MANDERS,  
3t—24s. Legal and Mining Agent, Queenstown.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that the Partnership hitherto subsisting between us, the undersigned, carrying on business under the firm of Booth Bros, Merchants, Oamaru, hath this day been dissolved by mutual consent. The junior partner, Walter Booth, having entered into a Flax business, the late firm of Booth Bros., will in future be carried on solely on account of Joseph Booth, who will pay and receive all debts due to the late firm.

(Signed) JOSEPH BOOTH.  
WALTER BOOTH.

Dated this 13th day of May, 1869.

Witness:

(Signed) JAMES HASSELL. 3t—21s

**IMPOUNDED** in the Oamaru Pound, on the 4th June, 1869, by order of Alexander M'Master, Esq., Boundary Creek, one dark red or brindle bull, white spots on belly, branded like B near rump; owner unknown; for trespassing in paddock at Boundary Creek, belonging to Alexander M'Master, Esq.; for which no damage is claimed; and in default of being released, the above bull will be sold at the public pound at Oamaru, on Friday, 2nd July, 1869, at 12 o'clock noon.

JOHN GRAY, Poundkeeper.