



# OTAGO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

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## PROCLAMATION

Setting apart 3,000 Acres of Land in the Otaria and Kaiwera Hundreds for occupation on deferred payments.

By His Honor James Macandrew, Esquire, Superintendent of the Province of Otago.

WHEREAS by the 47th Section of the Act of the General Assembly of New Zealand, intituled "The Otago Waste Lands Act, 1872," it is enacted that it shall be lawful for the Superintendent, with the advice and consent of the Provincial Council, to set apart in any part of the province, districts or blocks of land within which licenses to occupy land and leases thereof on deferred payments may be granted either exclusively, or within which the land shall be open for license or lease on deferred payment, or for sale on immediate payment. And whereas by the "Abolition of Provinces Act, 1875," it is enacted that until the day next after the last day of the first session of the next or sixth Parliament of New Zealand all powers, duties, and functions which immediately before the passing of this Act were under or by virtue of any law vested in or to be exercised or performed by the Superintendent of any Province on the recommendation or resolution of the Provincial Council, of such Province under any law or Ordinance for the time being in force shall be exercised by the Superintendent, with the consent of the Governor in Council; And whereas the Superintendent of the Province of Otago has recommended the Governor in Council to set apart the lands hereinafter specified for alienation on deferred payments. And whereas His Excellency the Governor in Council has given his consent to this proclamation and to such setting apart.

Now, therefore, I, James Macandrew, Superintendent of the Province of Otago, by and with the consent of the Governor in Council, as aforesaid, do hereby, by virtue and in exercise of the powers conferred upon me by the "Otago Waste Lands Act, 1872," and of every or any power in this behalf enabling me, proclaim, declare, and set apart all those sections numbered respectively 1, 6, 9, 10, 11, 17, 19, 23, and

24, block II., Slope Down District, sections 10, 11, 12, and 13, block III., Slope Down District, on the map of the said Slope Down District, as sections open for license or lease as aforesaid, and that the said sections will be open on the 19th day of May, 1876, for application for license and lease on deferred payment, as provided in the "Otago Waste Lands Act, 1872."

Given under my hand, and issued under the public seal of the Province of Otago, this seventh day of April, 1876.

(L.S.) J. MACANDREW, Superintendent of Otago.

V. R. IN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

His Excellency the Governor is recommended to approve in accordance with the 27th Section of "The Abolition of Provinces Act, 1875," the accompanying Proclamation by His Honor the Superintendent of Otago, under "The Otago Waste Lands Act," setting aside 3,000 acres in the Otaria and Kaiwera Hundreds for settlement on the deferred payment system.

H. A. ATKINSON, 29th April, 1876.

In Council, May 3, 1876, Auckland.  
FORSTER GORING, Clerk of the Executive Council.

Districts under "The Marriage Act Amendment Act, 1858."

(L.S.) NORMANBY, Governor.

A PROCLAMATION: WHEREAS by "The Marriage Act Amendment Act, 1858," it is enacted that it shall be lawful for the Governor at any time, by Proclamation in the New Zealand Gazette, to divide the colony for the purposes of the said Act, into such and so

many districts as he shall think fit, and that every such district shall be called by a distinct name, and shall be a Registrar's District: Provided always that the Governor may at any time revoke the whole or any part of such Proclamation, and issue a new Proclamation dividing the colony or any portion of it anew into districts, or increasing the number or altering the boundaries of districts, as from time to time he may think requisite:

And whereas by a Proclamation duly made and issued, bearing date the twenty-fifth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, the then Governor, in pursuance of the power and authority vested in him, did, amongst others, constitute a district for the purpose of the said Act called the "Nokomai and Switzers" District, the boundaries whereof were therein set forth, which said Proclamation came into operation and took effect on the first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight:

And whereas by a Proclamation duly made and issued, bearing date the fourteenth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and seventy, the then Governor, in pursuance of the said recited power and authority, did, amongst others, constitute a district for the purposes of the said Act, called the "Popotuna" District and the "Lower Mataura" District, the boundaries whereof were therein set forth, which said Proclamation came into operation and took effect on the first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventy:

And whereas by a Proclamation duly made and issued, bearing date the sixteenth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, the then Governor, in pursuance of the said recited power and authority, did, amongst others, constitute a district for the purposes of the said Act, called the "Invercargill" District, the boundaries whereof were therein set forth, which said Proclamation came into operation and took effect on the first day of September, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three:

And whereas it is expedient to revoke so much of the said Proclamation as relates to the said districts, and to divide anew the territory comprised within such districts:

Now, therefore, I, George Augustus Constantine, Marquis of Normanby, the Governor of the said colony, in pursuance and exercise of the power and authority vested in me by the said recited Act, do hereby revoke the said Proclamations so far as they relate to the Nokomai and Switzers, Popotuna, Lower Mataura, and Invercargill Districts, and do proclaim and declare that the territory formerly comprised within the said districts shall be and is hereby divided, for the purposes of the said Act, into five districts, the names and boundaries whereof shall be as follow:

#### MATAURA.

All that area bounded on the south by the southern boundary of Run 132, thence by the Mimahau Stream to the Mataura River, thence by the north-eastern and northern boundaries of the Mataura Hundred to its north-western corner, thence by a right line to the source of the nearest branch of the Lindhurst Stream, to its junction with the Lindhurst Stream, thence by the Lindhurst Stream to its junction with the Makarewa River; on the west by the Makarewa River to its junction with the Otapiri Stream, thence by the Otapiri Stream and the east and north-east boundaries of Run 146 to the Oreti River, thence by the Oreti River to the southern boundary of Run 191; on the north by the southern boundaries of Runs 191, 191 extended, and 304; on the east by the Mataura River to the Otamita Creek, thence on the north by a line due east until it cuts the Waikaka Stream, thence on the east by the Waikaka Stream to its junction

with the Pukerau Stream, thence by the Pukerau Stream, and eastern boundaries of Runs 131 and 132 to the starting point.

#### NOKOMAI AND SWITZERS

Comprise all that area bounded by a line from Lorn Peak, near the southern extremity of Lake Wakatipu, westwards to a point in the boundary of the late Province of Southland two miles above the junction of the Allanburn with the River Mataura, which forms the said provincial boundary, thence southwards along the Mataura River to the Otamita Creek; on the south (crossing the river) by a line due east until it cuts the Waikaka Stream, thence northwards along the Waikaka to the source of its eastern branch, thence to the Leithen Stream, and by the Leithen Stream to the Pomahaka River, and by the Pomahaka River to the junction of Spylaw Burn, thence straight to Wart Hill, thence by the Umbrella Mountains to a point due west of Jordan Creek, at its junction with the Clutha River, thence by the ranges to Rocky Mountain, thence direct to Lorn Peak, the starting point.

#### POPOTUNA

Comprises all that area bounded by a line commencing at a bend of the Purekau Stream due west of the junction of the Wupahi Stream with the Pomahaka River, thence due east to the said Pomahaka River, thence by the Tapanui Ranges to the summit, thence due east to a point twenty chains west of the Clutha River, thence southwards, parallel to the Clutha River, to a point opposite the junction of the Crookburn, thence easterly to the Clutha River, thence along the Clutha River to the northern angle of the West Clutha Hundred, thence along the north-western and south-western boundaries of the said hundred and the western boundary of Catlin's Hundred to the ocean, thence westerly along the Ocean Beach to Run 61, thence northerly along the eastern boundaries of Runs 61, 62, 177, 161, 132, and 131, to the starting point.

#### WYNDHAM

Comprises all that area bounded on the north by the Mimahau Stream and southern boundary of Run 132; thence in a southerly direction along the eastern boundaries of Runs 251 and 161 to Run 177; thence along the Tuatuku Bush boundaries of Runs 177, 62, and 61, to the ocean; thence in a westerly direction by the Ocean Beach to the Mataura River; and thence in a northerly direction along the Mataura River to the starting point.

#### INVERCARGILL.

Bounded on the east by the Mataura River to the north-eastern boundary of the Mataura Hundred; on the North by the north-eastern and northern boundaries of the Mataura Hundred to its north-western corner; thence by a right line to the source of the nearest branch of the Lindhurst Stream to its junction with the Lindhurst stream; thence along the Lindhurst Stream to its junction with the Makarewa River; thence along the Makarewa River to its junction with the Otapiri stream; thence along the Otapiri Stream to the east boundary of the Winton Hundred; thence southerly along said boundary to the south boundary of the Winton Hundred; thence along the south boundaries of the Winton and Oreti Hundreds to the Waimatuku River; on the west by the Waimatuku River; on the south by the sea and Campbelltown District.

And I do declare that this Proclamation shall come into operation and take effect on the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six.

Given under the hand of His Excellency the Most Honorable George Augustus Constantine, Marquis of Normanby, Earl of

Mulgrave, Viscount Normanby, and Baron Mulgrave of Mulgrave, all in the County of York, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom; and Baron Mulgrave of New Ross, in the County of Wexford, in the Peerage of Ireland; a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council; Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George; Governor and Commander-in-Chief, in and over Her Majesty's Colony of New Zealand and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same; and issued under the Seal of the said Colony, at the Government House, at Auckland, this second day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six.

EDWARD RICHARDSON.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

### RABBIT NUISANCE.

**T**HE following is published for general information:—

Invercargill, 9th May, 1876.

SIR,—In terms of your request we have the honor to submit the annexed report, with enclosures, on the rabbit nuisance presently prevailing in the District of Southland.

We have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient Servants,

J. RICHARDSON,  
WALTER H. PEARSON.

### REPORT OF THE COMMISSION APPOINTED BY HIS HONOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENQUIRE INTO THE EXTENT OF THE RABBIT NUISANCE IN THE DISTRICT OF SOUTHLAND, 10TH MAY, 1876.

#### REASONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION.

WHEN YOUR HONOR constituted us a Commission to enquire into the extent to which the rabbit nuisance prevails in Southland we were aware that enquiries had been instituted by a Select Committee of the Provincial Council in 1875, and we had been told of the earnest desire expressed by a deputation from certain pastoral tenants of the Crown that a Commission should be appointed to visit the districts said to be infested, and to report the result of their personal inspection and enquiries. Though many of these Crown lessees were suffering severely from the rabbit nuisance, and were well acquainted with the extent of the evil, they deemed it would be judicious in the Government not to be guided entirely by those more immediately concerned, nor upon the testimony gathered at Dunedin. The reputed rapid and sudden increase of rabbits within the short period of two years created in some minds a feeling of doubt whether the statement of the case was not somewhat exaggerated by the fears of those who found themselves exposed to the evils resulting from this invasion, and hence the Crown tenants were urgent that the facts should be fully ascertained and the necessary remedies immediately applied.

#### NATURE OF DUTIES.

In the prosecution of the duty assigned to us we have ridden over some three hundred miles of country, visiting the pastoral tenants and others at their homes, inspecting those portions of the runs of the former considered by them as fair indications of the evils they suffered under, and making personal enquiries of every class as we passed through the infested districts. The

result is embodied in this report. While we have not considered it to be within the bounds of our commission to make any formal recommendation, we have thought it not unadvisable to group together the suggestions we have gathered as a contribution, for what it may be worth, towards the abatement, if not extermination, of the nuisance; nor have we deemed it obligatory on us to confine our attention to that portion of Otago known formerly as the Province of Southland, but have extended our enquiries to other portions of the united provinces; and have, moreover, endeavoured to ascertain what had been done in other colonies similarly afflicted, and with what results. In this direction we have been indebted to the Governors of Victoria and Tasmania, to whom we applied for information; to your Honor, from whom we received communications, from the Chief Secretaries of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania; to the report of the Chief Sheep Inspector, and to that of a Select Committee of the Provincial Council which had been specially appointed to take evidence on the subject.

#### ROUTE.

With a view of acquainting your Honor with the line of country traversed by us it may not be undesirable to roughly indicate the route we adopted. On leaving Invercargill we passed through the Lothian and Lindhurst Districts to the falls on the Mataura, and following up the right bank of that river to Gore we proceeded to McCaughan's Station, diverging into the Hokonui Ranges to Mount Peel, to ascertain whether the rocky districts were affected. Thence we proceeded up the right bank of the Warnea Stream, a tributary of the Mataura, passing by Young and McKellar's Stations to Cowan's Station on the left bank of the Oreti or New River, returning down the bank of that river to Webster and Gibbs' Station, and thence by Winton, Ryal Bush, and Wallacetown to Invercargill. This may be termed the Eastern District.

On the 28th March we resumed our inspection and enquiries, and passed through the Sandhills to Riverton, and from Riverton up the right bank of the Aparima, or Jacobs River, by Gummy's Bush, as far as Otautau; thence, diverging, we left the beaten track to visit Merivale Station, and passed onwards through the Waiau plains to Clarke's Station, on Linton Creek, visiting the eastern slopes of the Takitimos, at an elevation of some 3,000 feet; thence we crossed over to Brown's Station at Bellemonte, near the left bank of the Waiau, and Brown and Barnhill's Station of Blackmount, and striking northward we visited Dundas's Station near the same river, and in close proximity to the Manipori Lake, ascending the Cheviot Hills, which lie half-way up the western ascent of the Excelsior Peak, and then advanced to Hankinson's Station, our most northerly point, about midway between the Te Anau and Manipori Lakes, gathering as we went information about the few stations on the right bank of the Waiau River. This portion of country may be termed the Western district.

Having passed the boundary of the former province of Southland we struck off along the Mararoa River, crossed over some intervening ranges to Campbell's Station at Burwood Forest, leaving Centre Hill on our right, and the West Dome and Five Rivers Plains on our left to Thornhill's Station on the Oreti. Leaving this river to the left we passed through the Wairaki Downs near Bastian's Station, and Stevens and Raymond's Stations, touching the Aparima again by Johnson's Station, near Wrey's Bush, and crossing the Oreti District to the town of Winton, on that river, and thence to Invercargill. This portion may be called the Centre district.

It will thus appear that we have personally visited a very large portion of the Southland country reputed to

before or less infested with rabbits; and those portions which we have not visited, such as the Dome, Longridge, and the plains watered by the Five Rivers, which may be embraced in the eastern and centre districts, we have received such reliable information concerning as fully to satisfy us of their condition. We have placed ourselves in communication with all persons, whatever their vocation, from whom it was likely that we should be able to gather authentic data, and we have been much indebted to the pastoral tenants of the Crown for the fullness and confidence of their communications. We should be doing an injustice to some of these gentlemen were we to indicate with any precision the localities most severely affected, nor would any good to the community result from such definition. We have, therefore, deemed it judicious, for the purposes of this report, to divide the country into large areas, and of these it may be sufficient to say that the western and northern portion of the eastern and central districts are most severely affected.

#### DIVISION OF REPORT.

It will perhaps be more convenient for purposes of reference that the report should be divided in several distinct branches, viz. —

- I. The first appearance of the rabbits in Southland and their progress through the country.
- II. The extent of country occupied by them, and the evils which accompany this occupation.
- III. The peculiar difficulties which attend the attempt to arrest or exterminate them.
- IV. The nature of the methods now in operation and the apparent results.
- V. The means adopted elsewhere, and the results.
- VI. The suggestions which have been made to us towards arresting the evil.

#### FIRST APPEARANCE OF RABBIT.

I. So far as we have been able to learn the rabbit made its first appearance about twelve years since among the sandhills in the neighbourhood of Invercargill, on the tract of country immediately contiguous to the sea, on the Riverton Beach Road, which tract was at that time a finely-grassed and valuable sheep country. Here they appear to have remained for several years quietly, and at first almost insensibly, disturbing the soil, until from the increase of their numbers they not only destroyed the whole of the grass but converted the rolling sward into exposed, shifting, and barren sandhills. From time to time the settlers, in more remote parts of the country, entrapped and carried with them a few pairs of rabbits to their several localities, considering their presence a desirable acquisition, and thus multiplied the centres of propagation. The main body of the rabbits having laid waste the country where they first appeared, moved up the banks of rivers and their tributary streams, camping, as it were, on rich, well-grassed lands, and only passing onwards when the pasture became scanty and the land defiled and poisoned. Gradually, and at first scarcely perceptibly, the rabbits moved from place to place, until during the last two years there appears to have been a vast impulse given to their migration, so that at length their presence has become a subject of bitter regret, and the cause of much and increasing anxiety. They may be found swarming in suitable places on the banks of rivers, creating havoc on the sunny, grassy uplands, surmounting the highest ranges, and, in smaller numbers, their pioneers have been seen on the banks of the Greenstone River, beyond Lake Wakatipu, on their way to the West Coast. We have found them in great numbers on one side of a river, while the other side was comparatively free from them, for though they follow up the main stream, as a general rule, and turn the head waters, still there are many

known instances which indicate that they transfer their ravages from one side to another with great suddenness and rapidity. They chiefly dwell on the banks of rivers and creeks, the outskirts of forests, and the neighbourhood of Rocky Ranges, whence they can descend into the uplands and grassy plains, from which they return, when disturbed, to their places of refuge.

#### EXTENT OF COUNTRY AFFECTED BY THEM AND THE EVILS ATTENDING THEIR OCCUPATION.

II. With respect to the extent of country occupied by the rabbits, and the evils which accompany their occupation, we may safely say that, so far as our personal observation has extended, the whole of Southland may be regarded as more or less infested. Where the country is favourable for their occupation, that is—well grassed, well sheltered, and not cold nor damp, there rabbits may be seen in vast numbers; while, in the open country, where means are constantly and effectively used to exterminate them, they are kept within moderate bounds. But what may be a true description of the state of any part of the country this year may not be so a year or two hence. In the neighbourhood of Riverton Beach, for instance, rabbits are less numerous than they were; while, in places where only a few were seen a short time back, as in the Dunstan District, they may now be seen in vast numbers. Again, in the Marehenua country, in the north of Otago, where they have been known to have existed for thirteen years, they have not increased, while in the Tapanui country they are represented to be alarmingly numerous. It is very evident that the stream of migration from the South is being met by a similar stream from the North.

#### EXPENSE ATTENDING DESTRUCTION.

The evils which result from the occupation of the country by rabbits in considerable numbers are many and varied. It will, perhaps, suffice that we should state some of the chief of them. The expense of exterminating the rabbit is becoming a very serious item. Take, for instance, a run where three years since scarcely a rabbit was to be seen there are now sixteen men with one hundred and twenty dogs employed, costing the lessee twopence for each rabbit skin and ten shillings a week for each man. On this run the average number of rabbits killed weekly is between four and five thousand, and though thirty-six thousand were killed last year yet the report is that there is no appreciable decrease. On another run we learn that close on sixteen thousand rabbits were killed during the first three months of the present year at a cost of twopence a skin. On a third the expense each week averages £27, and fifty thousand rabbits had been killed since last year. On a fourth we find nine men employed with sixty dogs, killing at the rate of two thousand per week. This enumeration might be almost indefinitely extended. It only remains to state that in some cases as much as threepence a skin is paid, and even a horse and provisions are found; in others powder and shot, averaging twopence per charge, are given in addition to twopence per skin. It is to be remembered, also, that in some instances the dogs are fed on sharps, and occasionally on mutton, as, it is said, feeding on rabbits is apt to give distemper, and owing to the demand, the price of dogs has risen varying from five to fifteen pounds each. It is generally considered that seventy to one hundred rabbits a day may be reckoned a fair average supposing the man to be well supplied with ammunition and dogs, which in most cases are provided by the runholder. So far as any return may be calculated on from the sale of skins it may be said that the winter skins only are of any value, and that experiments connected with the sale have

in this colony hitherto proved a failure. It is also to be borne in mind that, great as this expense is, a diminution in the number of rabbits will not very sensibly decrease it, because, though the men employed may be fewer, the wage of each or the price per skin would probably be increased owing to the lesser number of rabbits that could be killed in a day.

#### DECREASE IN QUANTITY OF WOOL.

In estimating the approximate loss to the sheep-owner there is also to be considered the decrease in the quantity of the wool. In Southland proper there were from seven to eight hundred bales less this year than the last, though the present was a favourable season. In one case, where two hundred and fifty bales were shipped last year, there were only one hundred and fifty this season; and unless active remedial measures be adopted it would be hard to say what the export would be next year. In another case, where there were nine hundred bales last year, there were only seven hundred and fifty this year. And not only do the rabbit ravages affect the quantity, but they injure also the quality of the wool, for, as the young grass makes its appearance in the spring, it is eagerly devoured by rabbits, and the ewes, with lambs following them, find themselves, when needing the most nourishment, reduced to comparative starvation.

#### DECREASE OF PER CENTAGE OF LAMBS.

The deficiency in the increase of lambs shows more clearly still the lessened depasturing capacity of the runs. For instance, one sheep farmer only got 900 lambs from 6,000 ewes, or 15 per cent.; another, 2,500 from 20,000 ewes, or 12½ per cent.; a third, 1,500 from 10,000 ewes, or 15 per cent.; a fourth, 700 from 10,000 ewes, or 7 per cent.; a fifth got no increase at all, while the average increase last year throughout the Western District—an exceptionally good year—was 20 per cent. instead of from 65 to 70.

#### DECREASE OF CARRYING CAPACITY.

Equally expressive is the effect on the carrying capacity of the run, as regards stock. In one case we learn that the stock was reduced from 9,000 to 6,500, or 27½ per cent.; in another, from 16,000 to 5,000 or 69 per cent.; in a third, from 40,000 to 25,000 or 37½ per cent.; in a fourth there was a loss of 16,000 sheep in 18 months; in a fifth, a loss of 7,532 in a flock of 43,310, or nearly 18 per cent.; and yet in another, two years ago, there were shorn 22,000, last year 19,000 only, showing a decrease of 13½ per cent., and this present year only 15,000 were shorn, showing a further decrease of 21 per cent., or, in the two years, about 32 per cent. of actual diminution.

All this speaks of the past. It would be difficult to anticipate the future. The rapid increase of the scourge, notwithstanding the slaughter, will tell most powerfully on the old ewes and the young lambs; on the former from the absence of the young and succulent grasses, on the latter from deficient nutriment from their mothers; thus old and young will both suffer, to say nothing of the want of stamina in the remainder of the flock.

#### DECREASE OF FATTENING CAPACITY.

We have heard many and serious complaints of the deficiency of fattening capacity on the runs owing to the ravages of the rabbits; in one instance, three years since, where 2,300 fat sheep and bullocks were got off a run carrying 16,000, now it barely carries 500, and among them scarcely one fit to be killed.

The rabbit is somewhat dainty in its selection of food. It chooses the English and finest native grasses, yet condescends to snatch a meal off the young tussock growth as it springs into existence. Not only does it devour, but it destroys herbage by its pollutions wherever it feeds, driving cattle and sheep away, and rendering the soil a desert. Nor does

it confine its devastations to grass only, the young trees in the forests being barked, and thereby seriously, if not permanently, injured. And further, we might state what we have ourselves experienced, namely—the danger of riding rapidly across country, and what we have observed in the honeycombing of the railway embankments to an extent which, if not arrested, threatens to be seriously injurious to the travelling public.

#### EFFECT ON STATE REVENUE.

We might well stop this enumeration were it right to do so, but there is yet another point from which this increasing evil must be viewed, and that is—the effect on the Provincial estate. In Southland proper, there being an acreage assessment, the effect is not much felt so far as the revenue is concerned, but if the scourge is not arrested what will be the value of the estate for leasing, say in 1881, when most of the leases fall in? We do not feel called on to entertain this question, but it may not be unimportant to observe that in Otago, as it existed before the union, where the rabbit nuisance is comparatively not so alarming, the results are nevertheless, it is said, not insignificant.

#### DIFFICULTIES IN EXTERMINATING THE RABBIT.— EXTRAORDINARY FECUNDITY.

III. The chief difficulty in exterminating the rabbit arises from its powers of multiplying. Blaine, in his book of "Rural Sports," observes "that rabbits will breed at six months old, bear seven times annually, and bring five young ones each time. Supposing this to happen regularly during the space of four years, and that three of the young at each kindle are females, the increase will be 478,062." Again, Chambers, in their "Information for the People," say—"The rabbit litters seven times in the year, and generally produces eight young at a time. At the age of five months the animal begins to breed, and taking an estimate perfectly within bounds, it is supposed that a pair of wild rabbits, which breed no oftener than seven times in a year, would multiply in the course of four years to the amazing amount of a million and a quarter if the young are preserved." If common report be correct the climate and soil of New Zealand are peculiarly favourable to the domestic habits of rabbits, and they are said to breed at least nine months in each year, having at least six young at each kindle, and the females will breed at the age of three months. If this be true then the problem of extermination becomes very difficult of solution.

#### PECULIAR CHARACTER OF COUNTRY.

The most important difficulty attending the attempt to arrest or exterminate the rabbit, after that resulting from its fearful fecundity, arises from the peculiar character of the country. The banks of the four main rivers, viz., the Mataura, Oreti, Aparima, and Waiau, which intersect the district, (together with their tributaries,) formed of loose, warm, sandy loam and gravel, covered with high flax, tussocks, and in some cases large patches of scrub, afford comfortable warrens in which whole communities of rabbits can find a safe and almost indestructible shelter, to which they can escape when pursued in the plains, and from which nothing but an occasional very high flood can drive them; while, unlike the usual habit of the rabbit in the home country, after having worked their way up the river flats into the interior, their most favourite haunts appear to be the heart of the various mountain ranges—forming the watershed of the rivers—in the scrubs, rocks, and forests of which they find secure shelter, and issuing from which in droves, as we have seen them, they devastate the surrounding country, and reduce first-class fattening sheep land to a wilderness.

#### ABSENCE OF NATURAL ENEMIES.

One peculiarity of this colony is the absence of those natural enemies of the rabbit, the presence of which has done so much elsewhere to keep down the nuisance. In Tasmania some of these were valuable auxiliaries, as the weka is near the Waitaki in Otago, but in the greater portion of Southland the only enemy is the hawk, and that will shortly disappear before the application of strychnine and arsenic.

Again, the tax upon dogs is oppressive, and the tax upon powder and shot deterrent.

#### WANT OF UNITY AND CONTINUITY OF ACTION.

One of the most serious hindrances to success in extermination arises from the absence of unity and continuity of action. There being no compulsion, every leaseholder, freeholder, or occupier does what he likes and when he likes, or does nothing at all. One may be hearty and energetic in his exertions, while his neighbour may be utterly indifferent, breeding by his inaction an abundant supply to replenish the cleared run or holding of the former. Interspersed here and there are Crown lands and other lands, such as educational, municipal, and university, &c., reserves, the rabbit nurseries of the whole country.

Again, though the Provincial Council recognised the presence of so severe a scourge, they withheld that practical recognition of subsidizing local efforts which it is thought the expediency, as well as the justice of the case, demanded. We append two returns showing the alienated and leased lands in pastoral districts, and the sold and unsold land in hundreds, which possibly may be found useful in connection with this point should the subject be deemed worthy of legislation.

#### METHODS AT PRESENT ADOPTED TOWARDS EXTERMINATION.

The methods at present adopted towards extermination of the rabbits principally consist of hunting them with dogs on the plains, and shooting and hunting on the edges of bushes and in broken ground. There is very little done in the way of trapping, and that, too, confined to the neighbourhood of homesteads. Poisoning in winter has been tried, but the remedy is of very doubtful propriety, if not decidedly objectionable; for the poisoned rabbit lying exposed affords a ready sustenance to hawks and those vermin which are the natural enemy of the rabbit. All these efforts combined do not appear to have been attended with any very great success.

#### METHODS ADOPTED IN OTHER COLONIES.

V. As regards the steps taken by other colonies to arrest the progress of the rabbit nuisance, a memorandum of March last by the Secretary to the Department of Agriculture in Victoria, obligingly forwarded by the Governor, affords the only information that is available regarding the prevalence of the rabbit nuisance in that colony. From this it appears that the nuisance has prevailed, more or less, since the first introduction of the rabbit near Geelong many years ago, so that at the present moment there is hardly a part of Victoria where it is not to be found. No public steps have been taken to avert the evil, though privately much has been done with varied success. The rapidity with which the rabbit breeds in Victoria bids defiance to the ordinary methods followed in England of shooting, ferreting, and trapping. Mr. Robertson, of Colac, appears to have been the most successful; but at an expense quite beyond adoption in this colony. Finding that the rabbits had taken possession of numerous wombat holes near Warrion Hill, living in communities, not in families merely, he endeavoured to exterminate them by filling up the holes with basalt boulders; but fruitlessly, for the rabbits burrowed out of the sides, and were as numerous as ever. He then removed the soil until he reached the

underlying basaltic rock itself, and built in the rabbits with solid masonry; and not till this was done did he succeed, and then only at the sacrifice of 10,000 acres of his best land, and £35,000 expended during the seven years occupied in the undertaking. The freehold estate is said to amount to 25,000 acres.

The colony of Tasmania appears to be in many respects, as regards the question under consideration, not unlike that of New Zealand, and may afford us some useful lessons. The evidence taken by the Select Committee of the Provincial Council of Otago informs us that the general character of the colony is hilly, wooded, and broken. Prior to 1869 the rabbit was known to exist there, but as its natural enemies, tiger cats, devils, eagle hawks, and wild domestic cats were numerous, the evil was insignificant; but many of these vermin being destructive to lambs, they were destroyed in vast numbers; while in 1869 the wild domestic cat was seized with a fatal disease, and almost entirely extirpated. Since then, and in consequence of the diminution of their natural enemies, the rabbits appear to have taken full possession of several parts of the country, so much so as to necessitate action on the part of the legislature.

Before submitting a concise sketch of this legislation, obligingly furnished by the Governor, it may be desirable to state that the Colonial Secretary, in a memorandum of the 26th March last, observes: "That the operation of the laws in force for the destruction of rabbits has on the whole proved of great service in keeping under this serious scourge to the farmer; but it requires united action, and the cordial co-operation of all the infested localities, to secure practical results of a durable character."

"The Rabbits Destruction Act" became law at the close of 1871, and was to continue in operation until the end of the first session of 1874, and no longer. In September, 1874, it was slightly amended, and given a further currency to the 31st December, 1877, and again in September, 1875, additional powers were given as to altering and re-defining districts. As these three Acts, and the "Cross and Bye-Roads Act, 1870," are appended to this Report, it will be sufficient to say that a Rabbit District may be proclaimed on the petition of not less than ten persons, being land owners under the Act, should not a counter petition be presented by landholders in the same district, having a greater number of votes. Powers are given for the election of trustees, who are thereby enabled to impose a rate to the extent of one shilling in the pound in any one year of the annual value of the property in the district, the occupier of Crown land, under lease or license, paying only one-half of any rate. In case of a landholder neglecting or refusing to destroy the rabbits on his property, the trustees may enter upon such lands for the purposes of the Act; and further, may enter to search for rabbits. Accompanying these Acts, and also appended hereto, is a statement by Mr. Latham, Council Clerk and Secretary to the Rabbit Trust. The Hamilton Rabbit District was constituted in April, 1872, and the landholders elected trustees, who proceeded to levy a rate, and appointed one of their number in each section of their district to purchase skins. These skins were paid for by the trustees monthly, after audit. In three years there was a sum of ninepence in the pound, raised by rates, 347,860 rabbits were killed, and their skins sold, and the proceeds of the sale, together with the rates, left only a very few pounds to the debit of the trust. The skins must be perfectly dry when purchased, sprinkled with diluted carbolic acid on the fleshy side, to prevent the ravages of the weevil, which vermin reduces the value of the skin one-half, and then the skins should be carefully packed in bales and sold.

Mr. Latham further states that "there are runs in Tasmania on which a good shot could bag from 300 to 400 daily six years ago, and now you could not meet 6." He advocates the introduction of ferrets, obtainable at about 10s. a pair, which should be turned out wild, and feels confident that knowing New Zealand as well as he does he "could organize such a system as would exterminate the rabbits in a very few years."

#### REPORT OF CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SHEEP, TASMANIA.

Scarcely agreeing with this statement is the report of the Chief Inspector of Sheep in Tasmania, dated 25th July, 1875. Mr. James Whyte, the gentleman referred to, says:—"I regret to say that from my own observation while travelling through the country I cannot state that any diminution of this plague has taken place generally. On the contrary I am disposed to believe that although their numbers have been greatly diminished in some parts of the Oatlands and other Midland Districts, where a few years ago they were so numerous; yet, taking the country throughout, there are at the present moment more rabbits than at any former period. They are now to be seen in numbers where a few years ago scarcely a rabbit was to be seen.

"I believe it is no exaggeration whatever to say that at this time rabbits are consuming food which would support 250,000 sheep, which at a moderate calculation is a direct annual loss to the colony of £62,000, without taking into account the money expended in merely keeping them down and mitigating the plague.

"Hitherto the heavy losses sustained from rabbits have been confined to a few localities, and it is only those who have suffered severely who are really fully sensible of the evil. The settlers, as a body, when there are few rabbits, are totally indifferent on the subject, and laugh at the idea of their runs being invaded.

"It is my belief they are fatally mistaken, and that ere many years have passed, where rabbits are now scarcely seen they will become as numerous, and, of course, as destructive, as ever they have been found to be by some of the unfortunate victims in Oatlands, Ross, Campbell Town, Green Ponds, Bothwell, and Hamilton.

"In 1874 rabbit skins to the number of 474,468, valued at £3,725, were exported, principally from Hobart Town."

From another reliable authority well acquainted with New Zealand we learn that in Tasmania rabbits were tolerably well kept down where precautions were taken—that is, in proclaimed rabbit districts—but he confesses he looks with some apprehension as to the future of the large hilly tracts of New Zealand pastoral country, where the soil is loose and rocky.

#### NEW SOUTH WALES.

From a communication received from the Colonial Secretary of New South Wales it appears that the colony is not troubled with rabbits.

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The Chief Secretary in South Australia transmits a copy of "The Rabbit Destruction Act, 1875," "under which several districts have voluntarily brought themselves, and it is anticipated that the operation of the measure will be beneficial." This Act is appended to the report. Its main features generally follow the Tasmanian Statute, the definition of a landholder being more restricted, and leased Crown lands being rated as other lands. The proclamation into a rabbit district differs from the Tasmanian Statute, no counter petition availing in the South Australian Act.

#### SUGGESTIONS MADE TO COMMISSIONERS.

We have before stated that we lost no opportunity in our travels of ascertaining the feelings and views of

those concerned in the object of our enquiries, and that, though our commission does not authorise us to make any special recommendation, yet we should not be fulfilling the duties we have undertaken did we not submit the result of our conversations to your Honor.

#### CROWN SHOULD SHARE EXPENSE.

We have been particularly struck with one circumstance, and we commend the consideration of it to your Honor. The Crown tenants complain that, as the introduction of the rabbit was not an act of theirs, they should not be left unaided in its extermination. They urge that the Crown has a present as well as a continuing interest in the well-being of the pastoral country. That, were they to cease their exertions and close their purses, the assessment paid in the northern part of Otago would decrease materially, while in both parts the ruus would, on completion of the leases, be a comparatively worthless, or, certainly, a much depreciated possession, as would be shown when submitted for new or renewed leases. They further urge that while the depasturing capacity is materially affected they are called upon with diminished means to clear their runs of a nuisance at a time when their leases are about to expire. As a partial recompense for these exertions, and as a stimulus to rid the country of the pest, some point to a five years' extension of their leases, others to an annual subsidy, to repayment of the duty on dogs and powder, and others, again, to the introduction of a law which shall compel the owners or occupiers and lessees of all lands in infested districts to submit to a tax on the annual value of their property, to be raised and expended by local trustees—or by an inspector, as in the case of the existing Scab Act—under efficient Crown supervision. Stress has been laid on the necessity that this legislation, to be effective, should be compulsory not only on all in a proclaimed infested district, but on all portions of the country where rabbits are known to exist in greater or lesser numbers.

#### SUBDIVISION INTO SMALLER RUNS.

Some of those with whom we have conversed have indicated as the only effectual method of extirpation—when the leases run out—is to subdivide the runs into smaller blocks, and thus people the country. To this it has been answered that the nature of the greater part of the unsold pastoral lands in Southland is not, as a general rule, adapted for such subdivision; that nearly the whole of the land in the plains and uplands commanding the hill country is already sold, and that the higher lands are only of value to those who possess the base. It has again been urged that if the present occupant of the pastoral country, with his accumulated means, employing a large number of men, cannot, unaided, surmount the difficulty, there would be but little hope for ten times the number of occupants of lesser means on smaller areas to cope with it, considering that, though the rental per acre might be the same, the latter would have extensively to fence their subdivision to support themselves and families on land ill adapted for cropping, and to carry on continued warfare against the rabbits occupying the country.

#### INTRODUCTION OF NATURAL ENEMIES.

The expediency of introducing a certain class of the natural enemies of the rabbit has been urged on our attention, such as ferrets, stoates, and weasels—but not such as would injure lambs. The use of poisoned grain in winter has been practised, but is strongly objected to as having a tendency not only to poison dogs, and perhaps sheep and horses, but hawks and such useful auxiliaries.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF CURING AND PRESERVING MACHINERY.

The establishment of curing and preserving machinery has been suggested, but it has been stated in opposition that such a system would not answer unless 5000 rabbits a day could be procured, and the nature of the country and the distance to be travelled preclude the possibility of putting the cleaned rabbit in the hands of the curer within 24 hours after being caught—which is absolutely necessary—to say nothing of the operation being confined to the winter season, when the skin is most valuable, and the meat most likely to be suited for curing. Besides, if the average expense of killing, skinning, and preserving the skin is 4d. each, there is to be added the expense of curing and tanning, which would be about 3d. a lb. additional.

#### REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE OF PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF OTAGO.

The Select Committee of the Provincial Council of Otago, in their report of June, 1875, remarking on the serious damage done through the ravages of the rabbit, recommend that with the view to a limitation of the nuisance by repressive action legislation should be had recourse to; that the machinery of road boards should be made available, or where no such boards exist committees should be formed, having compulsory rating powers; that the Government should grant a bonus per skin; that the skins should be sold; that the rabbit's natural enemies should be introduced; and that gunpowder and shot should be exempt from duty.

#### MEMORANDUM OF CHIEF SHEEP INSPECTOR.

The Chief Sheep Inspector in his memorandum of 6th April, 1876, expresses his opinion that "some compulsory steps in the shape of legislation should be taken," otherwise he is certain that "a great portion of the Crown Lands now occupied as runs, and fit for no other purpose, will by the time the leases expire be considerably deteriorated in value, their carrying capacity being reduced; and country situated favourably for climate, and having cover for the pests, will be comparatively valueless."

#### SILVER-GREY RABBIT.

Some persons have pointed to the introduction of the silver-grey rabbit, which, by crossing with the present common wild rabbit, and thereby improving the marketable value of its skin, would materially assist in the expense of extermination. But so far as our observations and enquiries have extended the climate in this part of New Zealand is not favourable to the development of this species. Experience has proved this on the eastern slopes of the Hokonui Hills, where the silver-grey rabbit was for years located in large numbers—undisturbed by the common rabbit—till within the last two years it has become almost extinct. This sudden disappearance, it is surmised, is the result of the last two severe winters.

#### LAND IN HUNDREDS.

The land in the hundreds, it has been suggested, requires a similar treatment to that on the runs—viz., a compulsory unity of action. Here it is found that the holding of large tracts by the New Zealand and Australian Land Company and others—who, it appears, do nothing to exterminate—militates against the endeavours of the smaller holders, who are compelled in self-defence to use every exertion, but are paralysed by the inactivity of their larger neighbours.

#### NOT KEPT DOWN BY POPULATION WITHOUT COMPULSORY ACTION.

That the rabbits are not kept down by population is reported to be apparent from the futile exertions of the farmers to protect their young crops, and this in the

infancy of the plague. One farmer on the Limestone Plains, Western District, had, we are informed, six men night and day to protect his barley field till the crop had grown strong enough to resist the inroads of the rabbits. He saved a large portion of it, but at a cost which must have considerably affected the return he obtained from the sale. A large farmer living in the vicinity of Winton informed us he had a hard fight to get his wheat a fair start. Having had it eaten down two or three times he tried poison with but partial success, men and dogs being unable to cope with the rabbits.

Around the frontage of Long Bush the sod fences, particularly where sown with gorse, are honeycombed with burrows, the bush itself affording a friendly covert, in which rabbits are rapidly increasing. In the Oteramika and Lothian districts, particularly in the former, they are swarming, and can be seen in droves on the Company's extensive holdings, in which they disport undisturbed a cause of large expense and labour to the smaller farmers. Once fairly established in the Seaward Bush and that clothing the left bank of the Makarewa River—which bound these plains on the north and south—their eradication will be almost an impossibility. In the Waianiwa District, on the banks of the Oreti, where the settlement is considerable, all the farms being small, the best chance the settlers have of keeping the rabbits within bounds is by the frequent flooding of the low lands, when they are easily destroyed as they swim about, and their young are drowned in the holes. And it must be remembered that the loss sustained by the farmers in material and labour has only been felt during the last two years, the numbers of the rabbits having very sensibly increased this year. Indeed, in all parts of the district it is universally recognised that the rabbit nuisance—or, as it might more appropriately be termed, plague—is only commencing.

#### SUMMARY.

VII.—To summarize. So determinedly and impartially has the rabbit extended its peregrinations that no locality, from the river bank to the highest mountain top, appears unvisited. Already riding after stock is attended with danger, owing to the ground being perforated in all directions with its warrens, and the railway embankments rendered unsafe.

The expense to the runholder is becoming one of such serious import that any sudden fall in the price of wool might determine the conflict with his small pest by his hopelessly withdrawing from the contest from inadequacy of means to continue it. It is not merely the large burden he has to bear in paying away on an average 3d. to 4d. a skin, on which, during eight months in the year, he can realise nothing, but each month finds him less able to disburse; from his losses in breeding sheep and increase, owing to the impaired capacity of his country—that not eaten up being polluted—while the wool he has is deteriorated in quality.

#### EXPORT OF WOOL.

The export of wool from the Southland district has fallen off in one year to the extent of 800 bales, with every prospect of its being further diminished, and that materially. Such a decadence affects not merely a class but the community. Wool is and will be for years the great export of the southern portion of New Zealand. Any great decrease in it means a withdrawal of large capital, which bears upon the life of every industry, whether in country, town, or seaport, and it becomes a public calamity, which, when continued, no fictitious stimulus can avert.

#### LOSS OF REVENUE.

The cost to the Government in loss of revenue is already felt in that part of Otago where the stock is assessed; it will become still more apparent when, on

the termination of the present leases, the country is again sought to be let. The proposition that by cutting up the large holdings into 5,000 acre lots, and thereby settling a larger population, is stated to be met by the fact that the present holder of say 50,000 acres, having means at command, employs from 15 to 18 men whose sole occupation is to exterminate rabbits, pays them well for their exertions, finding them in most cases with dogs, ammunition, and sometimes in provisions, and yet realises the difficulty mastering him. Supply the place of this one proprietor by 10 men, and we have a smaller population by six or eight to work out the problem at their own expense, support their families; fenced in their holdings, which, after all, as the plains and uplands are already freeholds, can be little else than summer country, and pay the Government a higher rental than that obtained from the present lessees.

INCREASE OF THE RABBIT.

The rapid increase of the rabbit, owing to the favorable circumstances of climate, soil, and shelter, coupled with the absence of natural enemies inimical to its development, clothes the danger of its presence with a palpable significance, seeing that where climatic influences are not as felicitous the fecundity of the rabbit is the theme of naturalists.

SIMULTANEOUSNESS OF ACTION.

Under these circumstances simultaneousness of action on the part of the Government, pastoral tenants, and freeholders, would seem to become a necessity. The first, to ensure a future benefit in increased rentals on the expiration of the present leases; the second, to enable them to secure the accumulations of past thrift, industry, and enterprise; the last, to hand down to posterity an improved and unimpaired estate.

VIII.—On looking over this report, before transmission to your Honor, a fear has arisen that the facts we have adduced, and the inferences we have drawn from them, may be regarded as having been too darkly tinted; and yet, on recalling what we personally observed, the conversations which we have held, the accounts which we have been allowed to examine; and when we remember the agreement of converging statements respecting any particular point, we feel we should be doing our informants injustice did we not faithfully record what we have heard, and that we should be doing your Honor and ourselves an injustice did we not submit, what we have ourselves seen, and what we believe. That the case is one which causes much anxiety is beyond all doubt, and we feel assured that if the public estate is to be rescued from serious depreciation, and private interests from calamities and losses—in no small measure the result of an outside visitation of, at one time, an apparently insignificant but now of an extremely serious character—this can only be obtained by the application of a remedy which shall be immediate, compulsory, and universal.

J. RICHARDSON,  
WALTER H. PEARSON.

AREA OF RUNS.

PROVINCE OF SOUTHLAND.			
Run.	Gross Area.	Alienated.	Leasehold.
I12	46,250	19,303	26,947
I16	26,000	16,555	9,445
I19A	25,000	16,535	8,465
I19B	22,000	18,540	3,460
I33	11,750	4,754	6,996
I35	16,120	9,861	6,259
I35A	5,350	860	4,490
I42	2,900	403	2,497
I43	24,000	4,838	19,162
I43A	11,400	1,347	10,053
I43B	11,600	2,730	8,870
I46	21,150	12,969	8,181
I48	56,185	34,330	21,855
I49	22,800	5,912	16,888
I50B	12,800	6,963	5,837
I53	26,900	7,382	19,518
I54	23,500	6,677	16,823
I54A	2,480	1,592	888
I56A1	15,000	4,360	10,640
I56A2	12,400	4,815	7,585
I56B1	11,200	9,659	1,541
I56B2	8,200	7,220	980
I59	24,600	15,407	9,193
I65	19,000	8,750	10,250
I66A	25,200	2,419	22,781
I66B	10,000	2,260	7,740
I73	40,000	820	39,180
I76A	21,270	8,318	12,952
I76B	17,280		17,280
I81	65,000	41,880	23,120
I87	58,000	7,912	50,088
I88	39,500	10	39,490
I90	20,300	670	19,630
I90A	1,080		1,080
I91	25,070	1,479	23,591
I91A	4,204	614	3,590
I95A	26,980	13,150	13,830
I95B	16,000	8,381	7,619
I98	37,000	1,150	35,850
207	13,200	6,023	7,177
207A	6,500	2,500	4,000
207B	10,950	10,120	830
208	26,180		26,180
214	29,000	8,804	20,196
300B	7,800	1,250	6,550
302	26,636	2,583	24,053
302A	6,720	98	6,622
302B	7,200		7,200
329	9,500	330	9,170
352A	30,000	430	29,570
352B	10,000		10,000
394	22,500	690	21,810
395	3,800		3,800
396	15,000	7,272	7,728
417	1,900		1,900
418	4,000		4,000
419	120	50	70
	1,096,475	348,725	747,750
415	44,640		
397	27,360		
	500,935	1,000	Stewart Island
	279,444		Bush on pastoral country, unoccupied
	1,948,854		Total area of Province out of Hundreds.

AREA OF SOUTHLAND HUNDREDS.

HUNDRED.	AREA.	Sold.	BALANCE FOR SALE.
Invercargill	89,272	3 35	80,740 1 25
Jacob's River ...	92,214	3 36	89,404 1 15
New River ...	84,340	1 12	77,207 2 20
Campbelltown ...	60,210	1 12	59,293 2 25
Oteramika ...	91,658	2 35	79,203 2 25
Mataura ...	12,185	2 18	11,994 2 42
Apaparua ...	46,576	0 39	46,576 0 39
Mabel ...	28,259	0 14	28,259 0 14
Winton ...	41,524	0 21	41,524 0 21
Lothian ...	25,222	2 3	25,222 2 3
Waimuna ...	61,228	0 0	61,228 0 0
Lindhurst ...	51,224	0 28	51,224 0 28
Foresthill ...	77,220	1 14	77,220 1 14
Oreana ...	68,222	2 19	68,222 2 19
<b>Totals</b>	<b>832,000</b>	<b>1 0</b>	<b>662,223 3 22</b>

For April 26, 1876.  
 812.01 882.7  
 850.01 770.0  
 828 102.1

EDUCATIONAL RESERVES, SOUTHLAND.

The following Reserves will be leased by auction at the Land Office, Invercargill, at noon on Monday, the 14th of June next. For further particulars apply at Mr. Barker's office, Invercargill.

LOCALITY.	Block.	Section.	AREA.	REMARKS.
Mataura Hundred	I	58	127 1 02	On Edendale plains, near Mataura Terrace.
do.	I	59	168 2 26	
Apaparua Hundred	II	13	600 0 28	On the Otautau River.
Jacob's River Hundred	VI	27	117 3 24	Near Otaitai Bush.
do.	VII	55	222 0 0	At the junction of the Invercargill and Riverina Roads, 2 1/2 miles from Riverina.
Winton	XII	31	83 0 28	On River Flat, adjoining Thomson and Sons' Farm.
New River	XIII	64	300 0 0	Near Spar Bush.
Mabel	II	35	58 0 3	
Invercargill	I	23	30 0 0	Adjoining Park Reserve, Invercargill.
do.	IX	7	72 0 12	
do.	IX	8	68 0 14	
do.	IX	9	65 0 0	On the road leading from the Junction Hotel, North Road, to the Mabel district.
do.	IX	10	61 3 24	
do.	IX	11	52 0 22	
do.	IX	12	54 0 24	
do.	XI	48	30 0 0	On boundary, Invercargill Hundred.

DEFERRED PAYMENTS.

THURSDAY, 1st JUNE, 1876.

1000 Acres of Land for sale on deferred payments in the Otago Hundred, Waikaka Survey District.

NOTICE is hereby given that the undermentioned sections will be open for application on deferred payments on Thursday, the 1st day of June, 1876. Application must be made by the applicant in person, to any Land Office in the Province, and a deposit of 1s. 6d. per acre paid at the time of making the application, being the first half-year's occupation fee. The purchase money is payable at the rate of 3s. per acre per annum for ten years.

Plans to be seen, and lithographs obtained, at the Land Offices at Dunedin, and at Invercargill. Sections 6, 7, 8, 16, and 17, block XII, Waikaka Survey District.

DEFERRED PAYMENTS.

MONDAY, 19th JUNE, 1876.

1400 ACRES OF LAND FOR SALE ON DEFERRED PAYMENTS IN THE TAPANUI HUNDRED.

NOTICE is hereby given that the undermentioned sections will be open for application on deferred payments on Monday, the 19th day of June, 1876. Application must be made by the applicant in person, at any Land Office in the Province, and a deposit of 1s. 6d. per acre paid at the time of making the application, being the first half-year's occupation fee. The purchase money is payable at the rate of 3s. per acre per annum for ten years.

Plans to be seen, and lithographs obtained, at the Land Offices at Dunedin, and at Lawrence. 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, and 14, Block XII, Crookston Survey District.

DEFERRED PAYMENTS.

THURSDAY, 1st JUNE, 1876.

3,600 Acres of Land for sale on deferred payments in the Kyeburn Hundred, Swinburn Survey District.

NOTICE is hereby given that the undermentioned sections will be open for application on deferred payments on Thursday, the 1st day of June, 1876. Application must be made by the applicant in person at any Land Office in the Province, and a deposit of 1s. 6d. per acre paid at the time of making the application, being the first half-year's occupation fee. The purchase money is payable at the rate of 3s. per acre per annum for ten years.

Plans to be seen, and lithographs obtained, at the Land Offices at Naseby, at Dunedin, and at Lawrence.

Sections 11, 13, and 15, block I.

Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, and 19, block IV., and sections 1 and 2, block V., Swinburn Survey District.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

LAND SALES, &c.

THE following allotments in the undermentioned Townships will be offered for sale by public auction by Mr. R. B. Martin, on the dates and at the places hereafter mentioned. Front quarter-acre sections be sold at the upset price of £8 each, and back sections £5 each. Sections over the quarter acre will be sold at rates to be stated by Auctioneer.

At Survey office, Naseby, on Monday, 5th June, at noon, sections in Township of St. Bathans, Hill's Creek, Naseby, and Manuherika.

St. Bathans—Sections 28, b. I; 14, 18, b. II.

Hill's Creek—Sections 1, 3, 7, 9 to 20, block I; s. 6 to 27, b. II; s. 1, 2, 5 to 28, b. III; s. 5, b. IV.

Naseby—Sections 70, 71, 136A, 143, block I; s. 16, b. II. N.B.—Sections 144, 147 to 152 and 154, b. I, and s. 1, b. II withdrawn from sale.

Manuherika—Sections 1 to 12, block I; s. 1 to 12 b. II; s. 1, 3, 4, 7 to 10, b. III; s. 1 to 7, b. IV; s. 1 and 2, b. V; s. 1 to 8, 10, b. VI; s. 1 to 8, b. VII.

D. M. MACOUN,  
For the Chief Commissioner.

CORRECTED NOTICE.

KYEBURN HUNDRED,  
(Near Naseby.)

MONDAY, 5th JUNE, 1876.

NOTICE is hereby given that the following Sections in the above Hundred will be offered for sale by public auction by Mr. R. B. Martin, at Naseby, on Monday, 5th June, 1876, immediately after the sale of the townships, as land of special value, under clause 85 of the "Otago Waste Lands Act, 1872," at the upset price opposite each section:

Sec.	Block.	Acreage.			District.	Upset price.		
		A.	R.	P.		£	s.	d.
1	II.	163	1	12	Kyeburn	763	6	6
2	"	71	0	28	"	91	3	6
11	"	200	0	00	"	209	0	0
3	III.	200	0	00	"	244	0	0
5	"	190	0	20	"	216	2	6
6	"	198	3	15	"	211	17	0
13	"	200	0	00	"	212	0	0
14	"	200	0	00	"	236	0	0

SLOPEDOWN DISTRICT,

NEAR MATAURA BRIDGE.

WEDNESDAY, 12th JULY, 1876.

NOTICE is hereby given that sections 1, 4, and 5, block III., Slopedown District, will be open for application at £1 per acre, on Wednesday, 12th July, 1876, at the Land Offices, Dunedin and Invercargill.

Plans to be seen, and lithographs obtained, at the Land Offices, Dunedin and Invercargill.

J. T. THOMSON,  
Chief Commissioner.

Land Department,  
31st May, 1876.

DUNEDIN AND EAST TAIERI DISTRICT.

THURSDAY, 13th JULY, 1876.

NOTICE is hereby given that section 43, block I., Dunedin and East Taieri District, containing 31 acres, 1 rood, 35 poles, will be offered for sale by public auction as land of special value, under Clause 85, "Otago Waste Land Act, 1872," at the Land Office, Dunedin, on Thursday, the 13th July, 1876, at noon, at the upset price of £1 1s. per acre.

J. T. THOMSON,  
Chief Commissioner.

Land Department,  
31st May, 1876.

OTAGO PENINSULA DISTRICT,  
NEAR SANDYMOUNT.

THURSDAY, 13th JULY, 1876.

NOTICE is hereby given the Lease of section 53, block III., Otago Peninsula District, 436a. 2r. 37p., for 14 years, under clause 85, "Otago Waste Lands Act, 1872," at the upset annual rental of £10 a year, will be sold by public auction, at the Land Office, Dunedin, on Thursday, 13th July, 1876.

J. T. THOMSON,  
Chief Commissioner.

Land Department,  
31st May, 1876.

DEFERRED PAYMENTS.

MONDAY, 19th JUNE, 1876.

5,766 ACRES OF LAND FOR SALE ON DEFERRED PAYMENTS IN THE FOREST HILL HUNDRED.

NOTICE is hereby given that the undermentioned sections will be open for application on deferred payments on Monday, the 19th day of June, 1876. Application must be made by the applicant in person at any Land Office in the Province, and a deposit of 1s. 6d. per acre, being the first half-year's occupation fee paid at the time of making the application fee. The purchase money is payable at the rate of 3s. per acre per annum for ten years.

Plans to be seen, and lithographs obtained, at the Land Offices as Dunedin, at Invercargill, and at Lawrence.

227, 228, 229, 230, 232, 234, 236, 237, 238, 239, 241, 242, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 253, 254, 255, 263, 264, 265, 267, 268, 271, 272, 273, and 275, Forest Hill Hundred.

**T**HE following Sections in the Oreti Hundred will be offered for sale by auction at the Land Office, Invercargill, at noon on Monday, the 12th day of June, proximo.

Section 106, containing 200 acres  
 " 104 " 500 "  
 " 103 " 500 "  
 Upset price, £1 per acre.

WALTER H. PEARSON,  
 Commissioner Crown Lands.

Crown Lands Office,  
 Invercargill, 11th May, 1876.

**DEFERRED PAYMENTS.**

**WEDNESDAY, 21st JUNE, 1876.**

**N**OTICE is hereby given that the undermentioned sections will be open for application on deferred payments on Wednesday, the 21st June, 1876. Application must be made by the applicant in person, at any Land Office in the Province, and a deposit of 1s. 6d. per acre paid at the time of making the application, being the first half-year's occupation fee. The purchase money is payable at the rate of 3s. per acre per annum for ten years.

Plans to be seen, and lithographs obtained, at the Land Office, at Dunedin.

Section.	Block.	District.	Acreage.
7	5	Waipahee	197 0 32
26	2	Glenkenich	409 0 00
23	4	Greenvale	800 2 14
23	5	"	89 2 00
8	5	"	200 0 00
4	4	Wakaia	128 2 35
11	4	"	200 0 00
5	4	"	200 0 00
1	4	"	198 0 08
9	10	Waikaka	197 3 29
12	8	Toetoes	198 0 00
17	8	"	200 0 00
4	2	Highlay	3 0 25
1	5	Tiger Hill	46 0 19
2	"	"	46 0 19
3	"	"	39 1 09
8	"	"	45 2 31

J. T. THOMSON,  
 Chief Commissioner.

Land Department,  
 10th May, 1876.

**DEFERRED PAYMENTS.**

**MONDAY, 27th JUNE, 1876.**

**2,200 ACRES OF LAND FOR SALE ON DEFERRED PAYMENTS, IN THE CHATTON HUNDRED.**

**N**OTICE is hereby given that the undermentioned sections will be open for application on deferred payments on Monday, the 27th day of June, 1876. Application must be made by the applicant in person, at any Land Office in the province, and a deposit of 1s. 6d. per acre paid at the time of making the application, being the first half-year's occupation fee. The purchase money is payable at the rate of 3s. per acre, per annum, for ten years.

Plans to be seen, and lithographs obtained, at the Land offices at Dunedin, at Invercargill, and at Lawrence.

Sections 2, 4, 7, 10, and 13, block V., and 2, 4, 13, 14, 16, and 18, block VI., Chatton Survey District.

**PORTOBELLO BALLAST RESERVE.**

**THURSDAY, 22nd JUNE, 1876.**

**N**OTICE is hereby given that the license to occupy the Portobello Ballast Reserve, excepting portion required for ballast purposes under the 161st Clause of the "Otago Waste Land Act, 1872," will be offered for sale by public auction at the Land Office, Dunedin, on Thursday, 22nd June, 1876, at noon, at the upset price of £12 per annum. Other conditions to be stated at sale.

J. T. THOMSON,  
 Chief Commissioner.

Lands Department, 10th May, 1876.

**MONDAY, 26th JUNE, 1876,**  
 At 12 o'clock.

**T**O be sold by public auction, at the Land Office, Invercargill, at noon, on Monday, the 26th day June, 1876, the Lands hereafter described, viz. :—

All that piece or parcel of land, containing 10 acres 1 rood 8 poles, more or less, being part of section 18, block II, New River Hundred, lying east of Railway Reserve; bounded on the north by section 21, 193 links; on the east by section 19, 5,900 links; on the south by public road, 201 links; on the west by Railway Reserve 1,544 links, again on the north by Railway Reserve 25 links, again on the west by Railway Reserve 1076 links, again on the south by Railway Reserve 38 links, again on the west by Railway Reserve 3,280 links.

All that piece or parcel of land containing 9a. 2r. 7p. more or less, being part of section 3, block XIV, Invercargill Hundred, lying east of Railway Reserve, bounded on the west by Railway Reserve 3,240 links, on the north by a public road 370 links, on the east by sections 2 and 1, of block XIV. aforesaid 3,270 links, and on the south by the Waikiwi Stream.

All that piece or parcel of land containing 5a. 2r. 14p., more or less, being other part of section 3, block XI, Invercargill Hundred, lying east of Railway Reserve, bounded on the west by Railway Reserve 2,700 links, on the north by Waikiwi Stream, on the east by section 1, block XIV, aforesaid 2,670 links, and on the south by a public road 231 links.

All that piece or parcel of land containing by ad-measurement 5a. 2r. 16p., more or less, being part of section 2 of 38 block, IX, Invercargill Hundred, bounded on the west by sections 7 and 9, block XIV, Invercargill Hundred, 4,500 links, or thereabouts, on the east by Railway Reserve 4,507 links, on the south by section 6, block XIV. aforesaid, 259 links.

All that piece or parcel of land, containing by ad-measurement 1r. 30p., more or less, being part of sections 43 and 44, Harewood Estate, bounded on the north by north boundary of section 28, block I, Invercargill Hundred, 77 links; on the east by a public road 452 links; on the south, by Avenal road 175 links, and on the west by section 45, Harewood Estate, 450 links.

**WAREPA DISTRICT.**

Near Newhaven.

**FRIDAY, 30th JUNE, 1876.**

**N**OTICE is hereby given that section 50, block I, Warepa District, will be sold by public auction at the Land Office, Dunedin, on Friday, the 30th June next, at noon, under the 85th clause of the

"Otago Waste Lands Act, 1872," at the upset price of 30s. per acre, subject to Road Reservation, to be more correctly defined after survey. Survey fees, including mileage and bush lines, £9 8s., to be paid by the purchaser.

J. T. THOMSON,  
Chief Commissioner,  
Waste Lands Board.

Land Department,  
Dunedin, 24th May, 1876.

FOREST HILL HUNDRED.

MONDAY, 10TH JULY, 1876.

NOTICE is hereby given that the following allotments will be open for application at the Land Office, Invercargill, on and after Monday, 10th July:

	A.	R.	P.
226	...	...	44 0 0
233	...	...	95 0 0
235	...	...	97 0 0
240	...	...	168 0 0
243	...	...	120 0 0
244	...	...	120 0 0
251	...	...	86 2 0
252	...	...	150 0 0
269	...	...	87 0 0
270	...	...	160 0 0

J. MACANDREW,  
Superintendent of Otago.

OTAKARAMA AND KAIWERA HUNDREDS.

WAIKAKA AND SLOPEDOWN DISTRICTS,  
(Near Mataura Bridge).

MONDAY 21ST JULY, 1876.

NOTICE is hereby given that the following Sections in the above named Hundreds will be offered for sale by Mr. R. S. Martin, by public auction, at the Court House, Mataura Bridge, on Friday, 21st July 1876, at noon, as land of special value, under clause 85 "Otago Waste Lands Act, 1872," at the upset price opposite each section.

OTAKARAMA HUNDRED.				Upset Price.
Section.	Block.	Acreage.	District.	£ s. d.
1	12	254 2 00	Waikaka	350 0 0
2	"	199 1 00	"	274 0 0
3	"	229 3 00	"	316 0 0
4	"	292 2 00	"	402 4 0
5	"	289 1 00	"	397 15 0
9	"	375 2 00	"	516 6 0
10	"	380 3 00	"	523 10 0
11	"	206 1 00	"	283 12 0
12	"	284 1 00	"	390 17 0
13	"	348 3 00	"	529 0 0
14	"	350 0 00	"	481 3 0
15	"	319 3 25	"	440 0 0
18	"	241 3 29	"	353 0 0
19	"	290 0 13	"	399 0 0
20	"	295 0 25	"	405 15 0
21	"	246 2 00	"	393 0 0
22	"	259 1 00	"	393 10 0
KAIWERA HUNDRED.				
14	3	340 1 37	Slopedown	350 0 0
7	"	315 3 13	"	336 0 0
6	"	27 1 39	"	30 0 0
16	"	372 1 33	"	415 0 0
17	"	57 0 38	"	60 0 0
18	"	369 3 36	"	379 0 0

J. T. THOMSON,  
Chief Commissioner.

Land Department, 31st May, 1876.

HERRIOT HUNDRED,  
NEAR TAPANUI.

WEDNESDAY, 19TH JULY, 1876.

NOTICE is hereby given that the following Sections in the above Hundred will be offered for sale by public auction by R. B. Martin, at the Town Hall, Tapanui, on Wednesday, 19th July, 1876, at noon, as land of special value, under clause 85 of the "Otago Waste Lands Act 1872," at the upset price opposite each section.

Section.	Block.	Acreage.	District.	Upset price.
19	7	239 0 00	Crookston	361 6 0
2	8	263 2 00	"	424 13 0
3	8	293 1 12	"	440 0 0
6	8	203 0 00	"	304 10 0
9	8	200 0 00	"	300 0 0
24	8	200 0 00	"	405 14 0
3	9	216 2 00	Greenvale	324 15 0
4	9	140 0 00	"	210 0 0
10	9	198 2 00	"	297 15 0
11	9	195 1 11	"	293 0 0
12	9	287 3 00	"	431 12 6
13	9	206 1 37	"	328 17 6
14	9	199 0 16	"	314 16 3
18	9	126 2 30	"	190 0 0
1	10	208 1 00	"	312 7 6
2	10	199 2 16	"	299 8 0
3	10	200 0 00	"	300 0 0
7	10	195 2 14	"	293 7 6
8	10	196 2 00	"	294 15 0

J. T. THOMSON,  
Chief Commissioner.

Land Department,  
3rd May, 1876.

MEMORANDUM OF GOVERNMENT LAND SALES.

June 5, 1876. St Bathans, Hill's Creek, Naseby, and Manuherika township. Auction: Survey Office, Naseby. See advertisement.

June 5, 1876. Kyeburn district. Auction: Survey Office, Naseby. See advertisement.

June 14, 1876. Crookston and Greenvale districts. Auction: Land Office. See advertisement.

D. M. MACGOUN,

For the Chief Commissioner.

Land Department,  
12th April, 1876.

APPLICATION FOR LAND UNDER DEFERRED PAYMENTS.

Donald Cameron, Section 7, Block XV., Waipahee District.

OBJECTIONS (if any) must be made in writing, and lodged on or before noon on Wednesday, 14th June, 1876, at the Land Office, Dunedin, when and where the above application will be decided.

J. T. THOMSON,  
Chief Commissioner.

Land Department,  
31st May, 1876.

LAND FOR SETTLEMENT.

MR. ROBERT SHORT, Land Office, Dunedin, has been appointed to supply information as to settlement on the land, whether by immediate purchase, deferred payments, or under agricultural leases.

Mr. Short will show maps of the land and assist purchasers or selectors in making the necessary applications.

## 50,000 FOREST TREES.

THE following Trees will be disposed of for Cash by the Curator at the Botanical Gardens, Dunedin:—

VARIETIES.	No.
Pinus Insignis	7,726
„ Ponderosa	1,995
„ Pungens	1,010
„ Jeffreyana	76
„ Halepensis	1,876
„ Sabiniana	101
„ Maritima	4,294
„ Tuberculata	380
„ Smithiana	91
„ Muricata	2,110
„ Rigida	1,235
„ Rubra	95
„ Coulteri	62
„ Benthamiana	150
Abies Douglasii	150
Cupressus Maerocarpa	540
„ Pendula Vera	1,176
„ Goveniana	40
„ Lawsoniana	226
Thuja Compacta	3,799
„ Aurea Variegata	662
Cedrus Atlantica	36
„ Libanus	42
Biota Aurea	956
„ Sinensis	220
„ Orientalis	75
Sequoia Gigantea	65
English Ash	13,376
English Oak	7,334
English Sycamore	1,495

51,365

The Curator will not be bound to supply all that may be asked by any person.

**NOTICE.**—Whereas it is intended to stop up the Road which is described in the Schedule hereunder written, and is delineated on the map or plan mentioned and referred to in the “Taieri District Roads Lands Ordinance, 1864,” Session XIX., copy of which map or plan so far as it relates to the particular road intended to be stopped up in the Road District specified in the Schedule was deposited at the public School mentioned immediately after the description of the respective road intended to be stopped up in the North Taieri Road District: Now therefore I, James Macandrew, Superintendent of the Province of Otago, by virtue and in exercise of the powers vested in me in that behalf by the “Taieri District Roads Lands Ordinance, 1864,” Session No. XIX., do hereby give notice that all persons objecting to the stopping up of that road are required to set forth a statement in writing of any well-grounded objections they may have to the stopping up of that road, and to leave such statement addressed to me at my office, in Dunedin, within sixty days from the first publication hereof, otherwise such objections will not be considered by me.

## SCHEDULE.

## NORTH TAIERI ROADS DISTRICT.

Thirty-five (35) chains in length, sixty (60) links wide from north-east angle of section number 32, irregular block, Taieri to district road, on the south side of Blocks II. and III., Taieri; boundaries west by Section 24, east by Section 25, irregular block, Taieri.

Plan to be seen at the School-house, North Taieri.  
Dated at Dunedin this 16th day of May, 1876.

J. MACANDREW,  
Superintendent of the Province of Otago.

## NOTICE.

## ROAD BETWEEN PELICHET'S BAY AND LOGAN'S POINT.

ANY PERSON found throwing the Metal of the said Road away, or into Pelichet's Bay, or otherwise injuring the said road, will be prosecuted.

JAMES GREEN,

Secretary for Roads and Works.

Roads and Works Office, Dunedin,  
22nd May, 1876.

## APPOINTMENT OF POLLING PLACE.

IN exercise of the powers vested in me by Section 101 of the “Otago Roads Ordinance, 1871,” I hereby appoint the Office of the Hampden Road Board, Mechanics' Institute, Hampden, to be the polling place at all elections for Chalgroue and Wendover, subdivisions of the Hampden Road District, in lieu of the Court-house, Hampden.

J. MACANDREW,

Superintendent of Otago.

30th May, 1876.

## NORTH EAST VALLEY ROAD DISTRICT.

**M**EETINGS of Ratepayers entitled to Vote at the ensuing election will be held as under to Nominate Candidates for Election as Member for the District Board, viz., at Mr. Crickmore's, Sawyers' Bay, on Monday, the 29th May, at 12 noon, for Harlington.

GEORGE ROSS, Returning Officer.

At Schoolhouse, North East Valley, for Signal Hill Sub-division, on Tuesday, the 30th May, at 12 noon.

JOHN LONGWORTH, Returning Officer.

At Cattle Market Hotel, on Wednesday, the 31st May, at 12 noon, for Pine Hill Sub-division.

HENRY POTTER, Returning Officer.

In the event of a poll being demanded in any of the Sub-divisions the election will take place on Thursday, the 8th day of June, 1876, from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m.

GEORGE ROSS, Harlington,

JOHN LONGWORTH, Signal Hill.

HENRY POTTER, Pine Hill.

31-32s.

Returning Officers.

## WAIKOUAITI ROAD DISTRICT.

**M**EETINGS OF RATEPAYERS entitled to vote at the ensuing election will be held as under to nominate candidates for election as members for the District Board, viz.:

At Mr. Brunton's house, on Thursday, the 8th of June, at 12 noon, for Clevedon Subdivision.—Henry Scott, Returning Officer.

At the School-house, Merton, for Merton Subdivision, on Thursday, the 8th June, at 12 noon.—Robert Allan, Returning Officer.

At the Kilmog Hotel, on Thursday, the 8th of June, at 12 noon, for Beaconsfield Subdivision.—Coll McDonald, Returning Officer.

In the event of a Poll being demanded in any of the Subdivisions the Poll will be held at the above-mentioned places on Monday, the 12th day of June from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m.

HENRY SCOTT,

Clevedon;

ROBERT ALLAN,

Merton;

COLL MACDONALD,

Beaconsfield;

Returning  
Officers.

26th May, 1876.

At 21s.

## NOTICE.

**A** MEETING of Ratepayers in the respective Subdivisions of the Waipori Road Board entitled to vote at the ensuing election will be held on Thursday, June 15th, at 12 o'clock, to nominate candidates for election in place of those retiring from office. Places of meeting as under :—

Waiholā West, at Waiholā Toll-bar.—Mr. W. Cumind, Returning Officer.

Clarendon, at the house of Mr. Neil McBride, Returning Officer.

Maungatua, at the School, Maungatua, Mr. R. Petrie, Returning Officer.

W. CUMIND, } Returning  
McPHERSON, } Officers.  
R. PETRIE, }

By order of the Board.

JAMES SIM,  
Clerk.

2t. 16s.

## SUBURBAN ROAD DISTRICT.

**M** EETINGS of Ratepayers entitled to vote at the ensuing election will be held as under to nominate candidates for election as members for District Board, viz. :

At Mr. D. Andrew's house, on Thursday, June 1st, at 12 noon, for Green Island Subdivision.

At the School-house, Green Island, on Saturday, June 3rd, at 12 noon, for Corstorphini Subdivision.

In the event of a poll being demanded it will be held in the above places on Thursday, June 8, from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m.

D. ANDREWS,  
Returning Officer.

1t. 8s.

## TAIERI ROAD BOARD.

**A** MEETING of the Ratepayers entitled to vote at the ensuing election will be held at the under-mentioned places on Thursday, 8th June, 1876, at 12 noon, for the purpose of electing members for the Board in place of those retiring from office, viz. :

East Taieri Subdivision: In the Athenæum, Riccarton—George Prain, Returning Officer.

Breadalbane Subdivision: In the House of John Smith, Esq., North Taieri—Alex. Campbell, Returning Officer.

Otohiro Subdivision: In the House of William Shand, Esq.—W. Shand, Returning Officer.

In the event of a poll being demanded it will take place at the places above described on Saturday, the 10th day of June, 1876, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

A. LEES,  
Clerk.

1t. 11s.

## ELECTION OF MEMBERS FOR THE PORTOBELLO ROAD BOARD.

**A** MEETING of Ratepayers in the respective sub-divisions of the Portobello Road District entitled to vote at the ensuing election will be held on Friday, the 2nd of June, prox., at 12 o'clock, to nominate candidates for election in the place of those retiring from office.

PLACES OF MEETING AS FOLLOW :—

Portobello School-house { William Geary } Return-  
Broadbay School-house { George Green } ing  
Sandymount School-house { Walter Riddel } Officers

In the event of a poll being demanded it will be held in the above places on Thursday, the 8th June, from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m.

By order of the Board,

GEORGE J. CLARK,  
Clerk to the Board.

4t.—25s.

## KAIKORAI ROAD DISTRICT.

**A** MEETING of Ratepayers in the respective Subdivisions of the Kaikorai Road Board entitled to vote at the ensuing election will be held on Saturday, June 3, to nominate candidates in place of those retiring from office. Places of meeting :—

Abbotshill Subdivision—Volunteer Hotel, at 2 p.m.  
Abbotsford Subdivision—Commercial Hotel, Green Island, -2 noon.

In the event of a poll being demanded it will be held in the above places on June 8, from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m.

CHAS. SAMSON,  
1t. 8s. Returning Officer.

## SOUTH MOLYNEUX ROAD DISTRICT.

## NOTICE.

**M** EETINGS of Ratepayers entitled to Vote at the ensuing Election will be held to Nominate Candidates for Election to represent the under-mentioned subdivisions for the year ending June, 1877 :—

Ahuriri Subdivision, at the Post Office, Ahuriri, on Friday, 2nd June, at noon.—Alfred Jowitt, Returning Officer.

Catlin River Subdivision, at the house of Captain Saunders, Owaki Flat, on Thursday, 1st June, at noon.—Andrew Lees, Returning Officer.

Port Molyneux Subdivision, at the Board's Office, on Friday, 2nd June, at noon.—George Hay, Returning Officer.

Puerua Subdivision, at East Clutha School-house, on Friday, 2nd June, at noon.—Robert Christie, Returning Officer.

Waitapeka Subdivision, at the house of Mr. Hodge, on Friday, 2nd June, at noon.—Andrew Melville, Returning Officer.

In the event of a Poll in any Subdivision being demanded it will be held in the above place in the subdivision concerned on Thursday, 8th June, from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m.

ALFRED JOWITT }  
ANDREW LEES } Returning  
GEORGE HAY } Officers.  
ROBERT CHRISTIE }  
ANDREW MELVILLE }

By order of the Board,

JAMES SHIELS,  
Clerk.

## ELECTION OF MEMBERS FOR THE PENINSULA ROAD BOARD.

**A** MEETING OF RATEPAYERS entitled to vote at the ensuing Election will be held at the undermentioned places on Thursday, 1st June, at 12 o'clock noon, to nominate candidates for election in place of those retiring from office :—

At the School-house, Anderson's Bay.—Mr. Nichol, Returning Officer.

At the School-house, N.E. Harbour.—Mr. Sim, Returning Officer.

At the School-house, Highcliffe.—Mr. Tinnock, Returning Officer.

At the School-house, Tomahawk.—Mr. Fraser, Returning Officer.

It is also notified that two members have to be elected for N.E. Harbour owing to Messrs. Edwards and Macandrew retiring.

Should a poll be demanded it will be held in the above places on Thursday, 8th June, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

By order of the Board.

W. O. DUTHIE,  
Clerk.

2t.—20s.

### HALF-WAY BUSH DISTRICT ROAD BOARD.

**M**EETING of Ratepayers entitled to Vote at the ensuing election will be held, as below stated, for the Nomination of one Member to serve for Waikari sub-division, and one Member for Flagstaff, on Thursday, June 1st, 1876, at 12 noon.

For Waikari, at the School-house, Waikari, W. T. Bunting, Returning Officer.

For Flagstaff, at Mr. C. Hay's residence, John Jolly, Returning Officer.

In the event of more than one person being nominated for either subdivision, and a poll demanded, the same will be held on Thursday, June 8th, 1876, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the places above-mentioned.

By order,

W. JOHNSON,  
Clerk to Board.

Dated May 15th, 1876.

2t.—15s. pd.

### SEASIDE ROAD BOARD.

**M**EETINGS of Ratepayers will be held on Thursday, the 8th June, at 12 noon, at Saddle Hill and Brighton Schoolhouses, to nominate candidates for election as members for the District Board.

In the event of a poll being demanded in any of the sub-divisions the election will take place on Monday, the 12th day of June, 1876, from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m., at the above places.

THOMAS HOWORTH,  
Walton, } Returning  
ROBERT RENNIE, } Officers.  
Brighton, }

2t. 11s. 6d.

### NOTICE.

**A** MEETING of Ratepayers in the respective Sub-divisions of the Blueskin Road Board District entitled to vote at ensuing election will be held on Thursday, June 1st, at 12 noon, to nominate candidates for election in place of those retiring from office. Places of meeting as under:

Deborah Bay Sub-division, at the house of Mr. Lean, "The Rocks." Mr. R. Lean, Returning Officer.  
Purakanui Sub-division, the Board's office. Mr. A. Wilson, Returning Officer.

Waitati Subdivision, the house of Mr. Alex. Pullar. Mr. A. Martin, Returning Officer.

In the event of a Poll being demanded it will be held in the above places on Thursday, the 8th June, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

By order of the Board.

2t.—15s.

### NOTICE.

**A** MEETING of Ratepayers entitled to vote at the ensuing election will be held at the under-mentioned places on Thursday, the 8th June, at 12 noon, to nominate candidates for election as members for the North Taieri Road Board, viz.:

Wingatui Subdivision: In the Drill-shed, Mosgiel.  
North Plain Subdivision: In the School-house, North Taieri.

In the event of a poll being demanded it will be held in the above places on Thursday, the 15th June, from 10 till 4 p.m.

By order of the Board.

JOHN ANDREW, } Returning  
CHARLES WATERS, } Officers.

2t. 16s.

### HALF-WAY BUSH DISTRICT ROAD BOARD.

**N**OTICE is hereby given that all Rates and Arrears of Rates due to the above Board unpaid by the 25th instant will be summarily proceeded for without further notice.

W. JOHNSON,  
Clerk.

### NOTICE TO MAKE FENCE.

**T**O the owner of Section 7, Block 2, township of Fairfax, take notice that I desire the boundary fence between sections 7 and 8, block 2, to be erected at once.

CHARLES MILLS.

Fairfax, May 28, 1876.

1t. 2s.

**N**OTICE is hereby given that C. Richards having applied to be allowed to withdraw his application for an Agricultural lease of Sections 3 and 4, Dart District, the same has been sanctioned by the Government, and the land is open for application under the Agricultural Lease Regulations.

D. MACKELLAR,  
Gold Fields Secretary.

Gold Fields Office,  
Dunedin, 27th May, 1876.

**N**OTICE is hereby given that Charles Seymour has applied to be allowed to withdraw his application for a Mining Lease of 16 acres of land situated two miles South-east from Cromwell Quartz Mining Company's Claim, and the same has been sanctioned by the Government. The land is therefore now open for occupation by holders of Miners' Rights, &c.

D. MACKELLAR,  
Gold Fields Secretary.

Gold Fields Office,  
Dunedin, 27th May, 1876.

### IMMIGRANTS' BILLS.

**M**R. ALEXANDER GEORGE ALLAN has been appointed Collector of Immigrants' Bills, vice Mr. Thomas Johnston, resigned, and his receipt will be a sufficient discharge, and held binding upon me.

COLIN ALLAN,  
Immigration Officer.

27th May, 1876.

**E**NQUIRIES are made at this Office for Elizabeth Hesketh, who left London for Otago in ship "Chile" in July, 1867. Any person who can give information regarding her will please to communicate with me.

COLIN ALLAN,  
Immigration Officer.

Immigration Office,  
Dunedin, 8th May, 1876.

### £3 REWARD.

**S**TRAYED from Hills Creek, about six months' one bay Filly, branded A near shoulder, white star forehead, two hind feet white. Any one returning same to Mr. Turnbull, Hills Creek; or Mr. Williams, poundkeeper, Clyde, will receive the above reward.

GEO. SMITH,  
Carrier.

2t.—8s. pd.

**L**OST, a Fixed Deposit Receipt on the Colonial Bank of New Zealand, Oamaru. Dated 25th November, 1875, for six months, No. 2-19, for Thirty-five pounds sterling. Anyone returning same to Colonial Bank of New Zealand, Oamaru, will be rewarded.

1t. 4s.

# OTAGO WASTE LANDS ACT, 1872.

SECTION 65, SUB-SECTION I.

TENTH SCHEDULE.

## DISTRICT OF MOUNT IDA.

I hereby give notice that I intend to construct a Dam and Reservoir for the storage of water in connection with my water race held under certificate No. 10, dated 5th November, 1875, an area of one quarter of an acre, situate near the Township of Hyde, viz., at the hill to the west of section 18, Township of Hyde, and I have marked out the said area with pegs and trenches; and also give notice that I intend to construct a race from the said dam to section 15, block II., Township of Hyde, commencing at a point in said dam and terminating on section 15, block II.

The length of such race is 138 yards or thereabouts, and its intended course is east by west.

The mean depth and breadth of such race is two feet by two feet; to lay down composition piping three inches in diameter, and which will be covered over when completed; and the reservoir is intended to contain 60,000 gallons of water.

Signature and Address (in full)  
of Applicant—

PHILLIP AUGUSTUS CONNOLLY,  
Naseby.

Any person objecting to the issue of a license to the above-named applicant must lodge his objection in writing at my office, at Naseby, within fourteen clear days from the date hereof. And the day fixed for hearing and deciding the application, if unopposed, and notifying objections, if any, is June 14, 1876, at Hyde.

(Signed) H. W. ROBINSON,  
District Officer.  
2t. 20s. pd.

## NORTH-EAST VALLEY ROAD DISTRICT.

TENDERS are invited for supplying and spreading about 150 yards 2½-inch Road Metal of the best blue stone for the Upper Harbour Road; also about 60 yards of 3-inch Metal for Ravensbourne Road, also to form street line and culverts in the Townships of Rothesay and St. Leonards. The several works will be shown by the District Inspector on Thursday, the 1st June, commencing at Ravensbourne at 10 a.m. (train).

Specifications at Mr. Robert Bacon's Boot Shop, Octagon. Tenders left at North-East Valley School-house on or before the 3rd June, at 2 p.m.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

HUGH MCFADYEN,  
3t.—18s. Clerk to Board

## TAIERI ROAD BOARD.

TENDERS invited for the Formation of 50 Chains of Road (more or less) in the Breadalbane Sub-division.

Tenders to be lodged with the Clerk until noon of 3rd June next.

Plans and specifications to be seen at the Clerk's office.

A. Campbell, Esq., Breadalbane, will point out the road to tenderers on 27th May, 1876.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

A. LEES,  
Clerk.  
Mosgiel, 16th May, 1876. 2t. 12s.

## TENDERS FOR REMOVING TOLL.

TENDERS will be received at the office of the Secretary of Public Works, Dunedin, until noon of Tuesday, 6th June, 1876, for Removing and Re-erecting Waiholo Toll house and Gate.

Specifications may be seen, and forms of tender obtained, at the office of the Inspector of Buildings, Dunedin, or at the Toll House, Waiholo Gorge.

The Government does not undertake to accept the lowest or any tender.

J. GREEN,  
Secretary for Works.

TENDERS wanted by the Portobello Road Board for the following Works in the Sandymount Sub-division:—1st. Formation at Flounder Point; Hooper Inlet. 2nd. Formation on road. Mr. Samuel Morris and Mr. David Aitcheson will show contractors the works on Wednesday, the 31st of May. Flounder Point at 12 o'clock; at Mr. Morris' 2 o'clock. Tenders to be accompanied by 5 per cent. on the amount of tender, and to be in not later than Saturday, the 3rd of June, at 12 o'clock.

GEORGE J. CLARK,  
3t.—12s. Clerk to the Board.

## EDUCATION MEETING.

THE Owners and Occupiers of Land, and Household holders at Fairfax and vicinity, are invited to meet at the School-house, Fairfax, on Thursday, the 8th of June, 1876, at half-past 7 o'clock p.m., to elect a School Committee for the current year.

JOHN HISLOP,  
Secretary.

## OAMARU NORTH SCHOOL.

WANTED, a Second Master, at a Salary of £150 per annum; also, a School Mistress at a salary of £125 per annum. Applicants must be prepared to enter on their duties on the 1st July next. Applications with testimonials will be received by the undersigned on or before the 16th June next.

T. CHURCH,  
Secretary to School Committee.

TEACHER WANTED for Hyde Side School. Salary £90 per annum, with school fees and residence. The Teacher will probably receive the appointment of Registrar for the District. Applications, with testimonials, to be forwarded to the undersigned.

W. H. READ,  
Secretary Hyde School Committee, Hyde.

TEACHER wanted for Hamilton School. Salary £125 per annum and school fees, with good residence and ten acres of glebe.

Full particulars may be had at the Education Office, where applications will be received up till 24th June, 1876.

WANTED, a TEACHER, Male or Female, for the School at Cardrona. Salary Government allowance, with guaranteed sum of £50 added. There is also a comfortable residence.—Applications, with testimonials, to be lodged with the undersigned before the 10th of June.

R. McDOUGALL, Cardrona.

ANTED, a Duly Qualified MISTRESS for the Port Chalmers Grammar School. Salary £120 per annum.—Applications, with testimonials, to be lodged with the Clerk on or before June 15th.

JOHN MACFARLANE, Clerk.

**WANTED**, for East Taieri District School, a  
PUPIL TEACHER (Male or Female).—  
Applications, with testimonials, to be sent to Mr.  
Waddell, Teacher, on or before 7th June.

B. SOMERVILLE,  
Clerk to School Committee.

8th May, 1876.

**WANTED** for the District School of Alexandra  
duly qualified Schoolmaster and School-  
mistress. Salary: Master £200, Mistress £100 per  
annum, with comfortable residence. A mistress com-  
petent to give instruction in music preferred. Appli-  
cations to be forwarded to the Secretary Education  
Board, Dunedin, on or before the 19th June.

JAMES RIVERS,  
Clerk School Committee, Alexandra.

#### DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Partner-  
ship hitherto existing between the undersigned  
as Millers and Produce Merchants, carrying on busi-  
ness in Dunedin and Oamaru under the style or firm  
of Anderson and Mowat, has this day been dissolved  
by mutual consent, and that the business will be car-  
ried on as hitherto by James Anderson, under the  
style or firm of Anderson and Co.

Andrew Mowat will pay all liabilities due by, and  
receive all debts due to, the late firm in Oamaru,  
James Anderson paying all liabilities due by, and  
receive all debts due to, the late firm in Dunedin.

JAMES ANDERSON,  
ANDREW MOWAT.

Dated March 1st, 1876.

t.c.

**ABSTRACTS** from previous Gazettes of Impound-  
ing Notices:—

9TH JUNE, FRIDAY NOON.

A Horse will be sold at Hampden Pound.  
A Cow, 2 steers, and a heifer will be sold at Shot-  
over Pound.

**WILLIAM MILLER**, ex "Invercargill," from  
Glasgow, a Registered Letter has been re-  
ceived for you at the Immigration Depot, Oamaru.

ALFRED HESKETH,  
Immigration Officer,

t.c.

Oamaru.

£50 REWARD.

#### INCENDIARISM.

**MALICIOUSLY SETTING FIRE TO THREE  
STACKS OF OATS.**

**WHEREAS** about 3.15 o'clock on the morning  
of the 17th instant Three Stacks of Oats,  
situate at North East Harbour, Peninsula District, the  
property of James and William Christie, value £300,  
were discovered on fire, by which they were de-  
stroyed: And whereas it is believed that the said fire  
was wilfully caused: Notice is hereby given that a re-  
ward of £50 will be paid to any person who shall first  
give such information to the Police as will lead to the  
arrest and conviction of the person or persons by  
whom the said fire was caused: And in addition there-  
to His Excellency the Governor will be advised to  
grant a Free Pardon to an accomplice, not being the  
person who actually caused the fire, who will give such  
information as shall lead to a like result.

T. K. WELDON,  
Commissioner of Police.

Police Office, Dunedin,  
27th April, 1876.

#### £50 REWARD INCENDIARISM.

**MALICIOUSLY SETTING FIRE TO TWO  
STACKS OF OATS.**

**WHEREAS** about 9.30 o'clock on the morning  
of the 9th instant Two Stacks of Oats, situate  
at Shag Valley, near Palmerston, the property  
of John Jordan, were discovered on fire, by which  
they were destroyed: And whereas at an inquest held  
at Jordan's Junction Hotel, Shag Valley, on the 19th  
instant, by J. W. Murdoch, Esquire, R.M. and Coroner,  
to inquire as to the origin of the said fire, the Jury  
returned the following verdict: "That the stacks were  
wilfully set on fire by some person or persons to the  
Jurors unknown." Notice is hereby given that a re-  
ward of £50 will be paid by the Provincial Govern-  
ment of Otago to any person who will first give such  
information to the Police as will lead to the arrest  
and conviction of the person or persons by whom the  
said fire was caused, and in addition thereto His Ex-  
cellency the Governor will be advised to grant a Free  
Pardon to an accomplice, not being the person who  
actually caused the fire, who shall give such informa-  
tion as will lead to a like result.

T. K. WELDON,  
Commissioner of Police.

Police Office, Dunedin,  
26th April, 1876.

#### INCENDIARISM.

**Maliciously Setting Fire to Corn and Corn Stacks in  
the Waikouaiti District.**

£100 REWARD AND A FREE PARDON TO  
AN ACCOMPLICE.

**WHEREAS** the following property has been  
destroyed by fire in the Police District of  
Waikouaiti, viz:—

1. Two stacks of oats, value £50 8s., at Shag Valley,  
belonging to John Jordan, on the 9th ultimo.
2. One barn, containing 600 bushels of oats, 17 bushels  
of wheat, and sundry articles, value £160, between  
Mount Watkins and Flag Swamp, belonging to John  
Galbraith, on the 6th instant.
3. 163 bags of wheat, value £100, at Flag Swamp,  
belonging to Donald Sutherland, on the 7th instant.
4. Two stacks of wheat, value £200, at Pleasant Valley,  
belonging to J. W. Murdoch, on the 7th instant.
5. One stack of straw and 125 bags of oats, value £75,  
at Bushy Park, belonging to A. and W. Cochrane, on  
the 12th instant.
6. Five stacks of wheat and one stack of oats, value  
£340, at the Maori Kaik, belonging to Maoris, on  
the 14th instant; and as the destruction of said pro-  
perty is attributable to incendiaries,

Notice is hereby given that a reward of £100 will be  
paid by the Provincial Government of Otago to any  
person who shall first give such information to the  
police as will lead to the arrest and conviction of the  
person or persons by whom any of the said fires were  
caused, and in addition thereto His Excellency the  
Governor will be advised to grant a free pardon to an  
accomplice not being the person who actually caused  
any of the fires who will give such information as shall  
lead to a like result.

T. K. WELDON,  
Commissioner of Police.

Police Office, Dunedin,  
15th May, 1876.

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