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PROVINCE OF SOUTHLAND.

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By His Honor's Command,

JOHN BLACKLOCK,
Provincial Secretary.

VOL 6.]

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1868.

[No. 25.]

REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF SURVEYOR SOUTHLAND
ON
PUBLIC RESERVES.

Chief Surveyor's Office, Oct 3rd, 1868.

His Honor the Superintendent, Southland.

Sir,—I have the honor to submit, in accordance with your instructions, a detailed statement and report of all Public Reserves in the Province of Southland.

The total area of land reserved from sale, including township, village, educational, ferry, cemetery, bush, gravel, sheep, native, temporary, and other reserves is 107,409 acres, but only 38,785 acres of this can be considered as reserved for Provincial Government purposes, or for which grants will have to be obtained from the Crown. Grants for 46 of these containing 1834 acres 3 roods 32 perches, exclusive of those for the reserves in the towns, have been issued under the the "Public Reserves Act 1854" to the Superintendent and his successors in trust for the Province; 9268a. Or. 11p. have been recommended by the Provincial Council, under the "Southland Waste Land Act 1865;" the rest of the reserves have been set apart from time to time, some

prior to the Separation of this Province from Otago; others such as gravel and bush were selected by the assistant surveyors at the time of survey; a great many, such as the education, ferry, village, and sheep reserves were recommended to be reserved by the Waste Lands Board; and others were withheld from sale by the order of the late Superintendent.

The Waste Lands Acts of 1856 and 1863 provide that reserves shall be made by the Superintendent with the consent of the Provincial Council, but I can find no official record of the assent of the Council having been obtained for the reservation of any of these reserves, and as the question might hereafter arise, whether they had been properly constituted, I will with your Honor's concurrence, forward a detailed list of those for which you have not yet received a grant from the Crown, and which it is desirable to permanently retain as public reserves, to the Provincial Council, so that they may be now recommended as reserves under the present Land Act.

The reserves (38 in number) temporarily set apart by your Honor under the XVI. clause of the "Southland Waste Land Act 1865," have been sent from time to time to the Council for confirmation, excepting those made since last session; these I will duly forward in the usual manner.

I have divided the reserves under town and rural, and will for convenience of reference adopt

the Canterbury system of giving each reserve a separate number of its own, by which it will hereafter always be designated. I have divided the town reserves into seven different classes, and the rural ones into sixteen, some of which will have to be subdivided for different trusts. The town and rural reserves contain over 1140 different sections or blocks of land, and the task of properly arranging them, finding out when, by whom, and how they were made has been no slight one. It will be impossible for me without first personally inspecting them, to recommend all the present reserves, such as the gravel, stone, and others to be permanently retained as such, but a detailed list of all the most important ones, such as the Education, Collegiate, School, Cemetery, Ferry, and Sheep Reserves, which it is desirable to permanently retain as public reserves shall be ready during the present session of the Provincial Council.

THE EDUCATIONAL RESERVES.

1a.—Education Reserves (Rural.)

123 sections containing 11,570 acres, have been set apart for this purpose, 41 of these containing 1462a. 1r. 39p. have been granted to the Province under the "Public Reserves Act, 1854;" 5016a. 0r. 13p., in 4 large blocks, have been confirmed by the Provincial Council under the "Southland Waste Lands Act, 1865," leaving 69 sections containing 5091a. 1r. 30p., set apart for an Education endowment, not yet confirmed. I would suggest that 39 of these containing 2821a. 3r. 32p. should be now recommended by the Council under the XVI. clause of the Land Act, as permanent reserves for Educational purposes, and that the remaining 30 sections, containing 2269a. 1r. 38p., which appear to have been selected without reference to position or quality of land, and which could not possibly for years to come, yield any revenue for Educational purposes, should be re-advertised as Waste Lands of the Crown; this is necessary as I apprehend that the Governor of New Zealand will not be advised to grant an unlimited quantity of land for any one purpose, and it would not be advisable to swell the total amount of any endowment by land, which could not possibly be expected to yield any income to it.

1b.—Collegiate Reserves (Rural.)

These reserves contain 462a. 0r. 35p., of which 149a. 1r. 38p. have been recommended as an endowment for this purpose by the Council, the remaining 18 sections will be submitted to them.

1c.—School Reserves (Rural.)

There are six reserves containing 60 acres that have been set apart as sites for country schools, two of them have been confirmed, the others will be forwarded for the recommendation of the Council.

This will give, should the Council confirm those that I have submitted as permanent reserves, an endowment of 9822 acres for Educational purposes, which ought to yield an annual income, computing at the average rate of one shilling and sixpence per acre—of £736, without including the Educational reserves in the different towns.

II.—Cemetery Reserves.

There are six cemetery reserves containing 46a. 3r. 34p., only two of them have been granted to the Superintendent under the "Public Reserves Act, 1854," two of them have already been confirmed, and the others will be sent down for the recommendation of the Council.

III.—Ferry Reserves.

Ten reserves containing 1831a. 3r. 33p., have been set apart for this purpose; 319a. 3r. 02p. have been leased with the New River Bridge; two reserves containing 403 acres have been recommended by the Provincial Council, and the others will be submitted for confirmation.

IV.—Stone and Quarry Reserves.

The Stone and Quarry Reserves contain 899a. 1r. 06p.; of this 733a. 2r. 00p. has already been confirmed by the Council; most of the rest were selected by the district surveyors as quarries for road metal, and I will duly submit them to the Council with the other reserves.

V.—Gravel Reserves.

No less than 56 gravel reserves, containing 546a. 3r. 39p., have been made in different parts of the Province, of which none have been confirmed; six of them which I know to contain gravel, shall be sent down for the recommendation of the Council, the others had better be left until I have inspected them, and am able to report on the desirability of retaining them for the purpose for which they have been reserved.

VI.—Coal Lignite Reserves.

For this purpose three reserves have been made, containing 1296a. 0r. 23p.; the most valuable one, at Mr Keinecker's station, in the Wairaki District, has been confirmed by the Council, the other two had better remain temporary reserves until a geological report has been obtained as to their value.

VII.—Pilot and Lighthouse Reserves.

75a. 2r. 23p. have been reserved for Pilot and Signal Stations; as the Harbor Department to which these reserves properly belong, will probably come under the control of the General Government, these reserves had better be only recommended as such, and the grants for them left unapplied for.

VIII.—Harbor Reserves.

There are two Harbor Reserves, which contain 44a. 1r. 22p.; they include the sites of the Bluff Harbor and New River Jetties; grants for them have been issued to the Superintendent.

IX.—Miscellaneous Reserves.

These contain 1298a. 2r. 22p. under these are classed:—

The Public Park Reserve, containing	200	0	00
„ Lunatic Asylum	do	10	0 00
„ Market Reserve	do	227	0 31
„ Race Course	do do	411	1 31
„ Acclimatisation	do do	50	0 00
„ Flax	do do	400	0 00

The two latter have been consented to by the Provincial Council, the others shall also be sent for confirmation.

X.—*Sheep Reserves.*

There are twenty Sheep Reserves, containing 15,054 acres, four of them containing 2,100 acres, have been recommended under the "Southland Waste Land Act, 1865." The others I will forward for confirmation.

XI.—*Native Reserves.*

These Reserves contain 5241 acres, and were set apart for Native purposes, prior to the separation of this Province from Otago.

XII.—*Railway Reserves.*

About 1190 acres have been set apart for the existing lines of railway, and the extension of the same. The Crown Land over which the Bluff and Winton line pass, have been reserved by the Southland Ordinance, No. 31 and 47, passed by the Provincial Council. The reserve for the northern extension of the Winton line, has been surveyed, and shall be submitted for recommendation at the next session of the Council.

XIII.—*Road Reserves.*

These reserves contain only 111 acres, they are for future alteration of existing line of roads, and need not, I apprehend, be confirmed at present.

XIVa.—*Township Reserves.*

The Township Reserves are twenty-three in number, and contain 14093a. Or. 38p. Land has been sold in thirteen of them, the others are simply reserved from sale.

XIVb.—*Village Reserves*

Eleven Village Reserves have been made, containing 3687a. 1r. 08p.; none of the land contained in them has been alienated from the Crown.

XV.—*Bush Reserves.*

There are eighty-five Bush Reserves, containing 40,659 acres, or nearly one half of the total reserves in the Province, these reserves are dealt with under the "Southland Waste Lands Amendment Act, 1867," and ought to add a very considerable sum to the land revenue, if the fees arising therefrom were systematically collected in every part of the Province.

XVIa.—*Unappropriated Reserves.*

Under this class appear 66 reserves containing 4322a. Or. 26p., which appear to have been reserved for no special purpose; I shall not be able to report as to the advisability of retaining them as permanent reserves, during the present session.

XVIb.—*Temporary Reserves.*

4867 acres have been temporarily reserved for quarantine and other purposes, these will, I apprehend, revert, and be re-advertised as Waste Lands of the Crown, as soon as they are no longer required for the purpose for which they were set apart.

TOWN RESERVES.

The total area of land reserved for various purposes within the townships amount to 561a. 1r. 25p., Crown Grants for 183a. 2c. 36p. have been issued to the Superintendent.

I.—*Education Reserves.*

94 town sections containing 23a. 2r. 00p. have been reserved for Educational purposes; Crown Grants for 73 of these, containing 18a. 1r. 00p. have been issued to the Superintendent, and the management of the same has been vested by the "Educational Reserves Ordinance, 1862," in the Education Committee of the Province; 13 quarter-acre sections have been reserved in Wallacetown, and 8 in the township of Stanley; the latter, I would suggest, should be abandoned, as they are not worth the cost of the grants, and that those in Walacetown should be given up and an equal amount of land selected instead of them, in one block in that township, and be recommended as a School Reserve.

II.—*Collegiate Reserves*

Include ten sections containing 2a. 2r. 00p. in the town of Invercargill; they have been granted to the Superintendent, and the management of them vested in the Education Committee by the "Collegiate Reserves Ordinance, 1863;" a few of the Education and Collegiate Reserves in the town of Invercargill would, if offered on moderately long leases, yield a small sum for Educational purposes, £75 or £100 might even at the present time be obtained by leasing them.

III.—*Municipal Reserves.*

There are 257 sections containing 64a. 1r. 00p., reserved in the different towns for municipal endowments; those situated in Invercargill, Riverton, and Campbelltown, containing 47a. 3r. 00p. have been granted to the Superintendent, and the management of them has been vested by the "Municipal Endowments Ordinance 1862" in the several Town Boards.

IV.—*Reserves for Special purposes.*

102 sections containing 196a Or. 23p. have been reserved as sites for Government Buildings, Police Stations, Gaols, &c.; grants have been issued to the Superintendent for the Hospital, Gaol, and Provincial Government Buildings reserves in Invercargill, and I have sent down for the recommendation of the Council all others that contain any buildings belonging to the Provincial Government in any of the Townships.

V.—*General Government Reserves.*

15 reserves have been made, containing 7a. 2r. 08p. in the various towns and sites for buildings in connection with the departments of the General Government.

VI.—*Reserves for Public purposes.*

Different blocks of land containing 217a. 1r. 33p. have been reserved for Public Gardens, Recreation Grounds, &c., in various towns; Crown Grants for 106a. 2r. 12p. in the town of Invercargill, have been granted to the Superintendent.

VII.—Provincial Government Reserves.

Seventy one pieces of land, containing 53a. Or. 01p. have been reserved from sale in different parts of the several townships for purposes that are not enumerated.

I enclose with my report two tables, giving the amount of land at present reserved under each subdivision I have made, both in the town and rural reserves, showing in one column those which may be considered as reserves or endowments for Provincial Government purposes, and for which Grants will have to be obtained from the Crown, and in the other, those in which the right to the Crown will not be alienated, and, from, which land revenue is still derivable; the latter contain 68,623 acres, and the former, 38,785 acres.

I also forward a map (showing the position of) and a detailed list of all those reserves which it is desirable to permanently retain as such, for which no grants have been issued to the Superintendent, and which have never been confirmed by the Provincial Council, and I would suggest that they should now be recommended as public reserves, so that no doubt as to their legality should exist.

I have shown each reserve under the proper class to which it belongs.

In concluding my report I must apologise to your Honor for the condensed way in which I have been obliged to report on the several kinds of reserves, but the great number and variety of them rendered it impossible to give a more detailed statement of each kind in one report.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sgd.) JOHN H. BAKER,
Chief Surveyor.

RECAPITULATION OF RURAL RESERVES

Nature of Reserve.	Special Reserves Grants to be obtained.	General Reserves Grants to Superintendent not necessary.
I. a. Educational	11,570 0 02	
I. b. Collegiate	462 0 35	
I. c. School	60 0 00	
II. Cemetery	46 3 34	
III. Ferry	1,881 3 33	
IV. Stone & Quarry	899 1 06	
V. Gravel	546 3 39	
VI. Coal & Lignite	1,296 0 23	
VII. Pilot Station & Lighthouse		75 2 28
VIII Harbor	44 1 22	
IX Miscellaneous	1,298 2 22	
X. Sheep	15,054 0 00	
XI. Native		5,241 0 00
XII. Railway	1,190 3 17	
XIII. Road	111 3 07	
XIV. a. Township		14,093 0 38
XIV. b. Village		3,687 1 08
XV. Bush		40,659 1 27
XVI. a. Government	4,322 0 26	
XVI. b. Temporary		4,867 1 04
	38,785 1 26	
For General purposes		68,623 3 25
For Provincial purposes		38,785 1 26
Grand Total... ..		107,409 1 11

RECAPITULATION OF TOWN RESERVES.

Nature of Reserve.	Special Reserves Grants to be obtained.	General Reserves Grants to Superintendent not necessary.
I. Educational	23 2 00	
III. Municipal	64 1 00	
II. Collegiate	2 2 00	
IV. Special purposes	196 0 23	
V. General Government		7 2 08
VI. Public purposes	217 1 33	
VII. Provincial Government	53 0 01	
	556 3 17	7 2 08
		556 3 17
Total area of Town Reserves		564 1 25