



NEW ZEALAND
Government Gazette.
 PROVINCE OF SOUTHLAND.

Published by Authority.

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

WILLIAM WOOD,
Superintendent.

VOL. 7.] MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH, 1869. [No. 32.

Superintendent's Office,
 Southland, 23rd April, 1869.

IT is hereby notified that a Writ, issued for the election of one member of the Provincial Council of the Province of Southland for the district of Campbelltown, has been duly returned, with a certificate to the effect that

THOMAS MORELL MACDONALD, Esq.,
 has been duly elected.

WILLIAM WOOD,
 Superintendent.

Superintendent's Office,
 Southland, 25th Nov., 1869.

IN pursuance of the power in me vested in that behalf, I hereby appoint the yards erected by Messrs HUGH and ANGUS CAMERON, at the Maitara Bridge, to be a Public Pound.

WILLIAM WOOD,
 Superintendent.

Superintendent's Office,
 Southland, 25th Nov., 1869.

IT is hereby notified that I have appointed
 Mr HUGH CAMERON,
 to be Keeper of the public Pound at the Maitara Bridge.

WILLIAM WOOD,
 Superintendent.

Superintendent's Office,
 Southland, 26th Nov., 1869.

IT is hereby notified that

MESSRS. PAY AND CO.
 are authorised to make the following charges for the Storage of powder deposited in the magazine, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
1 ton or upwards—per keg per week	0 0 0½
10 cwt. and under 1 ton—per keg per week	0 0 1
And for lesser quantities—per keg per week	0 0 1½

WILLIAM WOOD,
 Superintendent.

FOURTH PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

OPENING ADDRESS.

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

Your meeting on this occasion possesses peculiar importance.

The embarrassments in which the province is now involved have resulted in a crisis that must be met by a decisive policy which, within a reasonable period, may be expected to afford relief. Conceiving it to be the duty of the Government at this juncture to state its views without reserve, your attention will be invited chiefly to the three following important subjects, viz., the embarrassed state of the province, the means of extrication, and the restoration of permanent prosperity.

The floating liabilities of the province amount to the sum of ££35,000, a detailed statement of which will be laid before you. The official retrenchment has been carried to the verge of impairing efficiency, and I can hold out no hope of further reductions; but in one department — that of the Bluff Harbor — an increase must be proposed to secure its efficient conduct. It must be manifest, therefore, that retrenchment is not the solution of our difficulties. These I find to be such as to prevent the Government from turning to advantage the resources undoubtedly possessed by the province, and to impede the healthy settlement of the country. Emigration from, rather than immigration into, the province appears to prevail; and should the present unhealthy state of the public credit continue, I see no hope of the latter being resumed, or the former discontinued. The provincial estate cannot be utilized, the public creditor is unpaid, the salaries of the public servants are many months in arrear, and the ordinary revenue is wholly insufficient to provide for the necessary machinery of Government.

The utter futility of continuing for any lengthened period to carry on the government of the province under such circumstances must be apparent to you. It therefore becomes your duty to devise the best means of extricating us from our humiliating position, and placing this part of the colony in the position of importance which its natural resources entitle it to occupy. Two courses appear open to you, viz, direct local taxation, or re-union with Otago. As regards the first, a considerable sum would require to be raised for general purposes alone without meeting the requirements of the country for roads, education, and municipal improvements. In the opinion of the Government, a population of 7500 people, could not, without entirely crushing its energies, bear so heavy a burden, and this proposition will probably not be entertained by you. The other alternative, that of re-union with Otago, will, in the opinion of the Government, furnish the only solution of the difficulties by which we are beset. Resolutions recommending this course — upon the basis contained in the report of the Commissioners appointed on behalf of the two provinces — will be proposed for your adoption. Upon that basis re-union is alike feasible and honorable, and would secure the interests of every section of the community, achieve a real independence, relieve your Government of the disgrace of contracting liabilities it has not the power of liquidating, and offers a reasonable prospect of the speedy settlement of the country. I have, therefore, to ask you to consider the subject calmly and dispassionately, divesting your minds of political antipathies. We have reached a period in our political career which admits of no trifling. Elected on a special question, with a community anxiously looking to you for

relief from a burden which years of pressure have rendered well nigh intolerable, I have no doubt that the proposition will meet with your most careful consideration; and I hope your deliberations may be so guided by Almighty God, that they may be productive of lasting benefits to the people you have been elected to serve.

WILLIAM WOOD,
Superintendent:

REPLY TO HIS HONOR'S ADDRESS.

"The Council agrees with your Honor that its meeting on this occasion possesses peculiar importance.

"The Council regrets the continued, and of late largely increased, financial embarrassment of the province, and concurs with your Honor that vigorous and decisive action is absolutely necessary in the present crisis.

"The Council regrets to learn from your Honor's address that the floating liabilities of the province amount to such a very large sum, and that the salaries of the public servants are so long in arrear, and that the revenue from all sources is wholly insufficient to provide for the debt charges, and at the same time satisfactorily carry out the functions of Government.

"The Council fully recognizes the necessity of calmly reviewing our present position, and of giving the most serious attention and mature consideration to the Commissioners' report on reunion with Otago, or any other remedial measure that may be suggested, and trusts that the action now taken may at the earliest possible period lead to permanent relief from our present humiliating position.

"The Council hopes that its deliberations may be so guided as to be productive of lasting benefit to the people of this part of the Colony.

"JAMES WILSON, Chairman."

