

P E T I T I O N

OF

ELECTORS AND INHABITANTS OF MARLBOROUGH

PRAYING FOR A REVISION OF

THE “NEW PROVINCES ACT, 1858.”

OF ELECTORS AND INHABITANTS OF MARLBOROUGH.

To the Honourable the House of Representatives in Session assembled : The respectful Petition of the undersigned Electors and Inhabitants of the Province of Marlborough, sheweth :—

That your Petitioners having now had experience of, are dissatisfied with the “New Provinces Act” passed by the General Assembly in the year 1858, under which this Province in which they reside has been severed from the Province of Nelson.

That they find that, while it involves much that is unpleasant and entails great cost, it does not secure any exemption from those abuses and neglects, to prevent which was its ostensible object.

That besides being too costly, Provincial machinery is not workable in such a small area, where nearly every question directly affects the individual interests of those who have to deliberate upon it, and must therefore fail to obtain that calm, unprejudiced and impartial consideration which the same questions would receive in a large Province where the greater portion of the Council and Executive must necessarily be more aloof from such immediate influence : also, that in a Province like Marlborough, possessing only a small pastoral and agricultural population, there will not be found a desirable number of duly qualified persons who will, or can divert their time and attention from their regular pursuits, to the affairs of the Province ; consequently these are chiefly left to the hands of such individuals to whom the offices and salaries (which are thus certain of being unduly increased) are objects.

That the multiplication of small Provinces, while it may tend to give a temporary activity to local administration, tends no less to weaken the resources by which its efficiency must be maintained ; and burdens the General Government with an increase of establishments, which, though charged in the first place against the new Province, may ultimately bring that Province into debt to the General Government, without the means of liquidation.

That, while it is admitted that remote districts of the old Provinces may have been neglected, it is evident that separation affords no guarantee against a repetition of such neglect on a smaller scale by the new Provinces towards their own remote districts ; and when such neglect exists, it would, upon the only principle of the New Provinces Act, be equally just to subdivide again and again, till at last the absurdity might be reached of the political institution of every sheep station and every family.

Your Petitioners have arrived at the conclusion that, though the New Provinces Act is lavish and exhaustive in its operation, it is no remedy for the neglect it was belived to cure and prevent ; and while they are far from denying the necessity of some guarantee being given by law against the neglect of the remote parts of a Province, they conceive that machinery for the purpose might easily be devised which would not be attended with any of the bad consequences which must necessarily flow from the continuance of the existing law on the subject.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honourable House will be pleased to revise the existing law, and to provide some other system obviating the difficulties which are alledged to have existed before its enactment.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

W. H. Eyes,
 Jas. Sinclair, M.P.C.,
 Thomas Wall,
 James T. Robinson,
 Alexander McLachlan,
 Richard B. Scott,
 Henry Dodson, M.P.C.,
 John O'Leary,
 Richd. Read,
 William Collie,
 James Smith Carroll,
 David Scott,
 Archibald Hamilton,
 James Gorrie,
 William Wrigley,
 James Nosworthy,
 John T. Robinson,
 William Shephard,
 Richard Kenny,
 John Henderson,
 Richard Doidge Nosworthy,
 Henry Mears,
 Fredk. Adams,
 James Reid,
 John D. Leys,

William Reid,
 William Reay,
 Charles Smith,
 Wm. Taylor,
 Joseph Dempsey,
 Thomas Warner,
 James McIntosh,
 Joseph Taylor,
 Angus McKay,
 A. B. Palmer,
 Robert Guest,
 John Grim,
 Albin Close,
 George Watson,
 W. Henry Goslin,
 J. Burke,
 Le Bunn,
 George Gibson,
 William Howard Hall,
 John Kennedy,
 Henry Gill,
 W. Homes,
 J. Walton,
 Daniel Peddin,
 Charles Lucas,

Wm. Greig,
 R. Goslin,
 Charles Eyles,
 John Hymus,
 John Maxwell,
 Henry Fivan,
 V. Hewitt,
 John Henderson,
 James Johnson,
 John Arwood,
 M. Peel,
 James H. Greig,
 Lewis K. Horne,
 Daniel Cavannagh,
 Alexander Cameron,
 C. Myers,
 Alexander Rankin, junr.
 Lewis Lewis,
 William Smith,
 John Blincoe,
 David Henderson,
 Thomas Murphey,
 E. W. Palmer,
 E. O. Palmer,
 Robert H. B. Newth,
 W. Newth,
 John Shepherd,
 James Wilson,
 F. Smith,
 John Cope,
 Farman Scott,
 William Bodman,
 F. T. Farmar,
 Wm. Booker,
 J. Haxton,
 W. Henderson,
 Geo. Dodson,
 Wm. Norgrove,
 Michael Aldridge,
 A. Davis,
 Richard Budge,
 T. Smith,
 John O'Brien,
 W. B. Earll,
 A. T. B. Haynes,
 Philip R. McRae,
 Nehemiah McRae,
 Joseph Sweettore,
 James Stewart,
 David Roberts,
 James Stirling,
 Andrew Robertson,
 James McCloud,
 John Hart,
 John Lowry,
 William White,
 William McDonald,
 Alexander McLennan,
 Donald Raymond,
 William Smith,

170 Names.

Thomas Richardson,
 Alex. Linton,
 John Haycock,
 T. Walker,
 James Spiser,
 Peter Mure,
 Chrestein Nugert,
 Thomas McEnsey,
 Charley How,
 James Stanley,
 James Guigone,
 Thomas Goldstone,
 James Burns,
 Richard Wanden,
 John G. Johnston,
 Jas. R. Fisher,
 A. H. Passan,
 James Gee,
 William Lovell,
 James U. Wilson,
 George Morison,
 Henry Garland,
 J. Frost,
 George Houlthby,
 James H. Cousen,
 Thomas Harrington,
 John Smith,
 James Pike,
 Charles Blizzoe,
 Archibald McCallum,
 Duncan McCallum,
 Donald McCallum,
 Angus Cameron,
 Jas. Dalzell,
 John McCallum,
 Henry Bull,
 Geo. Watts,
 Geo. Henderson,
 Geo. Balchison,
 John Fraser,
 John Pope,
 Charles Brindell,
 John Gibson,
 R. MacDonald,
 John MacDonald,
 Robert McIver,
 Frederick Barker,
 Thomas Davies,
 George Mason,
 Richard McRae,
 Harry Narot,
 Edgar Dodson,
 Wm. Simmonds
 Tom Palmer,
 Caleb Davies,
 John Cate,
 E. Vaughan,
 Edmund Straford,
 John Rose,
 Joseph Rose.