

APPORTIONMENT OF THE PUBLIC DEBT OF

therefore, upon which Interest and Sinking Fund can be claimed, remains as before at £16,194 12s. 3d. plus the charge of the Department. Now six per cent. for Interest and Sinking Fund on £16,914 is only £971. You are thus retaining the balance of Surplus Revenue, viz., £2,221 19s. 10d. due to Wellington to meet a balance due from it for the same period of £971.

Taking the two periods to which I have referred, the total amount due to this Province is £4,626 6s. 5d., the total amount due to the Government from the Province is in round numbers £2,438. The total amount which I respectfully submit is not only unfairly but in violation of the arrangement formerly sanctioned by the House of Representatives, withheld by the General Government from the Province is £2,188.

Again expressing my hope that you will order these accounts to be adjusted in accordance with the Resolution of the House, and the balance due to the Province to be at once paid.

I have, &c.,

I. E. FEATHERSTON,
Superintendent.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Auckland.

No. 10.

MR. FOX TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF WELLINGTON.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Auckland, 4th April, 1862.

SIR,—

In reply to your Honor's letter of the 18th March, 1862, upon the subject of the apportionment between the Provinces of Wellington and Hawke's Bay, of the amount due for Interest and Sinking Fund on the sums expended for land purchases, I have to observe that it is the duty of the Assistant Treasurer to make up the accounts according to the law for the time being in force; that a Resolution of the House of Representatives cannot overrule the provisions of the New Provinces Act, by which that Officer must be guided in stating the particular account to which you refer, and that the Resolution which you quote can be regarded simply as supplying a deficiency not previously provided for by an Act of the Legislature. I have moreover intimated to the Superintendents of each of the Provinces concerned that the question should be allowed to remain in abeyance until finally determined at the next meeting of the General Assembly, an arrangement which it is not now desirable to disturb.

The second point raised by your Honor respecting the alleged excessive amount retained by the General Government requires explanation. Your Honor is under a misapprehension in supposing that the Government has retained the balance due on Surplus Revenue Account for the year 1860, in addition to the balance for the year 1861. On examining more closely the accounts which have been furnished, your Honor will perceive that the balance for the former period is brought forward and merges into the transactions of the second period, and that it is only the balance at the latest date which the Government has retained, viz., £2,221 19s. 10d. against £2,438, which your Honor admits to be owing by the Province.

I have, &c.,

His Honor the Superintendent,
Wellington.

WILLIAM FOX.

No. 11.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF WELLINGTON, TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Superintendent's Office,
Wellington, 18th March, 1862.

SIR,—

As by this month's mail, I remit the sum required to pay the half yearly dividends on the permanent loans of the original Province of Wellington due in London on the 1st July next, I have the honor to request that you will be pleased to cause to be paid into the Provincial Treasury, the sum of £1250, on account of Hawke's Bay in conformity with the Resolution of the House of Representatives.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Auckland.

I. E. FEATHERSTON,
Superintendent.

No. 12.

MR. FOX TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF WELLINGTON.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Auckland, 5th April, 1862.

SIR,—

With reference to your Honor's letter No. 86-62 of the 18th ultimo, requesting that the sum of twelve hundred and fifty pounds might be paid into the Wellington Provincial Treasury,