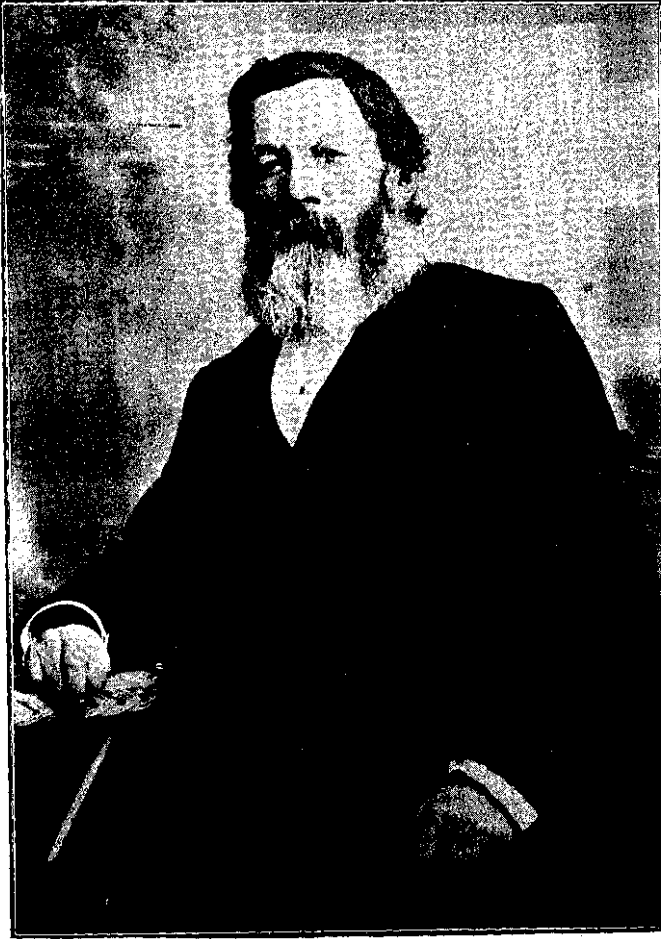


HON. JAMES HOLMES, M.L.C., one of the newly-appointed members of the Legislative Council, belongs to Hokitika. He is a native of Brighton, Sussex, where he was born on January 26th, 1831. He was not the sort of lad to settle down quietly at home. The desire to see something more of the world he lived in than that small

fortune at Forrest Creek, Bendigo and Ballarat. But the life had not a very great fascination for him. It did not take that firm hold that it does of so many. Two years of varying fortune was enough for him. He realized that steady work at a trade was preferable, so he wisely determined to settle down in business as a painter in Geelong. This was in 1854, and six years



Wrigglesworth & Binns, Hon. James Holmes, M.L.C.

Dunedin.

portion, bounded by the shores of England, induced him at the age of twenty-one to set sail for the colonies, and he arrived in Melbourne in 1852, when it was in a state of great excitement over the development of its recent gold discoveries. Like almost all immigrants at that time, he yielded to the magic call of gold, and hastened to the goldfields. He had the usual miner's experience, and in succession tried his

later he decided to make another move. The claims of New Zealand were then coming before the public, and he left Victoria for Dunedin, where he established himself in the same line of business he had pursued at Geelong. Five years in the Southern City sufficed; the mining township of Hokitika seemed to offer good inducements, and he removed there, and has remained there ever since.