

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

WANT OF CONFIDENCE MOTION REJECTED.

THE Provincial Council has, by 28 to 17, rejected Mr Storr's Want of Confidence.

THE REMODELLED GOVERNMENT.

On Thursday afternoon it was announced that Mr Tolmie and Mr McDermid had retired from the Government. Their places were taken by Dr Webster (Secretary for Lands) and Mr Shand (non-official).

WASTE LANDS BOARD.

The usual weekly meeting of the Waste Lands Board was held on Thursday afternoon the 10th inst. Present—Mr J. T. Thomson, Chief Commissioner (in the chair), and Messrs Strode, Butterworth, Clarke and Reid.

Mr George Gordon applied to be allowed to purchase section 42, Waihemo district.

Refused, pending receipt of Attorney General's opinion, which has been sought for.

Mr Murdoch McLennan applied for a license under the 161st clause of the Otago Waste Lands Act 1872, to occupy about 1000 acres of open land discovered at the mouth of the Tautaku river. Being the holder of Run No. 446, he desired to have a place on the coast for shearing and storage.

License to be granted under the 161st Clause of the "Waste Lands Act 1872, at a fee of £1 per annum.

The matter of the appointment of a District Land Officer for Lawrence came up. Warden to be appointed, subject to approval of the Government.

Messrs Connell and Moodie, on behalf of Messrs John and Allan McLean, requested the Board to cause the boundaries of their runs on the Hawea Lake country to be officially laid down upon the complete survey map of the Interior district, and to appoint a day for confirming the same.

The Chief Surveyor to lay down boundaries of all runs covered by new maps, for general information.

The applications of Messrs Inder and George to be appointed auctioneers for the Board for the Mount Ida district, was recommended by the Government, and approved at usual rates.

Ranger Hughan reported on the application of Mr Robson for a lease of Totara island, under clause 169.

Robson's application to be granted under a bond of £1000.

Ranger Hughan reported on the application of Messrs George Gray Russell and Co., to have section 37, block 1, Pomahaka district, put up for sale.

Approved.

The applications of Messrs G. Stephens, R. Francis, and P. Law—transmitted by the District Land Officer—to have their business sites at Naseby offered for sale. To be surveyed and put up with valuation as recommended by warden.

The application of Mr Patrick White to purchase his business site Tuapeka Flat. To be sold by auction as land of special value, having been so long occupied, and at the upset price of £20 per acre. To be first surveyed at the expense of applicant.

The Naseby District Land Officer reported on an application of the Canterbury and Otago Association, to purchase 92 acres of their homestead on run No. 250, Deep Dell.

Approved.

Mr Alexander Mollison applied to purchase a piece of open land, being part of Bush Reserve, block 1, Clarendon district.

Referred to ranger for a report.

A petition was lodged against the sale of part of block 1, Waitahuna west, applied for by Mr James Smith. The Government sent a recommendation that the Board stay proceedings until further enquiries be made.

Proceedings to be stayed as requested.

Mr D. McKellar, M.P.C., wrote, forwarding a petition against the sale of land on run No. 354, Nevis district, petitioners having seen a notice of the intention of Mr Harrison, the runholder, to apply for his pre-emptive right.

Referred to District Land Officer as warden.

The Town Clerk, Naseby, telegraphed protesting against the sale of sections 70, 71, 118, 120, and 121, Naseby. The Government recommended all sections to be withdrawn.

To be reserved.

Maps of section 13, block 3, and 14, block 3, and 16, block 15, Maungatua, applied for as unsurveyed land, were submitted for approval, and approved.

Mr Tolmie (who did not occupy his seat on the Board) applied to have the plan of survey of a block of land in Waipahoe district approved of.

Mr Thomson left the Board while this case was on, and Mr Strode occupied the chair.

Mr Gillies, of Messrs Gillies and Street, objected, on behalf of Mr Logan, to the application being passed, as it was now surveyed.

Mr Tolmie said it was only within the last five minutes that he had become aware that there was any objection to this application of his for land at the back of his original purchase. His application was in before any other. He had got the ground, rough hill land, fenced in, and instead of getting 640 acres fenced in, there were over 800 acres. It was rough land, and he wanted as little as he could of it; and the best fencing line, the one followed, took in over 800 acres. The fencing had cost him £360, and Mr Logan had applied for the land after it had been fenced.

Mr Gillies said Mr Tolmie took possession wholly and solely at his own risk.

Mr Tolmie said he did so after permission from the Chief Commissioner.

Mr Gillies said Mr Tolmie's application was for an area stated definitely in his own handwriting, and Mr Logan had applied for the remainder of the unsold land there. Mr Tolmie was now going beyond his application, and accordingly went in upon Mr Logan's.

No man should be allowed to take possession of Government land until he was legally in possession of it, which Mr Tolmie was not.

Mr Strode asked Mr Prentice to explain why he had surveyed the extra quantity of land.

Mr Prentice said he had understood the original application was amended.

Mr Gillies said there was no proof of amendment.

Mr Tolmie did not care for the 100 acres, but complained that after the fence was up this came forward. He had something to risk until the fence was up; 3000 acres of his land was open.

The plan was approved of and Mr Tolmie was declared the purchaser.

The plans of other similar applications were also approved of.

It was resolved that a depasturing lease on Pigeon island, Lake Wanaka, be sold by auction.

The Board passed a resolution requesting the Chief Commissioner to communicate with the Executive, to get a better room for the holding of the Board's meeting.

AUCKLAND.

RAILWAYS IN THE WAIKATO.

(A Contributor.)

THERE was, as you will see from the papers, a large meeting held here last night, for the purpose of urging Government to extend the Waikato Railways, and carry them on from one end of the island to the other. It was argued that such a policy would, among other good fruits put an effectual stop to any future danger from the natives. The Auckland prints make much of the unanimity and enthusiasm which prevailed at the meeting. But this was not surprising. The meeting was mostly made up of laboring men and merchants—some of the latter dealing extensively in liquor. Any scheme involving the large outlay of public funds must of necessity prove highly profitable to laboring men and liquor traders. This may be said without detracting in any way from the value of railroads in the Waikato or anywhere else, as a means of giving an impetus to trade and agriculture. Particular stress was laid on the necessity of Government proceeding immediately without any, the least delay, to build a Waikato Railway up to the disturbed districts, as a means of stamping out the Maori "little wars" with which we are ever and anon troubled. By the way they are not very little wars if we look at the expense. It was maintained that costly as a railway might be, it would not be so costly as those military arrangements we had been forced to make to keep the natives under. It occurred very strongly to me that there was another and a still cheaper and more efficacious way of securing the peace of the country—so far as Maoris are concerned. If Government would only take proper means to enforce the Arms Act; offer a sufficiently high and tempting reward for the detection of those supplying the Maoris with arms and ammunition, and on conviction of the offenders hang them up on the gallows tree, we should hear no more of the necessity of building railroads to prevent or suppress such disturbances. The reward now offered by Government under the Arms Act, is not sufficiently high and tempting—it is paltry. This subject was not broached at the meeting. If it had been it would most likely have got the go by. Some evasive reply would have been given to any one putting a question on the subject, and asking the reason why a larger reward was not offered. There are always some in the community to whom a war policy and consequent war expenditure is highly profitable, and these may be, on the platform, the loudest in urging the maintenance of peace, law, and order. Such is life. The present native policy seems prudent and just, and only what might have been expected from a Government presided over by a Chief Justice. The law is about to be vindicated by legal and peaceable means, without any show of vindictiveness. It is only a matter of regret that Sir George Arney's term of office as Governor, will so soon expire—unless indeed his successor shall be animated with a like spirit as himself. If war be avoided, no thanks to the Auckland press. They have done their best to kindle the flames of war—some of them at least—notably the 'Evening Star.'

THE VALUE OF TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION.

"THE value of telegraphic communication," remarks the 'Lyttelton Times,' "between the Australasian colonies and all other parts of the world, is illustrated, if not clearly proved, by a statement said to have been made in Melbourne recently. According to the 'Argus,' an influential member of the South Australian Parliament' said that the total cost of the overland telegraph line between Adelaide and Port Darwin had been about £300,000, and that South Australia has been already recouped to the extent of one-half that large outlay at the very least. This has been done, we are told not by charges for the transmission of messages over the line, but by the increased value given to her surplus produce through the rapidity with which she has been enabled to inform herself as to the exact state of the London market." The Melbourne 'Argus' questions this statement of the South Australian M.P., but the 'Lyttelton Times' observes:—"We see no reason whatever to doubt the correctness of the view taken by this influential member of the South Australian Parliament, more especially when it is backed up by indisputable figures. The enhanced price to the producer has enabled him to spend more money in labour, and so the price of that commodity has been increased by an increase in the demand. In this way, by action and re-action, the advantages of telegraphic communication are spread throughout an entire community. When the whole question of telegraphic communication is closely examined, the conclusion seems inevitable that the masses, comparatively speaking, will derive most advantage from its extension. The absolute necessities of life can never rise to famine prices in London, Paris, and the other great cities of the world, when news is published daily, almost hourly, about production in every quarter of the globe, except in the hardly conceivable case of a universal blight and destruction."