

Bill, Education Reserves Management and Leasing Bill, Roads Diversion Bill, Port Chalmers Reserves Management Bill, Kakanui Harbor Board Bill, Invercargill Racecourse Reserves Management Bill, Winton Racecourse Reserves Management Bill, Oamaru Hospital Reserve Change Bill. Gentlemen, I have to congratulate you on the amount of business which has been disposed of in a comparatively short space of time. I trust that the result of your deliberations may be largely conducive to the public interest. I have to assure you that it will be the earnest endeavour of the Executive Government to give practical effect to the various important proposals which have been sanctioned by you. As respects the proposed expenditure for the year, I may say that the main estimates of expenditure were framed upon the bases of the probable revenue, with due regard to the requirements and equitable claims of the various localities throughout the Province. In accordance with your resolutions, a considerable amount has been placed on the Supplementary Estimates. It will be obvious, however, that the extent to which those resolutions can be given effect to, will depend entirely upon the extent to which the actual may exceed the estimated receipts during the year. It is well that this should be perfectly understood. Gentlemen—Thanking you for your attendance, I now declare this Council prorogued, and it stands prorogued accordingly.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

July 30 to August 5.

In reply to a question, Mr Vogel stated that the assertion recently telegraphed, to the effect that Mr Russell had made arrangements at Washington for a new Californian mail service, was not correct; but that if the other Colonies liked to join New Zealand in the matter, it was probable that a satisfactory contract could be arranged.

Mr Steward moved the second reading of the Justices Disqualification Bill, the object of which is to prevent justices from sitting on licensing benches. After considerable discussion, during which the opinions were expressed that insolvency should disqualify justices, that the Bill be so amended as only to disqualify publicans from sitting on licensing day, and that if publicans were disqualified, wholesale merchants should be disqualified. Mr Brandon thought the appointment of Magistrates should rest with the Superintendents. Mr Fitzherbert thought the appointment of Justices should rest with Ministers, under the advice of the Superintendents. The Bill was read a second time.

Mr Johnston urged the Government to publish the correspondence relative to the terms upon which the Bank of New Zealand negotiated the half-million of debentures in Australia. The rate of exchange paid was excessive, and should not have been paid. As a taxpayer, he felt he had been plundered.—The printing of the correspondence was agreed to.

In reply to Mr Wakefield, Mr M'Lean said the Native members of the executive attended the Cabinet only when Native questions were under discussion. Their advice and services had been useful and the experiment had proved very successful.

The Juvenile Offenders Bill, after being strongly denounced from all sides of the House was thrown out on the voices.

Mr Steward moved that a Select Committee be appointed to report on the condition of the Volunteer force, with the view of amending the Militia and Volunteer Regulations. Mr Stafford said the Volunteers of the Middle Island were mere shooting clubs. Motion passed. Committee to include a Committee of the Upper House.

In reply to Mr Sheehan, Mr Vogel stated that the Government had no intention of amending the Mining Companies Act of last year.

On a question by Mr Sheehan, Mr Vogel said the Government did not admit the necessity for a discussion of their Native Policy, and therefore, had no intention to submit the question of their Native Policy to the House. Certain measures regarding Native matters would be introduced, and Mr Sheehan could then take action.

In reply to Mr Tribe, Mr Vogel said the Government had no intention to increase the vote for water supply to the goldfields to half a million.

The Cable Subsidy Agreement Ratification Bill was committed.—Mr Stafford objected to the Bill as it did not compel the contractors to keep the cable open between New Zealand and Australia.

Mr Vogel said the sixth clause provided for such a case. The Bill was reported to the House without amendment.

After the Provincial Powers Bill had been condemned as narrow, technical, and pettifogging, progress was reported to allow of a better Bill being framed.

Mr Vogel stated that the total cost of the telegraph cable from Singapore to New Zealand (Australia?) would be £1,900,000. The cable between New Zealand and Australia would cost £400,000.

Correspondence relative to a Suez mail service was produced. Mr Parker, Sydney, wrote that, in reference to the contract made by New South Wales for a line of steam mail packets between Sydney and San Francisco, the Sydney Government have decided to withdraw from the position of seeking the co-operation of other Colonies, and to throw the service open for the conveyance of letters to and from Australia and New Zealand for postage charges only. Also, that the Sydney Government had secured to it a choice between a mail delivery calculated at 45 days, and one at 40 days, to and from Liverpool, and that a contract had been closed for a service at the rate of twelve knots per hour, for 6000 hours, between Sydney and San Francisco. The new boats of the line, built expressly for the service, will commence running from Sydney to San Francisco about the middle of next year; but the Government is prepared to start an interim service, though not of equal speed, in January next. The only arrangement necessary on the part of New Zealand to receive the full advantages of the service will be the employment of a fast steamer between Kaitiaki and New Zealand ports.

Mr Vogel read an extract from a telegram from the Agent-General to the effect that immigration is in a promising state. 1200 immigrants left in June.

Mr Bradshaw introduced a Bill to make provision with regard to the employment of females in work rooms and factories.

Amendments will be moved extending the Bill to boys in flatmills.—The Bill was read a first time.

Mr Vogel explained the provisions of the Education Bill to be permissive in their character. The control of education matters in each district would be regulated by a School Board elected by the School Committees. There were four kinds of rates—a uniform rate on the capital value of property, and an annual value rate on adults. Religious education was provided for but only at end or commencement of school; at least four hours' secular education were provided for. The choice as to religious education was left in the hands of parents and guardians. This permissive system would ultimately develop into a general system for the Colony. The differences of the regulations were not at present reconcilable.

TELEGRAMS.

(From the Daily papers.)
THE COLONY.

AUCKLAND, July 31st.—A petition against the new tariff has been signed by 3000 persons. A meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held to-day to consider the new tariff, and was very numerously attended. Merchants spoke bitterly against the action of the Government. They estimated the increase of the duties by the change of tariff would be equal to £250,000 on the Colonial revenue. The chairman stated that he had received telegrams from all the Southern Chambers, expressing sympathy with the action of the Auckland Chamber.

GRAHAMSTOWN, July 31st.—Great excitement prevails among holders of Caledonian scrip, and shares are rising rapidly.

NELSON, July 31st.—The new tariff is received with great disfavour, being regarded as indicating a protective policy, and an increase of taxation.

The shelving of the West Coast Railway has created a strong sensation here.

CHRISTCHURCH, July 31st.—The Financial Statement has been received well here, but the new tariff is looked upon as oppressive, considerably enhancing the price of various articles, such as drapery.

LYTTLETON, July 31st.—The Ben Nevis, from hence for Hokitika, was wrecked yesterday at Kaikoura.

WELLINGTON, August 1.—It is reported that Mr Fitzherbert will lead the Opposition, with the view of increasing the power of the Provinces. The Rangitoto was insured for £10,000. Her mails will be forwarded to Dunedin, whence the Alhambra will return with them to Melbourne immediately.

AUCKLAND, August 1.—Caledonian shares are at £24; Tooke's at £9, and Thames at £6. Mr John Reid quotes Otago oats at 4s 9d to 5s, flour at £13 10s to £14 10s, and bran at 1s 3d. There have been large arrivals of flour. Kauri timber has advanced, in price, in consequence of the active demand for it.

GRAHAMSTOWN, August 1.—The 'Thames Advertiser' condemns the Financial Statement.

It is believed that the gold discovery in lower level of the Caledonian mine will have a very important effect on the future of the field.

The proposal to revert to Provincial borrowing is condemned.

NAPIER, August 1.—The alteration in the tariff is generally condemned.

CHRISTCHURCH, August 1.—Messrs Royle, Stead and Co. quote wheat as firm at 5s, flour at £12 10s, oats at 4s 6d to 4s 10, barley at 6s 6d, butter at 1s 1d, and cheese at 3d—all f.o.b. Stocks are light.

WELLINGTON, August 2nd.—The s.s. Napier is now at the wreck of the Rangitoto, saving cargo for the insurers. The Rangitoto had 170 tons of cargo for Wellington. At the inquiry into the loss of the Rangitoto, the captain and chief mate were censured and admonished.

Messrs Plummer and Reeves quote flour at £13 10s to £13 15s in sacks, and 13s to 15s extra in assorted bags. Wheat is quoted at 4s 3d to 5s 9d, and oats at 5s 3d to 5s 9d.

AUCKLAND, August 2.—Mr Binney reports that Oamaru flour is at £14, Dunedin do at £14 10s, Canterbury do at £13 10s; Oamaru wheat at 6s 3d, and Canterbury do at 6s to 6s 3d.

Caledonian shares are at £25. Tooke's shares have risen £10.

GREYTOWN (Wairapa), August 2.—The Natives claiming the ownership of a block of land, offer armed resistance to a writ of ejectment.

NELSON, August 2.—The Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce telegraphs that the Nelson community is dead against the new tariff.

HOKITIKA, August 2.—The Chamber of Commerce, its Chairman telegraphs, opposes the new tariff.

BLUFF, August 2nd.—The Alhambra left Melbourne on Sunday 27th July, with the English mails ex Baroda, and arrived off the Bluff at 10 p.m. on the 1st August; she came along side the wharf at 7 a.m. she was detained at Melbourne for twenty-four hours waiting for the English mail. She brings 32 saloon and 25 steerage passengers; she also brings 413 tons of cargo for all ports.

WELLINGTON, August 4th.—The wreck of the Rangitoto was sold to-day for £465. It was purchased by Mr Hartmann on behalf of the N.Z.S.S.Co. It is believed the Rangitoto will be raised and employed in the local trade.

GRAHAMSTOWN, August 4th.—A case of specimen stealing has occurred in the Otago mine. Four youths are concerned in it, and two of them have turned Queen's evidence.

The yield of the Caledonian mine for the week is 159oz., that of the Golden Crown 59oz., of the Kurunui 304oz., of the Black Angel 307oz., of the Long Drive tribute 302oz., and of the Queen of Beauty 308oz.

NAPIER, August 4.—Bishop Moran received an ovation on his arrival here.

OAMARU, August 4.—The s.s. Pretty Jane arrived here at 8 a.m. yesterday with the steam crane for the harbor works. It was unloaded alongside the breakwater very quickly, the whole being completed at 5 p.m. The sea was quite calm. Hundreds of people were present during the day.

WELLINGTON, August 5.—The Carandini's concert last night was