

quickly and efficiently to his readers. The *Nelson Examiner* clearly contributed to the establishment of New Zealand's traditional support for British foreign policy and it is probably through the reputation it achieved for authoritative reporting that it was regarded as the best of the early newspapers.³⁷

Though Elliott was an enterprisingly competent printer who produced quite an influential paper he did not achieve commercial success. The *Nelson Examiner* expired on 15 January 1874 and Elliott was worth only three hundred pounds at his death two years later. Reasons for his business failure included non-payment of his subscription and advertising bills, and competition from the *Nelson Colonist* launched on 23 October 1857 by William Nation who successfully supplanted Elliott as a printer for the Nelson Provincial Council.

REFERENCES

This is a slightly modified section of work presented in the Department of Librarianship at the Victoria University of Wellington in partial fulfilment of requirements for the Master of Arts degree.

For further discussion of Charles Elliott and the *Examiner* see the author's 'The Production of the *Nelson Examiner* in the Context of the Early New Zealand Press', 19, no. 2, 123-139, and 'Charles Elliott's Revenue from the *Nelson Examiner*', *Bulletin of the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand*, 9, no. 4, 121-138.

- 1 Charles Elliott (1811-1876) had a brief and successful career in England prior to his arrival in Nelson on 9 February 1842 with his wife Jane and two sons aged seven and five. Another son was born on 6 May 1848. Elliott founded and printed the *Nelson Examiner* from 12 March 1842 to 15 January 1874. He also had the distinction of compiling and printing the first four New Zealand stud books. Elliott reached social and political prominence in a variety of ways. He became committee member of the Nelson Institute on 3 July 1848 and was appointed co-secretary of the Horticultural Society in 1848. Elliott, who was a lifelong secretary and treasurer of the Nelson Turf Club, became pro tem acting secretary of the Nelson Constitutional Association on 27 November 1850. He was appointed a member of a provisional committee of the Nelson Mining Company on 10 July 1852, and was in 1854 variously chairman of the Select Committee on Steam Communication and chairman of the Select Committee on Education. In 1861 Elliott was chairman of the Select Committee on Patent Slip and Dry Dock. He represented Wairau in the Nelson Provincial Council from 1853 to 1859, Amuri from 1860 to 1861 and Nelson from 1863 to 1864. He represented Awatere in the Marlborough Provincial Council between 1860 and 1861, and was the Member of the House of Representatives for Waimea from 1855 to 1858. In 1874, Elliott was appointed as Immigration Officer for Nelson, an office he held until his death on 5 July 1876.
- 2 *Nelson Examiner (NE)*, 12 March 1842, p.2, col. 4.
- 3 *NE*, 6 March 1847, p.2, col. 1.
- 4 *NE*, 12 February 1859, p.2, cols 3-4.
- 5 *NE*, 25 February 1864, p.2, cols 3-4.
- 6 *NE*, 11 January 1851, p.182, col. 4.