

followed by establishing a new daily, the *Timaru Evening Mail*, which he sold at the end of 1887. Meanwhile, he had in the middle of 1887 leased the Napier *Evening News and Hawke's Bay Advertiser*, established two years earlier, to assist him in his campaign for the Napier electorate. In the elections held on 26 September 1887 Ives was not successful against the sitting Member, the Hon. J. D. Ormond.<sup>40</sup> He departed from the *Evening News* at the end of 1888, bound for Australia.

Albury, New South Wales, was Ives's next arena. The *Albury Evening Mail* began publication on 9 March 1889, Ives retaining proprietorship of it until December. He moved to Newcastle, New South Wales, to start the short-lived *Evening Star*, and by December was back in Albury to again take over the *Albury Evening Mail* until it was sold at the end of April 1891. Where Ives was for the remainder of 1891 and 1892 has not been ascertained. By March 1893 he was firmly established back in New Zealand, this time in the Rangitikei township of Hunterville. The first issue of the *Paraekaretu Express* was published on 10 March 1893 to considerable local interest, the first copy printed being auctioned for sixpence at the request of bystanders.<sup>41</sup>

Reading the *Paraekaretu Express* leaves little doubt that Ives had the 1893 national election firmly in his sights. He can be observed in action, moving into a recently settled area, rapidly establishing himself, and angling for the nomination. Although the customary 'Ourselves' in the inaugural issue (10 March 1893) made no mention of Ives's political ambitions (indeed, quite the opposite—'We enter the field as independent journalists—attached to no particular party or clique'), by the third number Ives had established himself in the public eye as the spokesman for a deputation of local interests waiting on the visiting R. J. Seddon. On 14 April Ives openly advertised himself by publishing a letter written to him by Seddon; also in that issue he noted that he would take part in a public debate. One month later the matter of Ives's availability for nomination was out in the open. In a letter to the editor one J. Johnston asked

Mr. Editor, it is commonly rumoured that you . . . wish the electors here to cut and dry the proprietor of the Express as a candidate for the coming contest. The result of the rumour here is anxiously watched. (16 May 1893)

This was answered by a long letter in which Ives stated

as I am an old campaigner in the political field I have learnt wisdom . . . and consequently Mr. Johnston will have to be content to wait for the lapse of time to bring forth "the result of the rumour" that is being anxiously watched . . . (19 May 1893)

In the same number, Ives in an editorial strongly accused the present incumbent of the Waitotara electorate, Mr George Hutchison, of