

No. 29.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY TO THE SUPERINTENDENT, SOUTHLAND.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Auckland, 20th February, 1864.

(No. 39.)

Sir,—

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Honor's letter of the 6th instant, requesting that the Ordinances named in the margin, passed by the Provincial Council of Southland, and forwarded for the Governor's pleasure thereon, on the 16th, 19th, and 22nd October, respectively, may be returned if His Excellency's assent has been obtained thereto.

Oreti Railway Ordinance, 1863.
Appropriation Ordinance, No. 2, 1863.
Oreti Railway Ordinance, 1863.

I return to you the two following Ordinances:—

"Oreti Railway Ordinance, 1863," and "Appropriation Ordinance, No. 2, 1863." duly assented to. I regret that these Ordinances have previously been overlooked, but as the assent has been given to these Bills within the three months after they have been received by the Governor, for the signification of His Excellency's pleasure thereon, I trust that no inconvenience will have ensued by this delay.

The third named Ordinance, "Oreti Railway Ordinance, 1863," has, I perceive, a title which is an exact repetition of the one first named, and I would have presumed that its mention was a clerical error were it not that in your letter three dates are mentioned as those on which the three specified Ordinances were forwarded.

If among the Ordinances sent about that time by your Honor any other Ordinance has been overlooked, which should have been assented to, I will advise His Excellency at once to assent to it, before the time within which such assent can be given has elapsed.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM FOX.

His Honor the Superintendent,
Southland.

No. 30.

THE SUPERINTENDENT, SOUTHLAND, TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Superintendent's Office,
Southland, 14th March, 1864.

Sir,—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th ultimo. The sketch plan of the lands proposed to be given in security of the Loans raised under the authority of the Bills passed in this session of the Provincial Council were not ready when the Loan Bill for £120,000 was sent to you; they are now enclosed. As that bill showed the existing liabilities amounted on the 10th of February to £96,000, and various other contracts in progress on roads and other public works rendered it necessary to borrow a larger sum than that amount—the whole or nearly so of the amount of the loan being virtually expended: under these circumstances the Provincial Government does not see its way to any course other than that of raising this particular loan, in order to maintain the credit of the Province. Fortunately the extent of good land in the Province affords an ample security.

The loan of £40,000, to complete the Bluff and Invercargill Railway, has been rendered necessary by the enlargement of certain works, extensions of parts, improvements of other parts, and some new works. It might have been more prudent to have avoided some of those for the present; others were unavoidable; and all have been contracted for; so that the additional sum is necessary in this other case for that specific purpose, to cover the liabilities for which the sum named will be ample, and leave a margin.

The Plan above referred to will specify the particular lands set apart in security for this last mentioned loan; and it is important that the Provincial Government should receive an early intimation that this has received the favourable consideration of the Governor, which I trust you will think it right to advise.

I have, &c.,

J. A. R. MENZIES,
Superintendent.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Auckland.