

how the General Government proposes that this debt should be met? for I assume that the object of your Government is to maintain the credit of the Province. It would be monstrous to suppose that it would deliberately refuse its assent to action taken by a Province to meet a debt, merely because it held the opinion that the Province should not have incurred that debt, when the effect of such refusal would damn the credit of the Province. Or, if you have no other plan to suggest by which this debt could be better met, will you inform me upon what further stipulations—beyond hypothecation of land—you will agree to advise the assent of His Excellency to the Loan Ordinance? I trust that you will favour me with a reply without delay, as I feel keenly that the matter is one of vital importance to the Province, and in which delay may ultimately be as injurious as disallowance.

I have, &c.,

J. A. R. MENZIES.

Superintendent.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Auckland.

No. 34.

THE SUPERINTENDENT, SOUTHLAND, TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Superintendent's Office,

Southland, March 16th, 1864.

SIR,—

I have the honor to enclose herewith authenticated copies of two Bills, in duplicate, intituled respectively the "Debenture Ordinance No. 1, 1864," and the "Appropriation Ordinance No. 1, 1864." The one is a Bill to raise a Loan of £40,000, to complete the Bluff and Invercargill Railway, the other to appropriate the sum for that purpose.

As I have mentioned, in another communication sent by this mail, this sum will complete the Railway, and leave some little margin. *The contracts have all been taken with the exception of some minor ones for stations, and are in progress, so that the liabilities may be considered to exist.*

The Provincial Government has transmitted a Plan of a tract of land, nearly all of which is arable and of good quality, which it proposes to set apart in security for the repayment of this loan.

I trust that you will have no hesitation in recommending those Bills for the assent of His Excellency the Governor.

I have, &c.,

J. A. R. MENZIES,

Superintendent.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Auckland.

No. 35.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, TO THE SUPERINTENDENT, SOUTHLAND.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Auckland, 6th April, 1864.

SIR,—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters of the 14th and 16th ultimo, respectively, and, in reply, to inform your Honor that the tracing of the Land set apart by the Government of Southland as security for the proposed Loan of Forty Thousand Pounds has been referred to the Receiver of Land Revenue, at Invercargill, for his report as to its value, and, when such report is received, your Honor will be again communicated with.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM FOX.

His Honor the Superintendent,
Southland.

No. 36.

THE SUPERINTENDENT, SOUTHLAND, TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Superintendent's Office,

Southland, 23rd April, 1864.

SIR,—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, of the 6th instant, informing me that a tracing of the land set apart as security for the proposed Loan had been referred to the Receiver