

PAPERS RELATIVE TO THE

Mr. J. FRASER to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Province of Otago, New Zealand,

Superintendent's Office, Dunedin, 2nd July, 1869.

SIR,—

Referring to my letter No. , of the ultimo, I have now the honor to forward the enclosed from Mr. James Smith withdrawing his protest against a portion of his run, No. 123, being declared into a Hundred. There can therefore, I presume, be no difficulty in the way of the Proclamation being issued.

I have, &c.,

J. FRASER,

Deputy Superintendent.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary Wellington.

Mr. J. SMITH to His HONOR the SUPERINTENDENT of OTAGO.

Tokomairiro, 30th June, 1869.

SIR,—

I beg leave to withdraw my letter of 3rd June, protesting against five thousand (5,000) acres of my run, No. 123, being declared into a Hundred, as Mr. Gillies, Government Agent, has arranged with me for the sale of the same.

I have, &c.,

JAMES SMITH.

His Honor the Superintendent, Province of Otago.

The Committee resolved that no action be taken with respect to this case until the whole question be reported upon.

MR. HALL'S RESOLUTIONS.

The Committee proceeded to further discuss these Resolutions.

On motion of *Mr. Reynolds*, the following was proposed as a new Resolution to follow clause 6, and agreed to: "That in consideration of the Provincial Revenue being charged with the compensation to be paid for Hundreds to be hereafter proclaimed, the proceeds of assessments on stock within the same shall be Provincial Revenue."

The *Hon. Mr. Dillon Bell* moved, That the following proviso be added to clause 6: "Provided always that the amount of compensation to be paid shall not exceed the following rates—

"Where not more than 5,000 acres are taken for the Hundred, 6s. per acre;

"Where not more than 15,000 acres are taken, 4s. per acre;

"Where the whole acreage of the run is taken over and above the amounts, 2s. 6d. per acre."

On the motion being put, *Mr. Reynolds* moved the following as an amendment: "Provided always that it shall be optional to the runholder, when a Hundred is proclaimed including any portion of his run, to throw up his lease of such run, and he shall be entitled to receive compensation for the whole amount of land comprised in the said run at a rate not exceeding 2s. per acre: And provided further, that if such runholder prefers to continue in occupation of his run he shall be entitled to compensation at a rate not exceeding 3s. per acre over the portion of the run so proclaimed."

On the amendment being put, it passed in the negative.

On the original motion being put, it passed in the negative.

Mr. Hall moved, That the following proviso be added to clause 6: "That after the amount of compensation shall have been determined by arbitration it shall be optional with the Provincial Government, if it shall object to the amount of such compensation, to abandon the proposed proclamation of such Hundred." Agreed to.

The whole of the Resolutions as amended and read were agreed to.

OTAGO WASTE LANDS AMENDMENT ACT, 1869.

Moved by the *Hon. Mr. Dillon Bell*, That Mr. Macandrew be invited to attend the Committee to state the object of this Bill.

Mr. Macandrew attended, and stated as follows:—The object of the Bill is simply this: Under the existing Act it is found positively, in most cases, the pasturage within Hundreds has been given away—nothing paid for it; whereas on the runs, 3s. 6d. per head is paid for large cattle, and 7d. for small: the whole is paid into the Provincial Revenue. The principal object of the Bill is to assimilate the two classes—to get a revenue from one as well as the other. At present the pasturage is in the hands of Wardens, and in some of the Hundreds they act, in others not. Half goes to the Road Boards, and half expended by the Wardens. The latter half was found to be misapplied, *i.e.*, roads are said to have been made to the doors of the Wardens. It is considered the money would be far better applied if appropriated in the usual way—to the Road Boards.

The only Hundreds where the Act has been in operation satisfactorily are the Hundreds in the neighbourhood of Oamaru. Had the Act been carried out throughout the Province in a similar spirit, there would have been no necessity for this Bill. The upshot is, that on the runs and within the Gold Fields 3s. 6d. and 7d. are paid to the Provincial Revenue—in the Hundreds nothing at all is paid, in many instances.

Mr. Macandrew then withdrew.

Moved by *Mr. Graham*, That, in the opinion of this Committee, the new Act, as regards administration by Wardens, shall only extend to Hundreds hereafter to be proclaimed.

The motion on being put, passed in the negative.

Clauses 1 to 4 read and agreed to.

Clause 5 read. Amendments proposed: That the whole of the words in line 1 and to the word "Council" in line 2 inclusive be struck out, and the words "The Waste Land Board shall" be inserted in their place; and that the word "to" in lines 3, 4, 6, 8 respectively be struck out, and that the following proviso be added to the clause: "Provided always that all such Regulations shall be approved by the Superintendent." Amendments agreed to.

Clause 6 read. Amendment proposed: That the whole of the words in line 1 and to the word "to" in line 2 be struck out, and the words "The Waste Lands Board shall" be inserted in their place. Agreed to.