

I strongly indorse the request of my Ministers, and I consider that, if the rules and regulations of the new society were approved of, the formation of such a society would be of advantage to the colony.

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.,
RANFURLY.

No. 16.

(No. 66.)

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 25th November, 1897.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch A.—2, 1898, No. 58, dated the 7th September, 1897, enclosing copy of a letter from Colonel Paine, who has visited England on a special mission from the United States No. 33. with regard to bimetallism.

2. As there is no branch of the Royal Mint in New Zealand, my Ministers have no observations to make on this portion of the subject.

3. The Government, however, in the case of an international agreement, desire to act on the currency question in concert with the Australian Colonies.

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.,
RANFURLY.

No. 17.

(No. 69.)

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 25th November, 1897.

I have the honour to inform you that my Premier has asked me, in accordance with the invitation expressed in the Address in reply to the Speech in opening Parliament, to specially draw your attention to the invitation from both Houses of Parliament to their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York to visit New Zealand, and to ask you to convey the same to Her Majesty and to His Royal Highness. The people of New Zealand are looking forward with every hope that their Royal Highnesses may be enabled to accept it, and I can assure you that they will meet with a most loyal reception.

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.,
RANFURLY.

No. 18.

(No. 70.)

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 25th November, 1897.

With reference to your despatch No. 59, dated the 8th September, 1897, respecting Japanese immigration into Australia, I have the honour to inform you that a Bill dealing with the matter is in course of preparation. A.—2, 1898, No. 34.

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.,
RANFURLY.

No. 19.

(No. 73.)

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 25th November, 1897.

In reply to your despatch (New Zealand, No. 47) of the 17th August, 1897, I have the honour to inform you that I have laid the matter before my Ministers, who have informed me that a Bill to repeal the Act No. 64 of 1896 is now under the consideration of Parliament, and other provisions will be made in the same Bill. A.—2, 1898, No. 26.

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.,
RANFURLY.