

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, 1ST JUNE, 1854.

PRESENT—The Speaker and 27 Members.

The House met pursuant to adjournment.

The Speaker took the Chair.

The minutes of last meeting were read.

Mr. Sewell gave notice that on Saturday next he would move that a Select Committee be appointed to prepare lists and forms of Statistical and other Returns and of documents which it may be desirable for the House to obtain from the Executive Government for purposes of general information.

Mr. Carleton gave notice that on Friday, the 9th June, he would move for Returns showing the amount of duty which each article of the Tariff has yielded during the last 12 months ending June 9th, or any corresponding period comprising 12 months, to which the Revenue accounts may have been respectively made up, distinguishing the quantity imported of each article where specific duties are chargeable, and the valuation of those items subject to ad valorem duties.

This Return to be obtained from the Auckland Province, and from as many other Provinces as possible without involving long delay.

Mr. Mackay brought up the Report of the "Improvement Committee," which was received, read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. E. G. Wakefield, with permission of the House, moved that his motion of which notice stands for to-morrow, be considered in Committee of the whole House.

Agreed to.

Mr. FitzGerald, according to notice, moved the following address in answer to the speech of the Officer Administering the Government, which was seconded by Dr. Monro, and agreed to.

To His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government of the Islands of New Zealand.

May it please your Excellency,—

We, the House of Representatives of New Zealand in Parliament assembled desire to express to your Excellency our grateful thanks for the Address with which your Excellency has been pleased to inaugurate the opening of the first General Assembly of New Zealand.

We cordially unite in the language of congratulation with which your Excellency has been pleased to refer to the prosperity which pervades all parts of this Colony; and we desire to add our own testimony, derived from personal acquaintance with the various Provinces, to the justice of your Excellency's expressions: we entertain the strongest conviction that under the liberal institutions which have been bestowed on this Colony by the English Parliament, that prosperity will be fostered and extended.

Entirely appreciating the difficulty of your Excellency's position, and the responsibility of initiating a course of policy, during your temporary administration of the Government, we desire to record our deep and lasting sense of the great benefit which your Excellency has conferred on the Colony by convening the General Assembly at the earliest possible period after it became your duty to assume the Government of New Zealand.

We feel that it would be premature, at so early a period of the session, to enter upon all the various subjects to which your Excellency has been pleased to direct our attention; but we desire to express our earnest wish to co-operate, in the most cordial manner with your Excellency, in carrying into effect whatever policy may ultimately be determined on as most beneficial to the Colony at large, and to the several Provinces of which it is composed; and to assure your Excellency that whatever measures may be submitted to the House by your Excellency's Government shall receive their most respectful and patient consideration.