

## (4) Pensions Bill.

*Message No. 7.*

THOMAS GORE BROWNE,  
Governor.

The Governor transmits to the House of Representatives for their consideration, the draft of a Bill to provide for the retirement of certain officers of the Executive Government.

The object of this Bill is to prepare the way for the introduction of Responsible Government, by providing for the retirement of the gentlemen who now hold the offices of Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, and Colonial Treasurer, and who were appointed on the tacit understanding that they would be permanent.

The Governor does not propose any specific amount of Pensions, but trusts that the House of Representatives will adopt a scale of compensation somewhat similar to that which has been adopted and approved in other British Colonies.

Should the Bill pass into law, no time shall be lost in carrying it into effect.

Government House,  
Auckland, 25th April, 1856.

5. Improvement of accommodation in the House:—Mr. Elliott moved the suspension of Standing Order No. 29.

Question put and passed.

Mr. Elliott then moved That a Select Committee be appointed, to whom shall be referred all matters pertaining to the comfort and necessities of this House. The Committee to consist of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pell, Mr. Hall, Mr. Beckham, Mr. Macandrew, and the mover.

Question put and passed.

6. Standing Orders:—Mr. Stafford, pursuant to notice, moved, That until the House shall have adopted new Standing Orders, Mr. Speaker shall decide; adopting for his guidance the Rules and Orders of the last House of Representatives.

Question put and passed.

7. Leave of absence:—Mr. Hall, pursuant to notice, moved that leave of absence be granted to J. E. Fitzgerald, Esq., for three months from this date.

Question put and passed.

8. New Writ: Mr. Stafford, pursuant to notice, moved, That his Excellency be requested to issue a new writ for the election of a member for the Motueka and Massacre Bay District, in the room of Charles Parker, Esquire, resigned.

Question put and passed.

9. Land Purchases from the Natives:—Mr. Stafford, pursuant to (amended) notice, moved, That a respectful address be presented to his Excellency requesting him to furnish for the information of this House, a return of all lands purchased, or agreed to be purchased, from the natives since the 5th day of July, 1850, shewing the province and district where situated; the extent in acres distinguishing the level or agricultural land from hilly, mountain, or waste; the amount in cash and scrip paid or payable, with the dates of all payments made, or agreed to be made, and the name of the tribe or tribes from whom such lands have been purchased; the amount paid or agreed to be paid to each tribe, on account of any such purchase; and the amount of incidental expenses in each case, specifying the names of the Commissioners, or other persons by whom such purchases have been negotiated.

Question put and passed.

10. Land Scrip:—Mr. Stafford, pursuant to (amended) notice, moved, That a respectful address be presented to his Excellency, requesting him to furnish to the House a return of all scrip receivable in the purchase of Crown Lands, issued to Europeans or natives since the 5th day of July, 1850, the persons to whom and by whom, and the authority under which any such scrip was issued.

Question put and passed.

11. Superintendents of Provinces:—Mr. Fitzherbert, pursuant to (amended) notice, moved, That his Excellency be requested to furnish the House with a copy of the Secretary of State's despatch, dated 27th of November, 1855, respecting the position and right of precedence of Superintendents of Provinces, together with all the correspondence relative thereto.

Question put and passed.

12. Leave of absence:—Mr. Stafford, pursuant to amended notice, moved, That leave of absence for one month be given by this House to William Thomas Locke Travers, Esquire, one of the members for the Waimea District, on the ground of urgent private business.

Question put and passed.

13. Pensions Bill:—Mr. Sewell moved, That Mr. Speaker, do now leave the chair, and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole for consideration of his Excellency's Message, No. 7, transmitting the Pensions Bill.

Debate ensued.

14. Adjournment (special):—Mr. Carleton moved, That this House at its rising do adjourn until Monday next at noon.

Question put and passed.