

THE PROROGATION SPEECH.

"HONORABLE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

"I have to thank you for the attention which you have paid to the discharge of your onerous duties during the short but very arduous session which I am about to terminate. This is the last occasion upon which I shall have the honour of addressing you from this place. I desire to assure you that, in resigning the high office which I have held but for a short time, I am deeply sensible of the constant courtesy and consideration which have been shown by all with whom I have been brought into contact, whether officially or in any private relations. In returning to my private station at home, I shall retain a deep interest in the welfare of this most promising community. I shall deem it not less a privilege than a duty to serve its interests in so far as my humble means and opportunities may enable me. I anticipate great benefit to the colony from the State Forest Acts which you have passed, providing, as it does, for setting apart forests which will not only be of use in maintaining the future industries of the colony, but which may be expected to have a beneficial effect on the climate and upon the productiveness of its lands, providing, as the Act does, the machinery for the establishment of State forests. I am not disposed to regret the short delay in determining the actual position of forests. You have unmistakably committed the colony to the establishment of State forests, and it will be your duty to see that adequate lands are provided for them, from which sufficient revenue will be obtainable to do justice to your intentions. You have passed many measures this session which will materially aid in carrying on the public service of the colony, and in remedying the defects which experience has proved to exist. I regret that the length of the session did not enable you to deal with the question of promoting commercial intercourse with Polynesia. It is one which I hope will have your careful consideration; and it will be the duty of my advisers to bear in mind the large interest which New Zealand has in the subject, with the view of bringing it before you on a future occasion. The attention of my advisers will be earnestly given to further continuing public works, and promoting immigration. The re-establishment of the Californian mail packet service in conjunction with New South Wales, and the giving effect to provisions already agreed to for the establishment of cable communication with other parts of the world, will also have the zealous attention of my advisers.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

"I acknowledge with pleasure the provisions you have made for the public service, and it will be the care of my advisers to administer them with the utmost economy consistent with efficiency.

"HONOURABLE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

"This session will be memorable for the decisive steps which has been taken in the direction of abolishing the form of Provincial Government in the North Island. The opinion of the House of Representatives has been expressed by a large majority, which voted in favour of the resolutions, whilst debates in the Legislative Council left no room to doubt that that Chamber is also favourable to the proposed policy. For some years past there has grown up a belief that the provincial system in this island does not really afford that amount of local government which the people desire. The decision arrived at is memorable also for the desire which the Legislature manifests that the land fund of the colony should be applied to suitable purposes, and as far as possible localised. That decision must effectually do away with apprehensions in any part of the country that the change in the provincial system would mean the absorption of the land fund, in opposition to opinions upon the subject which have been confirmed during a long course of years. I hope the Provincial Governments of the North Island, in loyally recognising the decision of the House of Representatives, will during the recess exert themselves to the utmost to so manage the affairs of the provinces as to enable the projected change to be effected next year with the least possible inconvenience. I am glad to be able to remind you of the increasing prosperity of the colony, and hope the success which has attended your past efforts will under the blessing of Divine providence continue to make itself manifest in the future, and that you will live to see the result in New Zealand becoming the home of a large, a prosperous, and a contented population."

A telegram from Rome to the 'Gazzetta d'Italia,' dated the 26th, announced the immediate despatch, by order of the Minister of War, of considerable supplies of provisions for the army in the Island of Sicily, and more particularly at Palermo. Among these supplies were twenty-four thousand boxes of preserved meats. This implies the expectation on the part of Government of some fresh attempts at disturbances in consequence of the introduction into Sicily of the tobacco monopoly. It will be easy for the Government to crush any popular rising in Sicily, provided the other parts of United Italy remain quiet.

The Russian *charge d'affaires*, accredited to the Vatican, Signor Capnist, has lately returned from St. Petersburg after a brief absence, having failed in his attempts to ameliorate the relations between the Holy See and Russia in the matter of the Polish provinces. Russian statesmen seem to entertain an irremovable notion that Polish Catholics must be fierce and irreconcilable enemies of the Government of St. Petersburg, and therefore must be crushed out and destroyed. As long as this prejudice prevails, it is impossible that friendly relations can be maintained between the Emperor and Pius IX., in spite of the courtesy of individual members of the Russian Court and Embassy, and in spite of the patient endurance and moderation of the Holy Father.

The Hon. and Rev. William Joseph Petre, eldest son of Lord Petre, said his first Mass a short time since at the church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, in the presence of many members of his family.

IRELAND.

THE SALARIES AND WORK OF THE COUNTY CHAIRMEN.

Extract from Parliamentary Return No. 80 of the year 1871, showing the salary received by the chairman of each county in Ireland in the year 1869, and the number of days in which each chairman sat in that year.

PROVINCE.	COUNTY.	SALARY.	NO. OF DAYS SITTING.
Ulster.	Antrim ...	£1,100	75
do	Armagh ...	1,100	70*
do	Cavan ...	800	35
do	Donegal ...	1,100	52
do	Down ...	1,100	63
do	Fermanagh ...	900	34
do	Londonderry ...	1,100	60
do	Monaghan ...	900	34*
do	Tyrone ...	1,100	76
Total for Ulster ...		£9,200	489
Munster.	Clare ...	1,100	56
do	Cork (E. Riding) ...	1,100	113
do	Cork (W. Riding) ...	900	67
do	Kerry ...	1,100	62
do	Limerick ...	1,000	68
do	Tipperary ...	1,100	62
do	Waterford ...	900	40
Total for Munster ...		£7,200	474
Leinster.	Carlow ...	700	23
do	Dublin (County) ...	900	30
do	Dublin (City) ...	2,250	81
do	Kildare ...	700	19
do	Kilkenny ...	1,100	30
do	King's County ...	700	23
do	Longford ...	700	18
do	Louth ...	700	32
do	Meath ...	700	30
do	Queen's County ...	900	28
do	Westmeath ...	700	23
do	Wexford ...	900	30
do	Wicklow ...	700	33
Total for Leinster ...		£11,650	227
Connaught.	Galway ...	1,100	57
do	Leitrim ...	900	30
do	Mayo ...	1,100	53
do	Roscommon ...	900	30
do	Sligo ...	900	59
Total for Connaught ...		£4,900	227
Total for Ireland ...		£32,950	1,599

* Estimated.

Average payment for each day's sitting in 1869 ... £20 12s. 0d.

N.B.—Since 1870, in consideration of the additional work thrown upon the chairmen by the Land Act, there has been added to the salary of each first-class chairman a sum of ... 300 per annum
Ditto, second-class chairman ... 200 "
Ditto, third-class chairman ... 100 "

These additions bring the total of the salaries to £40,150 per annum. The extra number of days' sittings imposed on the chairmen by the Land Act average, as well as we can make out, 6 per annum for each chairman, which brings the total number of day's sittings to 1,797, so that the average payment for each day's sitting is now nearly £23, instead of £20 12s. The average payment to each County Court Judge in England for each day's sitting is £11.—Boston 'Pilot.'

WHAT THE NOBLES OF GERMANY THINK.—The special correspondent of the 'London Telegraph,' writing from Berlin on April 25, says:—"The Roman Catholic nobility of this realm has given a thousand proofs of its deeply-rooted loyalty to the house of Hohenzollern, and has shed its blood like water for the Prussian Monarchy; from its ranks have been selected the most intimate and dearest personal friends of the Sovereign—the only man, not of royal blood, who ever addressed William I. by the familiar 'Thou' of *Deutsche Bruderschaft* (German Brotherhood) having been a lately deceased Romanist nobleman, one member of whose family is at the present moment exiled from the Prussian dominions, because he a member of the Society of Jesuits! It is not unnatural that these loyal Catholic *hohenzollerns* should feel indignant, as well as pained, that their ecclesiastical establishment should be threatened, and, as I said before, that they should be forced to perceive before them a divided duty—to choose between fealty as their *Lehnheerr*, and submission to the commands of their spiritual lord. They have done their best to avert the calamities that have fallen upon their Church; they have passionately endeavored to move the will of the kindest-hearted of monarchs and men, whom political necessity has forced to steel his soul against their entreaties, with which no one who knows him can for a moment doubt that he profoundly sympathizes; and even now, at the eleventh hour, though thoroughly despondent, they cannot quite abandon the vain hope that something in the nature of a mild miracle will accrue to intervene between Mater Ecclesia and the terrible mishap threatening her. And I am, upon such good grounds, convinced that this forlorn aspiration of theirs is shared by the large majority of the Protestant nobility, who fully appreciate the intense natural Conservatism of Roman Catholicism, and regard the present raid upon it with high well-born loathing."