

THE SUPERINTENDENTAL ELECTION.

MR MACANDREW'S HUSTINGS SPEECH.

The nomination of candidates for the Superintendency took place on the terrace of Government buildings on the 4th, at noon.

Mr JAMES BROWN stepped forward and said: Gentlemen, you are this day called upon to nominate a gentleman to hold the office of Superintendent. I have no hesitation in saying that the person whom I am about to propose for your approval and for that important office is by far the best man in Otago;—(cheers)—and understanding that Mr Macandrew—(cheers)—is to have opposition on this occasion, you will permit me to urge upon every elector in the Province to come forward and place him at the head of the poll.—(Hear.) I have very much pleasure in proposing Mr James Macandrew as a fit and proper person to hold the office of Superintendent.—(Loud cheers.)

Mr JAMES BLACK: I have very much pleasure in seconding Mr Macandrew's nomination; and in doing so it is unnecessary that I should say one word in addition to what has already been said. Mr Macandrew's abilities as a politician are well known, and I have no doubt the action he has taken during the late crisis will meet with the hearty approval of the majority of the electors in the Province.—(Cheers.)

Mr MACANDREW, who was received with loud cheers, said: Gentlemen, my political opinions and proclivities are so well known, and have so often been before the public, that I deem it unnecessary to parade them on the present occasion.—(Hear.) At the same time, perhaps, I may be allowed to trespass upon your patience for a few minutes, while I refer to and indicate the general direction in which I should endeavor to influence the public policy of the Province. As regards the present political situation, as you are aware, I have very fully and concisely, I may say, entered upon it in the Address, which, together with certain official documents appended thereto, has been very widely circulated.—(Mr Joseph Mackay: "At the Government expense.")

—The official documents are circulated at the public expense.—(Mr Mackay: "And the private ones too; that is, your manifesto.")—I say, sir, it is a lie; the private ones are not.—(Cheers, and a Voice: "Bravo, Mac!")—Gentlemen, this is the style of opposition brought against me now. As to the political situation, I think that it is unnecessary that I should go over it again. I shall therefore state very shortly the direction which I think our public policy ought to take. Well, gentlemen, I should say that no man is worthy of being called a statesman—at all events, a Colonial statesman—unless his great object is, and he uses his influence towards getting a regular accession of industrial population to our shores.—(Hear.) I believe that any statesman is unworthy of the name, unless his aim is the attainment of that object. I believe that this Province is capable of affording comfort, if not affluence, to millions of people—to far more than are likely to be brought into it in our day, or in that of our great-grandchildren.—(hear)—and, gentlemen, in order to induce a suitable immigration to these shores, we must, I believe, bridge across by means of regular steam communication the 16,000 miles of ocean which divide us from the Mother Country.—(Cheers, and a Voice: "Panama and Frisco.") I will come to that by and by. My attention, gentlemen, has been directed towards this object for some years past, and I am very hopeful that within a very short time we shall see it successfully accomplished.—(Hear.) I am very happy to say that my urgent representations to the Agent-General some time ago, all but caused the steamship Great Britain to come here direct: and if that arrangement had been carried out, it would have been the precursor of a direct steam line between Liverpool and Otago.—(Cheers.) It, however, fell to the ground.—(A Voice: "It's all bunkum.") Perhaps there are many here to-day who will recollect that I was the humble instrument of connecting this Province and the Australian Colonies by steam.—(Cheers)—with the advantages

that have resulted from it.—(Renewed applause, and a Voice: "But you were ruined by it.") I do not know whether I shall be arrogating very much to myself, when I claim the paternity of the Panama and San Francisco lines; and should we succeed in getting a direct steam line from the United Kingdom, I consider it would be of infinitely more importance than all the others put together.—(Hear.) And further, if we succeed in that, I shall be disposed to retire on my laurels, and die happy.—(A Voice: "Politically, I mean.") Yes, politically. Another subject to which my earnest attention will be devoted, is the providing of adequate means of education throughout the Province, and to some provision for training suitable teachers. We do not need to be told that in a country like this, where the sovereign—I shall be told I am talking bunkum, by some friends behind me—power is in the hands of the people, it is of the utmost importance and consequence that means of education should be brought within the reach of all.—(hear)—and also that the social status of the schoolmaster ought to be elevated above what it now is. I believe that those who engage in the important work of training the intellect and moulding the character of the future men and women of this country, ought to be regarded as being in the category of the highest civil servants.—(Hear.) And I think they ought to be paid accordingly; and with this view I should be disposed to provide that school districts which may desire to pay their teachers adequate, shall be permitted to do so by means of a local rate, provided always that no such rates shall be levied unless two-thirds or three-fourths of the ratepayers desire it.—(Hear.) I believe that, if some proposal such as this is adopted, it will lead to very great emulation amongst the different districts as to getting high-class teachers; besides, it would offer prizes for the profession which would induce men and women of ability to enter upon the scholastic profession.—(Hear.) Well, gentlemen, I should like to say a few words upon the subject of railways; and seeing that I am trying your patience in keeping you in the rain, I will promise that I will not detain you long.—(Cries of "Go on.") Had the late Provincial Council proceeded to the actual business of the country, instead of spending somewhere about a fortnight in discussing the question as to whether or not there shall be two Kings in Brentford,—(loud laughter)—for after all that is I think about the size of it.—(Hear.) I say, had the Council gone on with the practical business of the country, instead of discussing this miserable, wretched question, proposals would have been submitted, which, if approved of, would have had the effect of opening up simultaneously with the railway to Dunedin the line from Mataura to Clutha; and I believe proposals would also have been submitted, which, in the event of the General Assembly not doing so next session, would have resulted in the line between this and Moeraki being undertaken by the Province. In addition to that, definite proposals would have been submitted for the purpose of constructing light railways in various outlying districts throughout the Province: districts which I believe are capable of affording homesteads for hundreds—thousands I may say, of an industrial population, both mining and agricultural. Although, perhaps, not many of you may know these districts, I have travelled over a great deal of the Province, and am well able to form an opinion upon its capabilities. Amongst others, it was intended to construct a light line from Riverton to Orepuki, from Riverton to Otautau, and from Winton to the Nightcaps, to open up the coalfields discovered there. Of course, you will understand that I am now talking to the Province as a whole, for I know what I am saying will go forth to the electors throughout the Province. In addition to those I have enumerated, proposals would have been submitted which, if approved of, would have resulted in a light railway up the fertile valley of the Waikareka, which is capable of producing millions of bushels of the finest wheat, to be sent into the markets of the world. In addition to that, proposals would have been made for a light line up the valley of the Waihemo, which, no doubt, would ultimately have found its way into the districts of Mount Ida and Strath Taieri. When we find that in these districts it is absolutely necessary

even now to have metalled roads, I say that no Government that sits here will be worthy to keep its position, unless it strains every effort for the attainment of this end; and if it is found practicable to make light railways into those districts, they are far more economical and much less expensive in maintenance than metalled roads.—(Hear.) These, then, were some of the proposals which the present Government had hoped would have been carried into practical effect before now, if the Provincial Council had just gone on with the business of the country. While upon this subject of railways, I may mention, as you are no doubt all aware, that the General Government have just concluded a contract for the construction of a branch line from Tokomairiro to Lawrence. I regard this as an instalment of the line which will be ultimately extended into the heart of the Otago goldfields; and, gentlemen, if elected Superintendent now, as I have no doubt I shall be—(cheers)—and the General Assembly does not make provision for the extension of the line next session, I shall be prepared to submit to the Provincial Council when it meets—which will be after the sitting of the Assembly—proposals for its extension.—(A Voice: "Where is the money to come from?") We have a large landed estate, and I hold that we cannot do better with it than set it aside for the purpose of rendering it more available and accessible, and enhancing its value ten thousand fold.—(Hear.) You may rely upon it the success of our railway system depends upon the simultaneous construction of railways throughout the Province, and it is a wise policy to press on in this direction. Although as Superintendent I have no interest in Dunedin more than in any other part of the Province, yet I may be allowed to say that Dunedin, the commercial capital of the Province, is especially interested in pressing on these lines, which more or less will ultimately converge on Dunedin, and I say the sooner the better. A great deal has been said as to the construction of a Harbor Trust in Dunedin. Well, gentlemen, I confess that had the operations of the dredge for the last few months been carried on as they have been for the previous two or three years, I should have been very much inclined to advocate the formation of a Harbor Trust: as it is, since the steam dredge has been handed over to the Harbor Department, which ought to have been done long ago, a great deal more work has been done than before. Responsible Government took a different view to the present Government on this subject; and had the thing been in the hands of the Harbor Department all along, there would be greater good effected, and in all probability the application for a Harbor Trust would never have been heard of.—(A Voice: "That is all bunkum.") I am prepared to show that within the last three months, during which time the dredge has been under the control of the Harbor Department, that it has been doing more work than it has done for the previous year or two.—(Hear.) There is no doubt whatever that the period is approaching when some modifications of our Provincial Governments will take place, and so soon as our land revenue departs other means will have to be found to administer not only the harbor, but many other public departments throughout the Province; but until then I am inclined to think that the harbor will be administered just as well as it is; at the same time I am perfectly satisfied that it is a wise policy to look forward to a future time and to get an endowment from which to administer without encroaching upon the general revenues of the Province. The proposals which I indicated in my opening address to the late Provincial Council would, I believe, have resulted in from £15,000 to £20,000 being realised, which I hope to see handed over to a public trust to administer. If that is done, I should say all Jetty and Harbor Dues ought to be abolished. Although there are some of the objects which I desire to see accomplished, I need not tell you that there is another body to be elected by you which must go hand-in-hand with me—(laughter and cheers)—or I with it, which is one and the same thing, in order to accomplish any of these objects. What I earnestly wish to impress upon you is this: what on earth is the use of electing a Superintendent to carry out these or any other objects unless you elect a Provin-