

cial Council very much upon the same card?—(Cheers.) It is of course unreasonable to suppose that 46 men will be got together who will see every subject in the same light; that is altogether out of the question; and I do not think it is desirable even if it were possible, but I think it is quite possible to get 46 men together, the majority of whom will have brains enough,—(cheers)—if I may say so, to see that the Superintendent elected by the people is as much, if not more so, the embodiment of the sovereignty of the people as the Provincial Council itself,—(hear)—because the one represents the people directly, and the other represents them at second-hand. Some two years ago the majority of the electors of this Province rejected one candidate for the Superintendency, and elected another; whereas the majority of the Provincial Council set aside that election, and said "No, we will not abide by the decision of the people; we will have our candidate in spite of you." I think it a very foolish course for wise men to have adopted; and I hope, gentlemen, that while the Superintendent and Provincial Council will work hand in hand, and indulge in that mutual concession which is the very essence of politics, I hope, at the same time that the majority of the members, as I have said before, will have brains enough to see the real position of the case.—(Hear.) Why, gentlemen, what would be thought of the owners of a ship having engaged a master to navigate the ship from Otago to London, via Cape Horn, at the same time getting a ship's company who were determined not to take the ship to London, and made up their minds to run her up to the South Pole, via the Cape of Good Hope? Now, two years ago, you elected me to take command of the ship, and I say, reason and common sense alike, dictated that, if the voyage was to be a prosperous and successful one, I should at least have some voice in the selection of the officers.—(Hear.) I see Mr Stout over there: I do not know what he will say to it: I have no doubt he will tell you that there is no analogy between the ship of state and a ship of the sea; I maintain however, that there is a very strict analogy between the two on the present occasion. I have been thrice elected Superintendent of Otago; and I expect to be elected for the fourth time.—(Cheers.) Of that there is no doubt whatever; and although the office is not a bed of roses, at the same time it is the highest and most honorable position which you can bestow: it is a position which, if I am returned again, it will be my endeavor to fill more worthily in the future than in the past.—(Cheers.) I again say it is my highest ambition to be enabled to be instrumental in promoting the interests and in developing the institutions of this country.—(hear)—a country which I believe is destined to become a very great country yet. Gentlemen, I might go on to compare our present position with many so-called kingdoms and states; but, I may say that this Province will compare in proportion, as respects its revenue, commerce, and general resources, and is quite equal to several British Colonies.—(hear)—and the man who is Superintendent—the elected head of this Province—is of far greater importance than many of the petty princes and potentates of Europe.—(Loud cheers.)

Mr J. SEPH MACKAY handed in a written question.

Mr MACANDREW: There is a question that has been put into my hands, and it is this: "What price did Mr James Macandrew pay for the insertion of his electoral address in the *Gazette*?" Well, gentlemen, I may say that—(Cries of "Oh," and "Don't answer.")—it is a perfectly fair question—the bill has not yet come in.—(Laughter.) I told Mr Dick, the printer, in the presence of my clerk to make out a separate bill for my Address and send it into me. I hope I will manage to pay it when it does come in.—(Laughter, and a voice: "That will do you, Mackay.")

Mr MACKAY: What did it cost the Province for posting your circulars in the *Gazette*?

Mr MACANDREW: The *Gazette* goes free of postage.

Mr MACKAY: Will you circulate and let the address of your opponent be posted in the same way?

Mr MACANDREW: I should say decidedly not; but he can arrange with the printer if he likes.

Mr WALTER: Will you take steps to ascertain whether the statement made in last Saturday's *Tablet* is correct or not?

Mr MACANDREW: I have already taken the necessary steps to ascertain whether the statement of that paper that a free passage had been refused to Otago, because the applicant was a Roman Catholic, is correct or not. I have already prepared a letter to the Home Agent on the subject, and I am under the belief that the statement has not the slightest foundation. It will be recollected that a similar statement was made some two years ago, in regard to which I corresponded with the Home Agent with a like result. Catholics come here as freely as members of any other religion; and I may say that for some years nearly all the men who have been in my employment are Roman Catholics, and men who have come out as assisted passengers.

Mr JAMES ANDERSON: Seeing that the Province is in such a prosperous condition, would you favor the Civil servants participating in that prosperity?

Mr MACANDREW: I presume Mr Anderson refers to the reductions of salary that took place two years ago. The Estimates framed by the Government for presentation to the late Council contemplated a step in that direction.—(Cheers.)

Mr SLESINGER: Will you be prepared to support an amendment of the electoral law to provide that candidates shall deposit a certain sum to be forfeited to the State, if the candidate does not poll a certain number of votes?

Mr MACANDREW: I am given to understand that it is intended to introduce a measure in this direction at the next session of the Assembly, and of course I shall support it.—(Cheers.)

MR M'LEAN AT OAMARU.

Mr John M'Lean addressed the Oamaru electors on Saturday evening, and is reported in the *North Otago Times* to have said that he would give the names of the celebrated Waste Land Board Mr Reid was supposed to appoint: they were George Duncan, James Allan, James Shand, Mr Lumsden, and Mr Reid himself. He only gave them the statement as he found it. Now, he respected these men as much as any in the Colony, but there was not one of them, with the exception of Mr Reid, who was able to understand the most simple Act,—(laughter)—let alone the most complicated Act that had ever passed through the Colonial Legislature. The great card played by Mr Reid was the cry that the Superintendent had exceeded his powers. Why, the very terms of the Act were that the Superintendent should have the power to nominate an Executive, who should hold office during his pleasure. He now came to the closing scene. Each knew his part, and the Speaker knew how to act his, and did act it very well. The whole thing was well arranged in order that Mr Reid should have the last say. The Provincial Secretary having sat down, the Clerk opening a Message from the Superintendent, put it into the Speaker's hand. The Speaker of course was obliged to announce it, and, after some discussion, a second Message arrived, with the prerogative enclosed. The clerk handed this also to the speaker, but the latter nevertheless allowed the member for the Taieri, Mr Reid, to have his fling. Of course Mr Reid couldn't be thrown back. Others were ready and anxious to reply. When Mr Reid wanted to speak, the Superintendent's communication was "a letter"; when Mr Fish would speak, it was "a Message." He (Mr M'Lean) wanted to speak, but got no chance. The moment Mr Reid had finished, the Speaker read the Message proroguing the Council, and darted out of the chair for all the world like a shag diving off a rock.—(Laughter.) Mr M'Lean added—"I spoke to him about it, and he said 'We were playing chess—the move was mine, and I made it.'" We know our Speaker, and respect him accordingly. They would see by his Honor's address that it was proposed to establish a Branch Lunatic Asylum at Tomaririro, in which probably the present

Speaker would find a position which would better suit him than that of President of a deliberative assembly.—(Laughter, applause, and hisses.)

It was a singular fact that when, in after events, Mr Reid formed a new Executive, not one of those gentlemen who had been members of the Government which he said commanded the confidence of the country did he ask to join him. Let him (Mr M'Lean) also tell them how far Mr Reid himself possessed the confidence of the country: why, the very parties who helped him (Mr Reid) to carry his motion on a previous occasion, were the very parties who opposed him this session. There were only two defined parties in the House—the Party of Order numbering some eighteen or nineteen members, the party of which Mr Reid was the head numbering about the same, and some eight or ten unattached: so many Micawbers waiting for something to turn up.—(Laughter.) Under such circumstances it was impossible to carry on the business of the country. The situation was perfectly hopeless. Not long after the time at which Mr Reid saw great cause why he should not resign, the Stafford Ministry went out of office, and he, Mr Reid, was asked to resume his old positions. Why did he not do so? The reasons he had alleged, if they were good reasons, existed still, for up to that time not one member of the Waste Land Board had been appointed. Mr Reid spoke of the great Provincial interests at stake, and said he wished to put a cope-stone upon his work in securing the proper administration of the land law. Well, the opportunity was offered to him, and he refused it. And why? Because he allowed personal feeling to outweigh his public duty. It seemed to him (Mr M'Lean) that in refusing the Superintendent's office Mr Reid must have said to himself, "I know I shall get into my old position again, and have the satisfaction of stepping over your neck." When he got down among his own people again, numbers were asked to sign a round robin to get him a position, which he Mr Reid had refused to accept when it was offered him. Talk of constitutional principles after this! Who ever heard of members of Parliament signing a round robin to the Queen to call Parliament together; and if such a thing were done was it likely that the Queen would accede? The thing was absurd, and it was equally absurd to expect the Superintendent to convene the Council merely for the sake of allowing Mr Reid to be put in a position to oppose him. It was for the meeting to judge how far his (Mr M'Lean's) conduct had been right in the matter; but he confessed he was one of a number of members who held that they had nothing whatever to do with the personal quarrels of Mr Reid and the Superintendent, but whose wish and desire was to see the business of the country carried through. But no compromise could be allowed—a Government must be forced upon the Superintendent with whom he could not work, and which could not possibly last one single day. The proposed new Executive had been termed by Mr Bathgate the rainbow Government, consisting of Reid, Green, Brown, Stout, and Lumsden. On one occasion he spoke to Mr Reid, and said: "Let it be our first act to repeal the Executive Ordinance;" but Mr Reid replied: "Oh, no, by no means; the Superintendent must have the power, but he must use it rightly." That was the answer of Mr Reid himself, so that you see, if he were in Mr Macandrew's position, he would like to be able to exercise the same powers.

A vote of confidence was unanimously passed in Mr M'Lean.

A Sydney telegram in the *Argus* says:—"The owner of the steamer *Fidelia*, recently wrecked off Port Elizabeth, was a passenger by the *Baroda*. He had intended insuring the vessel in Melbourne if allowed to land there. He was then in quarantine here until the steamer's loss was known, and therefore had no opportunity of effecting an insurance." We are authorised to state that there is no foundation for this statement, the vessel having been heavily insured in London.