



Wooing the voters, cap in hand—Vogel on the Otago hustings Photo neg 111625½

Zealand. But his political duties (he was Premier at the time he purchased the *Wellington Independent*) precluded him from assuming day-to-day control. More importantly, his long absences from New Zealand during this period kept him from exercising effective command of the paper. Vogel left New Zealand in September 1874 on political duties. Because of health problems his return was delayed until February 1876, and then he was back in New Zealand for a period of mere months. Resigning the Premiership in September 1876 after appointing himself Agent-General in London, he moved to London taking up residence there early in 1877. His example was soon followed, and direct political control of newspapers was to be a feature of at least the capital city until well into the twentieth century.

Political control of newspapers had been a New Zealand practice