

Star in Masterton. It was quickly sold and he announced his intention to start a daily newspaper in Wellington to support the Liberal interest, but was persuaded not to persevere.²⁹ He went back to Ashburton and set up as an auctioneer,³⁰ this move probably prompted by the impending national elections. To assist with his election campaign he took over in October 1881 the proprietary of the *Ashburton Mail* from Jacobson and Eyton, to whom he had leased it in 1880. Ives was not successful in gaining the Wakanui seat against J. C. Wason,³¹ but Wason's election was declared void after a petition was presented, and Ives was successful against Alfred Saunders in a by-election held on 16 June 1882.³² His ambition to wield political power at the national level had been achieved. Exactly what use he made of his proprietorship of the *Ashburton Mail* to achieve this success has not been determined by examining the newspaper, but a contemporary commentator had no doubt:

Possibly now the elections are over, and the *Mail* is no more useful as an electioneering paper, it may change hands, and possibly it may also change tactics, and give comp a better show for work.³³

The eighth Parliament was dissolved in June 1884 and in the elections held in August Ives lost his Wakanui seat, its boundaries having been altered, to John Grigg.³⁴ Grigg, however, retired after the first session of the ninth Parliament and Ives was again successful in a by-election in July 1885, this time defeating E. G. Wright whom he had supported through the Ashburton *Evening News* in 1879.³⁵ The ninth Parliament was dissolved in July 1887. Ives's career as a member of Parliament seems on the whole to have been undistinguished. His activities as an electoral representative appear to have been confined to writing letters attesting to the suitability of constituents for official positions or for naturalisation, and asking for more polling booths to be established in his electorate.³⁶ He spoke against the Telegrams Protection Bill, intended to protect Reuters telegrams, in his capacity as a newspaper proprietor, seeing it as unnecessary and monopolistic.³⁷ He achieved brief notoriety (to modern eyes if not to those of his contemporaries) by unsuccessfully moving that the vote for women be confined to women property holders rather than to all women.³⁸

Ives still maintained close links with the newspaper world while a Member of the House of Representatives. In 1885 he leased the *Ashburton Mail* and probably sold his interest in it in the following year. In 1886 he took over the proprietary of the already well established *Timaru Herald*. A brief examination of this title during Ives's fourteen month lease suggests that he had little interest in using it as a means of furthering his political ambitions. He was in Melbourne in early 1887.³⁹ Relinquishing control of the *Timaru Herald* was immediately