

PAPERS RELATIVE TO
INCREASING THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND.

No. 1.

COPY OF A DESPATCH FROM GOVERNOR SIR GEORGE GREY, K.C.B., TO HIS GRACE THE DUKE
OF NEWCASTLE.

No. 33.

New Zealand,
Auckland, 30th Nov., 1861.

MY LORD DUKE,—

I have the honor to enclose for your Grace's information the copy of a paper I have received from the New Zealand Ministry, stating it as their opinion that it is desirable that power should be given to the Governor to increase the number of the Legislative Council from 20 to 30 Members, by making from time to time additional appointments to that Council. Memorandum by Mr. Fox, 25th Nov., and Mr. Sewell's report thereon.

I have, &c.,

G. GREY.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K. G.,
&c., &c., &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

Auckland, 25th November, 1861.

The Attorney-General is requested to give his opinion as to whether the Governor has power, under his present Commission, to enlarge the number of Members of the Legislative Council; and whether it is necessary to enable such enlargement to be made, that express authority be delegated by Her Majesty.

W. Fox,
Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

November 25th, 1861.

The Governor's power to appoint Members of the Legislative Council is limited in number to twenty, i. e., the whole Council cannot exceed that number. It requires express authority from Her Majesty to the Governor to enlarge the number.

HENRY SEWELL.

Enclosure 3 in No. 1.

26th November, 1861.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,

Ministers are of opinion, that it is desirable to have a power of adding to the number of Legislative Councillors when the next Session of the Assembly shall take place. When the present Ministry took office, they found only one seat in the Legislative Council vacant. It is possible that it may not be necessary in practice to propose any addition, but they feel that before another Session they ought to be in a position to make such addition, if found desirable.

His Excellency is, therefore, recommended to obtain from Her Majesty's Government the power to increase the Legislative Council, from time to time, by an additional number of ten Members.

WILLIAM FOX,
Colonial Secretary.