

REPORT

OF THE

GREY VALLEY AND TEREMAKAU PETITION COMMITTEE;

WITH THE

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER APPOINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE
PROVINCE OF NELSON UPON THE SUBJECT.

REPORT BROUGHT UP 25TH AUGUST, 1870, AND ORDERED TO BE PRINTED.

WELLINGTON.

—
1870.

REPORT OF THE GREY VALLEY AND TEREMAKAU PETITION COMMITTEE.

THE Select Committee of the House of Representatives, to whom was referred the Petition of the Inhabitants of the Grey Valley and Teremakau Districts praying for annexation to the Province of Nelson, after taking into consideration the Petition, and the Report of the Commissioner appointed by the Superintendent of Nelson upon the subject, have the honour to report, and are of opinion,—That it is desirable that both sides of the Grey Valley, together with the district northwards of the Teremakau River (which is commercially connected with the Town of Greymouth), should be under one Government; and are further of opinion and recommend that the prayer of the Petitioners be complied with.

N. EDWARDS,
Chairman.

25th August, 1870.

APPENDIX A.

SIR,—

Greymouth, 23rd July, 1870.

I have the honour to inform you that, in compliance with the instructions contained in your letter of 29th June, I have made full inquiry into the circumstances of that portion of the County of Westland lying to the north of the Teremakau, so far as they appear to bear upon the question of its annexation to the Province of Nelson.

In the course of my inquiries I have collected a mass of statistics from the different Departments, both of the General Government and the County, at Hokitika, the Greenstone, and Greymouth. This information I have endeavoured to condense into as small a compass as possible, appending such documents only as are absolutely necessary for reference, and for the complete understanding of the case. Wherever it was possible, I have taken my data from official sources; but several of the points to which my attention was directed being matters rather of opinion than of certainty, I have sought to obtain the views not only of the members of the Annexation Committee, but of the Managers of the local Banks, and of others who would be likely from their position to give an unbiassed opinion. Much valuable information has been elicited in this way.

I have also traversed the country in various directions, so that I am able to speak with some degree of confidence as to the general features of the country,—the quality of the soil, the state of the roads, and the present aspect of the mining industry.

The information that I have collected from these various sources will fall naturally under several distinct heads, which I shall take separately before proceeding to summarize the results.

Revenue from all Sources, for the Year ending 30th June, 1870.

The returns under this head having been compiled entirely from official sources, it will only be necessary here to enumerate the various items from which the revenue is made up, giving the amount yielded by each. A more detailed statement will be found in the Appendix marked A.

The revenue may be conveniently divided into eight heads (See A 1)—

	£	s.	d.
1. Customs, including gold duty, ...	£6,043	7	1
„ and import duty ...	9,001	14	9
			15,045 1 10
2. Post Office ...			1,323 17 3
3. Telegraph ...			967 3 6
4. Wardens' Courts, including miners' rights ...			7,144 15 8
5. Resident Magistrates' Courts ...			1,795 18 6
6. District Court receipts ...			99 6 0
7. Land sales ...			46 0 0
8. Stamp duties ...			682 18 9
			£27,105 1 6

Probability of Increase of Revenue and Permanence of Gold Fields.

A comparison between the amounts received from the district north of the Teremakau in the financial years 1868-69 and 1869-70 respectively, from the three principal services of revenue—Gold duty, import duty, and the Magistrates' and Wardens' Court fees (the latter item including miners' rights and business and publicans' licenses)—will afford the most decisive test of the increasing prosperity of the district. The returns (See B) from gold duty have increased during the past year from £4,687 18s. 2d. to £6,043 7s. 1d.; the import revenue from £8,233 4s. 10d. to £9,001 14s. 9d.; and the receipts from Wardens' and Magistrates' Courts from £5,384 13s. 9d. to £8,940 14s. 2d.;—showing a total increase of £5,679 19s. 3d.

With regard to the probable permanence of the gold fields in this district, a far more intimate acquaintance with their past history and present condition than I can pretend to would be required to give my opinion on this point much weight.

The general opinion of the people of all classes whom I have consulted is, that even independently of new discoveries, which the gradual opening up of the country may reasonably be expected to lead to, the present ground is sufficiently rich and extensive to support a considerable population for some years.

My own observation also led me to believe that the extensive waterworks at the Greenstone would insure a large yield of gold from that quarter for some time; large sums are also being expended in races and machinery intended to develop the easily accessible ground on the South beach, near Greymouth.

Expenditure for the past Twelve Months, from July 1, 1869, to June 30, 1870, and Estimate of possible Reductions.

It may reasonably be asked why the Schedule marked D, and appended to this Report, should be headed "Approximate Estimate," when absolute accuracy was so desirable. I must explain, in self-defence, that the County Treasurer undertook to furnish me with a detailed statement of the sums expended by the County north of the Teremakau during the past year. After considerable delay, being again applied to, he informed me that he was unable to furnish me with the required details. As no annual balance sheet, apparently, is published by the County, I had no alternative but to extract the information piecemeal from various sources, a tedious and not altogether satisfactory process. I am confident, however, that the statement I have drawn up is a very close approach to the truth, and that no serious mistake has crept into my calculations. If anything, the margin that I have allowed is too liberal, as I was anxious not to under-estimate the liabilities of the North District.

The actual expenditure for the past year I put down at £22,872 17s. 2d., and the unavoidable expenditure for the future at £13,129 5s. 9d.; but no allowance is made in this reduced estimate for roads and public works, nor for share of interest on the County debt, £4,486. The addition of this item would make the total expenditure £17,615 5s. 9d., leaving, as shown by the statement of revenue marked A, a balance of £9,489 15s. 9d. for public works, share of Provincial expenses, and other charges.

System of apportioning the Gold Duty between Nelson and Westland.

An impression having been for some time prevalent in Nelson, that the Province is a loser by the plan adopted for apportioning the gold duty, I waited upon the Managers of the several Banks in Greymouth, who courteously explained what precautions were taken for entering the gold, as brought in by each seller, under distinct headings for the County and the Province, and further permitted me to inspect the books, which, in three of the Banks, were furnished with separate columns for gold brought from the two places, the same object being attained in the Bank of New Zealand by prefixing the initials N. or W. to each entry. I also received an official letter from the Collector of Customs at Greymouth, testifying to the care and accuracy with which the Bank returns are compiled. In order to set this question finally at rest, if possible, I obtained a return of the gold revenue received, and of the number of miners' rights issued in the Nelson portion of the Grey Valley, and in Greymouth, respectively, for two years (See also E), the result being as follows:—

1868-69.	Nelson,	Gold Duty	£6,958	3	3	...	Miners' Rights,	2,235
	Greymouth,	"	4,369	18	6	...	"	1,416
1869-70.	Nelson,	"	7,374	13	9	...	"	2,266
	Greymouth,	"	7,144	15	8	...	"	1,711

In the first year's return, the proportion between the number of miners' rights issued and the gold duty collected is kept very closely; but in 1869-70, 1,711 miners in Westland apparently produced nearly as much gold as 2,266 men on the Nelson side. I confess that I am unable to account for this discrepancy, which may however be only accidental, and confined to one year.

Extent of Territory to be annexed, its Character and Value.

The total area is about 375 square miles, or 240,500 acres. At least 60,000 acres may be described as absolutely worthless, consisting of rugged and almost inaccessible mountains. The land fit for agriculture may be roughly estimated at 30,000 acres. Though much of the soil of the more level portions of the district is of excellent quality, it is not only covered with dense forest throughout, but the surface, which is generally wet, is interlaced with such a network of roots that to clear and drain it would be exceedingly costly. The time must therefore be far distant when these lands can be profitably occupied by farmers, notwithstanding the high prices obtained on the spot for all kinds of produce. Only 430 acres, including town sections, have yet been sold in this part of the County, and the lands leased for agricultural purposes amount to only 50 acres.

The land fit for pasture may be roughly reckoned at 20,000 acres, half of which is open country of poor quality; 1,250 acres are set apart by Government for townships; and the Government reserves outside of townships, but including Coal reserves, amount to 5,100 acres.

Native reserves occupy 1,090 acres.

Comparatively little has yet been done towards opening up the country by means of roads, the metalled tracks throughout the district amounting to only nineteen miles.

Amount of Debt of the County of Westland, and the probable Proportion that would be charged to Nelson.

The present County debt amounts to £198,961 13s. 10d., as nearly as I can ascertain, the precise amount being difficult to arrive at, owing to the way in which the accounts are kept. The annual interest on the loan and sinking fund (which will, of course, diminish yearly from the operation of the latter) is now £13,460.

What proportion of this debt would be charged against the Province of Nelson cannot be estimated with anything like exactness, as it is impossible to say how far other considerations than that of revenue, such as population, extent and value of territory, &c., would affect the decision of arbitrators, to whom the question would probably be referred.

Taking an official return, compiled for the information of the County Council, and purporting to show the proportionate amount of revenue received in the districts north and south of the Teremakau

respectively for a period of fifteen months, *i.e.* from January 1, 1869, to March 31, 1870, the North District would appear to have contributed at the rate of less than 26 per cent., as against rather more than 74 per cent. collected South of the Teremakau.

If revenue alone were to be considered, and these figures are to be taken as correct, £3,500 would represent the share of interest chargeable to the North District. I have reason to believe, however, that the proportion of revenue drawn from the North District is now much larger than it was represented to be in the above return, and I am of opinion that the liability of the Northern District under this head may be fairly put down at one-third of the total interest charged against the County, or £4,486 annually.

Liability on account of Repairs of Road between Westland and Christchurch.

From the nature of the case, nothing more than an approximate estimate of the annual liability of the County on this account can be given, the estimates of those even, who, from their position, ought to be best acquainted with the circumstances, having been hitherto singularly falsified by the result. Taking as a basis the three half-yearly estimates, from July 1869 to December 1870, inclusive, laid before the County Council, I find the average sum set down for the maintenance of the road during each half-year to be £2,910. This would imply an annual expenditure of £5,820. Proceeding on my former assumption that the district north of the Teremakau is fairly chargeable with a third of this sum, £1,940 must be set apart yearly to cover this item.

The inhabitants of the northern portion of the County evidently derive but little advantage from this road, in return for the enormous yearly outlay to which they must contribute; and it is not unreasonable to suppose that, if the matter were submitted to arbitration, the remoteness of the district from the line of road would be taken into consideration, and would go far as an argument for mitigating the burden of taxation on this account.

Number of Officials employed by the County of Westland north of the Teremakau, with their Salaries.

It is not contended, even by those who are most favourable to annexation, that any considerable saving in salaries would be effected by the proposed change, but merely that the service on both sides of the Grey would become more efficient.

The Resident Magistrate's Court at Cobden might, for instance, be dispensed with, as the Court at Greymouth would be sufficient for the requirements of the lower part of the Valley of the Grey, on both sides of the river; while the present Magistrate and Warden on the Nelson side, much of whose time is wasted in travelling between Cobden and the Ahaura, would be able to devote his undivided attention to the upper part of the Valley.

The services of the police would also be available over a much larger area, the machinery of the department would be less cumbrous, and some slight economies might be effected by reducing the staff of officers, who are out of all proportion to the number of privates.

The total number of officials at present employed by the County in the district north of the Teremakau is seventeen; but the salaries of seven of these, including the Harbour and Customs Departments, are borne equally by Nelson and Westland. The yearly expenditure in salaries alone is £3,884 10s.

Road to connect Greymouth with the Greenstone.

As the Greenstone Diggings are now connected with Hokitika by an excellent metalled road, whereas they are at present unapproachable from Greymouth, the whole of the traffic and much of the revenue is naturally diverted to the former place. It would therefore become a matter of importance, in the event of annexation being carried out, to open up communication between the Greenstone and Greymouth, either by a metalled track or a tramway. With the view of obtaining some idea as to the probable cost of this work and the difficulties to be overcome, I have traversed the country between the Greenstone and Marsden, to which point a tramway from Greymouth has been completed, the distance to the latter place being ten miles; seven miles remain to be completed, through a rough, wooded country. It did not appear to me that there were any formidable obstacles to carrying a tramway through to Marsden. The cost is estimated, by men who have had experience in this kind of work, at from £800 to £900 per mile, including bridges over the Blackwater and New Rivers. This work would open up a considerable tract of country known to be auriferous. I am given to understand that a subsidy of £2,000 would be sufficient to induce capitalists to undertake the work at their own cost and risk.

Greymouth Protective Works and Borough Revenue.

I have been at some pains to ascertain what amount has been expended in protecting the river bank to the present date, what is likely to be the annual cost of maintaining the works, and what revenue is derived from wharf dues and from the Borough rate, raised mainly to defray the cost of repairing the river works. The total cost of these works, up to 30th June, 1870, is £7,295 14s. 1d. An unprofessional opinion on a subject of this kind is not worth much, but it appeared to me that the works are very substantially constructed, the piles being driven to a depth of 20 feet; and that from the conformation of the bank the upper end of the work is effectually secured by a natural breakwater of rock, which prevents the river from taking the defences in rear—the chief danger to be apprehended in river works. The annual cost of maintenance is reckoned at £1,000, which seems a reasonable estimate. The Borough rate of 1s. in the pound has yielded £1,229 16s. yearly, taking the average of the last three years. The tonnage dues and wharfage rates for the past year amount to £1,373 4s. 8d., and the revenue from other sources, such as licenses, &c., to £174 5s. 6d. It will thus be seen that there is a sufficient margin to cover a much larger yearly expenditure on repairs than is likely to be required, and that it is extremely improbable that the maintenance of these works would become a burden on Nelson. The valuation of the property in the Borough, taken on the rental, is £28,730.

Unless I have altogether failed to make myself understood in the foregoing statements, a brief recapitulation of the principal points to which I have directed my attention in this enquiry, and a summary of the conclusions that I have drawn, are all that is now required. I have endeavoured to show—

1st. That the revenue of the district north of the Teremakau is likely to be permanent, and has even increased largely of late.

2nd. That the necessary expenditure, including the heavy liabilities on account of interest and the maintenance of the road to Christchurch, is still so far within the actual yearly income that a balance of several thousand pounds is available annually for roads, bridges, and other public works, leaving a considerable margin to meet Provincial charges and extraordinary contingencies.

3rd. That the amalgamation of the various departments with those of Nelson would add largely to the efficiency of the Government on both sides of the Grey.

4th. That a considerable money saving would be effected thereby.

5th. That the district in question would well repay a moderate outlay on roads and bridges.

6th. That there are but slight grounds for supposing that the Province of Nelson is injured to any appreciable extent by the present system of dividing the gold duty with the County of Westland.

His Honor the Superintendent of the
Province of Nelson.

I have, &c.,
W. C. HODGSON.

A 1.

RETURN of Revenue derived from that portion of the County of Westland north of the Teremakau, for the Year ending 30th June, 1870.

						£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs—											
Gold duty						6,043	7	1			
Import duty and miscellaneous receipts						9,001	14	9			
									15,045	1	10
Post Office receipts									1,323	17	3
Telegraph receipts									967	3	6
Warden's Court—											
Greymouth receipts						4,172	3	0			
Greenstone receipts						2,972	12	8			
									7,144	15	8
Resident Magistrate's Court—											
Greymouth receipts						1,416	18	0			
Greenstone receipts						379	0	6			
									1,795	18	6
District Court receipts									99	6	0
Land									46	0	0
Stamp duties									682	18	9
									£27,105	1	6

B.

COMPARATIVE Return of Revenue collected at the Port of Greymouth during the Years ending 30th June, 1869, and 30th June, 1870.

						1868-69.			1869-70.		
						Value.			Value.		
						£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gold duty						12,555	13	5	13,887	6	2
Import duty						43,607	3	7	47,747	1	5
Miscellaneous Revenue						303	9	1	262	3	9
						£56,466	6	1	£61,896	11	4

EXPORT Return for the above stated Periods.

1868-69.				1869-70.			
Articles.		Value.		Articles.		Value.	
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
Coals, 602 tons	...	637	0 0	Coals, 867 tons	...	794	0 0
Miscellaneous	...	4,200	0 0	Miscellaneous	...	2,963	0 0
		£4837	0 0			£3,757	0 0
Total Revenue from all sources for above period				...	...	...	£118,362 17 5
Total number of ounces of Gold exported—				Ounces.			
Nelson	...	...	...	...	...	...	125,696
Westland	...	...	...	...	...	...	85,856
				211,552			

C.

DEPARTMENTS of the General Government Provincially charged against the County of Westland.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Waste Lands Department—						
Commissioner of Crown Lands	...			500	0	0
Treasury Department—						
Receiver of Revenue	...			400	0	0
Stamp Department—						
Deputy Commissioner	50	0	0	...		
Clerk	100	0	0	...		
				150	0	0
Electoral—						
Registration Officer and Returning Officer	...			50	0	0
Supreme Court—						
Registrar	250	0	0	...		
Clerk and Deputy Registrar	180	0	0	...		
				430	0	0
District Court—						
Judge	...			600	0	0
Lands and Deeds Registry—						
Registrar of Deeds	250	0	0	...		
Clerk	125	0	0	...		
				375	0	0
Defence—						
Adjutant	300	0	0	...		
Capitation Grant	614	5	0	...		
				914	5	0
Contingencies—about	...			280	15	0
				£3,700	0	0

D.

APPROXIMATE Estimate of Expenditure in the District north of the Teremakau from July 1, 1869, to June 30, 1870; showing also what Reductions may be made if the District be annexed to the Province of Nelson, and what Balance would be available for Public Works.

	Present Expenditure.			Proposed Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries of County officials	3,884	10	0	3,884	10	0
Ditto General Government, one-half to Nelson	798	5	0	798	5	0
Ditto Post Office	1,152	10	10	1,152	10	10
Volunteers, one-third	350	0	0	350	0	0
Telegraph Department	210	0	0	210	0	0
District Judge, Witnesses, Returning Officer, &c.	1,039	13	4	475	13	4
County Chairman's Department, one-third	400	0	0			
Ditto Treasurer's ditto, one-third	241	13	4			
Ditto Council ditto, one-third	350	0	0			
Contingent expenses, Police, one-third	441	13	4	441	13	4
Gaol salaries, one-third	739	18	0	200	0	0
Ditto contingencies, rations, &c., one-third	560	0	0	150	0	0
Waste Lands Board, one-third	116	13	4			
Survey Department, one-third	813	3	4	550	0	0
Engineer's Department, one-third	483	3	4			
Weights and Measures, one-third	133	3	4			
Maintenance of Lunatic Asylum, one-third	633	3	4			
Education, one-third	716	13	4	716	13	4
County Departments, Solicitor, Surgeon, &c., one-third	368	13	4			
Ditto subsidy to Greymouth Hospital	1,400	0	0	1,400	0	0
Greymouth and Pounamu Court Houses	880	0	0			
Protective works, Greymouth	2,510	0	0			
Roads to Arnold, &c.	1,850	0	0			
Maintenance of road to Christchurch, one-third	1,550	0	0	1,550	0	0
Fuel, light, printing, and other contingencies	1,250	0	0	1,250	0	0
Balance	...			9,742	11	4
Total proposed Expenditure	£22,872	17	2	£22,872	17	2
	...			£13,130	5	10

REPORT OF THE GREY VALLEY

E.

COMPARATIVE Return of Revenue collected in the Grey Valley District during the Years 1868-69 and 1869-70, inclusive.

	Nelson—Grey.		Westland—Grey.	
	1868-69.	1869-70.	1868-69.	1869-70.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs—				
Gold duty	7,867 15 3	7,843 19 1	4,687 18 2	6,043 7 1
Import duties, &c.	8,233 4 10	9,001 14 9	8,233 4 10	9,001 14 9
	16,101 0 1	16,845 13 10	12,921 3 0	15,045 1 10
Warden's Court	6,958 3 3	7,374 13 9	4,369 18 6	7,144 15 8
Resident Magistrate's Court	593 6 2	1,192 5 1	1,014 15 3	1,795 18 6
	£23,652 9 6	25,412 12 8	18,305 16 9	23,985 16 0

F.

SCHEDULE of Officials employed by the County of Westland in the District north of the Teremakau, with their Salaries.

	£ s. d.
1 Warden	500 0 0
1 Clerk to Bench	300 0 0
1 Warden's Clerk	250 0 0
1 Bailiff	150 0 0
1 Sub-Inspector of Police	300 0 0
1 Mounted Constable, at 12s. per diem	219 0 0
1 First Class Sergeant, at 14s. per diem	255 10 0
1 Second Class Sergeant, at 13s. 6d. per diem	246 7 6
1 Third Class Sergeant, at 13s. per diem	237 5 0
4 First Class Constables, at 11s. per diem	803 0 0
1 Female Searcher, at 1s. 6d. per diem	27 7 6
1 Harbour Master, at £300 per annum (half to Nelson)	150 0 0
1 Signalmán, at £192 per annum (half to Nelson)	96 0 0
1 District Surveyor	350 0 0
	£3,884 10 0

G.

RETURN showing Receipts, &c., of Greymouth Borough Council, for the Year ending 30th June, 1870.

Revenue of 1869-70.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tonnage dues	584 12 10	1,373 4 8
Wharfage rates	788 11 10	
Balance of 1868 Borough rates	69 15 0	2,457 12 0
Ditto 1869 ditto	1,263 4 0	
Ditto 1870 ditto	1,124 13 0	500 0 0
County Council grant in aid of protective works	...	2,510 0 0
Subsidy to rates from Native Department	...	500 0 0
Rent of land, sheds, &c.	100 10 0	275 5 6
Licenses—Carters, Boatmen, Hawkers, &c.	124 12 0	
Fines and penalties	50 3 6	£7,116 2 2

G.—continued.

Staff of the Borough Council.					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Town Clerk, also Treasurer and Borough Rate Collector	...				300	0	0			
Town Surveyor, also Wharfage and Tonnage Collector	...				250	0	0			
Town Solicitor	...	...	...	...	50	0	0			
Inspector of Nuisances	...	...	...	...	25	0	0			
Dangerous Goods Storekeeper	...	...	...	...	Fees.			625	0	0
								£	s.	d.
Total expenditure on river protective works to 30th June, 1870					...	...	...	7,295	14	0
Estimated cost of keeping same in repair (annual)					...	...	...	1,000	0	0
The Borough rate is 5 per cent. for three years ending 1870, struck specially for protective works, and levied on property valued at					...	...	...	28,730	0	0

H.

RETURN of Revenue, Expenditure, &c., &c., of the Postal Department, Greymouth, for the two Financial Years ending respectively 30th June, 1869, and 30th June, 1870.

Revenue.		Amount.		Expenditure.		Amount.	
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
July, 1868, to June, 1869	...	1,208	9 6	July, 1868, to June, 1869	...	1,212	12 0
July, 1869, to June, 1870	...	1,323	17 3	July, 1869, to June, 1870	...	1,152	10 10
STAMP DUTIES.							
July, 1868, to June, 1869	...	597	17 2				
July, 1869, to June, 1870	...	682	18 9				
SAVINGS BANKS DEPOSITS.				SAVINGS BANKS DEPOSITS.			
July, 1868, to June, 1869	No. 663	15,467	9 2	July, 1868, to June, 1869	No. 372	10,286	13 0
July, 1869, to June, 1870	807	13,992	16 0	July, 1869, to June, 1870	526	11,895	6 7
MONEY ORDERS ISSUED.				MONEY ORDERS PAID.			
July, 1868, to June, 1869	1,091	5,950	19 4	July, 1868, to June, 1869	231	1,195	13 3
July, 1869, to June, 1870	1,301	6,300	18 6	July, 1869, to June, 1870	339	1,581	18 3

LETTERS AND NEWSPAPERS.	Received.		Despatched.		Total Number Received and Despatched.	
	Letters.	Newspapers.	Letters.	Newspapers.	Letters.	Newspapers.
July, 1868, to June, 1869	87,315	53,801	98,949	43,025	186,264	96,816
July, 1869, to June, 1870	85,283	64,929	96,140	53,137	181,423	118,066

4-4-10

RECEIVED IN JANUARY 1910

1910

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF BUREAU

WASHINGTON, D. C.

RECEIVED

1910

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF BUREAU

WASHINGTON, D. C.

RECEIVED