

NELSON.

His Honor O. CURTIS to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,—

Superintendent's Office, Nelson, 11th May, 1874.

In answer to your circular letter of the 15th October last, in which you ask me to furnish you with suggestions as to the best means of preventing the wasteful destruction of the forests of the Province of Nelson, for the consideration of Parliament, I have the honor to state that, for the following reasons, I am of opinion that it would not be practicable to take steps for the preservation of timber upon the waste lands of this Province, without injuriously affecting the progress of the settlement of the country. At least three-fourths of the lands remaining in the hands of the Crown, which amount to between four and five millions of acres, are covered with timber, by far the greater part of which is of little present value, owing to want of means of communication. I trust that the assistance of Parliament will be given to remove this difficulty, and to make a considerable portion of our timbered lands accessible to a line of railway. But it must be a considerable time before that desirable result can be effected, and I think it would be inexpedient to check the progress of settlement, necessarily but slow, while the interior of the country remains comparatively inaccessible, by putting restrictions upon the occupation of the land in order to preserve from destruction a small quantity of timber, for use at a somewhat distant and at present wholly uncertain period.

I have, &c.,

OSWALD CURTIS,
Superintendent.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Wellington.

MARLBOROUGH.

His Honor A. P. SEYMOUR to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,—

Superintendent's Office, Blenheim, 12th May, 1873.

In answer to your circular letter No. 27, dated 15th October, 1873, referring to the conservation of forests, I have only to suggest that all possible means be used to prevent the destruction of forests by bush fires, and that persons cutting down the timber for the purpose of clearing their lands should be compelled to take such steps as would prevent their fires from spreading beyond the limits of their own lands.

I have, &c.,

A. P. SEYMOUR,
Superintendent.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Wellington.

WELLINGTON.

His Honor W. FITZHERBERT to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,—

Superintendent's Office, Wellington, 20th May, 1874.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, requesting to be furnished, as soon as convenient, with the information asked for in your letter No. 27, of the 15th October, upon the subject of the conservation of forests.

In reply, I have the honor to inform you that the Government do not consider it necessary that any legislative action should be taken with regard to the conservation of forests within the Province of Wellington.

The opinion of the Government upon this subject is that the object the General Government have in view as to the conservation of forests will be most readily attained by opening up the country and settling immigrants upon it on a system which will increase the value of the timber, and afford the readiest means for bringing it into the market.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM FITZHERBERT,
Superintendent.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Wellington.

TARANAKI.

His Honor F. A. CARRINGTON to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,—

Superintendent's Office, New Plymouth, 27th May, 1874.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your circular, number and date quoted in the margin, calling my attention to a report of the Committee on Colonial Industries, adopted by the House of Representatives, requesting the Government to invite the various Provincial Governments to consider how best to prevent the wasteful destruction of the forests of the Colony, &c.; and you ask me to furnish you with suggestions and recommendations with regard to the Province of Taranaki, &c.

In reply, I have to state that the larger portion of Taranaki is forest land. It is therefore the intention of the Government to take such action in this matter as will cause certain portions of this great forest territory to be cleared in the most judicious manner, by opening out, in the first instance, the level and fertile lands and most promising districts for colonization and settle-

PART I.

Reports, 1874;
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Marlborough.

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Taranaki.