

Sub-Enclosure 1 to Enclosure in No. 12.

SIR,—

Government Offices, Wellington, 26th April, 1880.

The Government have received from His Excellency the Governor the accompanying copies of a Colonial Office Circular, dated 22nd January, and of the Revised Code and Rules, &c., for the Vice-Admiralty Courts in the colonies mentioned therein.

You will observe that it is desirable that the Judges of the Vice-Admiralty Court here should be communicated to the Imperial Government as soon as possible, I have therefore the honor to ask that—as early as you conveniently can, after the opening of the Court of Appeal, next month—you will submit the Revised Rules for consideration by the Judges; and that you will forward to me such recommendations respecting them as may be agreed upon.

His Honor the Chief Justice, Wellington.

I have, &c.,

JOHN HALL.

Sub-Enclosure 2 to Enclosure in No. 12.

SIR,—

Judges' Chambers, Wellington, 7th June, 1880.

Referring to your letter dated the 26th of April, 1880, enclosing proposed Admiralty Regulations, and requesting my consideration of the same, I have the honor to inform you that I, as Judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court, have, together with the other Judges of the Supreme Court being also Deputy-Judges of the Vice-Admiralty Court, considered the proposed rules, and desire to make the following suggestions:—

1. That the rules should prescribe at what registry appearance is to be entered—

(1.) Where the suit is *in rem*;

(2.) Where it is against the person.

In the colony the Supreme Court has several Registrars' offices. The Judges of the Court do not all reside at one place, but at different places; and each Judge, though having jurisdiction throughout the colony, has a defined district assigned to him. The matter particularly to be provided for is the fixing the place for appearance and delivery of pleadings and conduct of suit where there are, as in New Zealand, several Registrars' offices.

2. That the Judges of the Supreme Court, when acting as Judges of the Vice-Admiralty Court, should, by statute, be put in the same position as to responsibilities as when acting as Judges of the Supreme Court in their ordinary jurisdiction; and, to this end, that a provision should be made similar to that in "The Court of Admiralty Act (Ireland), 1867," relating to the Admiralty Court of Ireland, section 22.

I have, &c.,

JAMES PRENDERGAST,

Chief Justice.

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir HERCULES ROBINSON to the Right Hon. the Earl of KIMBERLEY.

(No. 43.)

Government House, Wellington,

MY LORD,—

New Zealand, 6th July, 1880.

In reply to your Lordship's Despatch No. 6, 20th May, I have the honor to forward a duplicate copy of the "Return of Armed Land Forces, exclusive of Regular Troops, in New Zealand, made up to 31st December, 1879," the original of which formed an enclosure to my Despatch No. 13, of 24th March last; and I have given directions that in future similar returns may be forwarded to the Colonial Office in duplicate.

I have, &c.,

HERCULES ROBINSON.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir HERCULES ROBINSON to the Right Hon. the Earl of KIMBERLEY.

(No. 45.)

Government House, Wellington,

MY LORD,—

New Zealand, 16th July, 1880.

I have the honor to transmit to you six copies of the report which has been presented by Sir William Fox, K.C.M.G., M.H.R., and Sir Francis Bell, Kt., M.L.C., who were appointed in January last to be Commissioners to inquire into the causes of discontent amongst the Natives of the west coast of the North Island.

2. In order that the aboriginal natives of these Islands should be represented upon the Commission, Honi Mohi Tawhai, Esq., M.H.R., was appointed to be a Commissioner in conjunction with the two above-named gentlemen; but shortly after his appointment he resigned his position, and it was not then considered advisable to appoint another Maori to take his place.