

1904.
NEW ZEALAND.

DESPATCHES

FROM THE GOVERNOR OF NEW ZEALAND TO THE SECRETARY
OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

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No. 1

(No. 33.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 21st April, 1903.

I have with regret to announce to you that the following gentlemen of the Legislative Council have died within the past month :—

Hon. Sir George S. Whitmore, K.C.M.G.

Hon. Captain George B. Morris.

Hon. Dr. Morgan S. Grace, C.M.G.

Hon. William Swanson.

I have, &c.,
RANFURLY.

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 2.

(No. 36.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 30th April, 1903.

With reference to your despatch (New Zealand, General), dated the 5th February, 1903, relative to the proposed application to New Zealand of "The Colonial Solicitors Act, 1900," I have the honour to inform you that my Government are prepared to meet the views of the Incorporated Law Society, and am prepared to arrange for provision being made by law and regulation for the observance of the conditions stipulated by the said Society ; and an amendment of the law as indicated in the second paragraph of the despatch on the subject will be made, in order to provide that English barristers and solicitors who have been practising in New Zealand for not less than three years shall be entitled to practise in this colony without further examination.

I have, &c.,
RANFURLY.

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 3.

(No. 39.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 2nd May, 1903.

I have the honour to inform you that my Government have asked me to make inquiry as to the cause of the delay in allocating and forwarding trophies connected with the late South African war.

They are particularly anxious that the guns captured by the New Zealanders, besides other relics and trophies of the war, should be sent to the colony as soon as possible.

I have, &c.,
RANFURLY.

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 4.

(No. 43.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 13th May, 1903.

At the request of my Premier I have the honour to forward you herewith a copy of a letter from the managing director of the Union Steam Ship Company relative to suggested steam communication with Noumea.

Parliament will be asked to make provision on next year's estimates for a subsidy of £2,400 per annum, and my Government would be glad if the French Government could be communicated with on this subject, and asked whether they would contribute one moiety.

I have, &c.,
RANFURLY.

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Enclosure.

Union Steam Ship Company of New Zealand (Limited),
Dunedin, 25th March, 1903.

DEAR SIR,—

I regret delay in placing before you proposals for suggested steam communication with Noumea.

I have made inquiries as to prospect of a regular trade from this colony, and advices are very conflicting.

There would no doubt be occasional demand for stock and produce, but the majority of opinion indicates that this would be very casual, and that it is doubtful if a trade can be established of sufficient importance to support a regular steamer at intervals of, say, one month, in the entire absence of return freight, unless indeed the French authorities can be induced to modify their tariff and guarantee restrictions in favour of New Zealand.

I gather that it is hoped that the Government of New Caledonia will join in any subsidy it may be necessary to give, and, if so, possibly they may also do something in the direction indicated.

Some assistance will be required, as to give the trade a chance it would be necessary to sail at reasonable intervals, and to maintain the service for at least twelve months.

We are willing to undertake to despatch a steamer each two months, say, six sailings in the year, for a subsidy of £2,400 for the six sailings, and we will of course, if trade warrants it, undertake to increase the number of sailings as may appear to be necessary.

We would propose calling at several ports in the colony for loading, making Auckland final port.

I am, &c.,

JAMES MILLS,

Managing Director.

Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, Wellington.

No. 5.

(No. 46.)

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 26th May, 1903.

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the Distinguished Service Order, I have the honour to inform you that I presented the decoration, on Empire Day, to Major (now Lieut.-Colonel) Frederick William Abbott and Captain Robert Stevenson.

2. The ceremony took place at Auckland, on the occasion of the laying of the foundation-stone of the Veterans' Home, before some five hundred veterans, two hundred troops, and several thousands of people.

3. I return the decorations, warrant, and statutes for Major Bartlett, as he no longer resides in New Zealand, and is believed to be living at Reitfontaine.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

RANFURLY.

(No. 47.)

No. 6.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 8th June, 1903.

With reference to your despatch (Honours), dated the 1st May, 1903, ^{A.-2, 1904,} forwarding the insignia of the Companionship of the Most Honourable Order ^{No. 6.} of the Bath to Colonels Davies, Newall, and Robin, I have the honour to inform you that I personally handed to Colonel Davies his insignia, there being no opportunity of presenting it to him publicly, and forwarded the other two by post to Colonels Newall and Robin.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

RANFURLY.

No. 7.

(No. 56.)

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 1st July, 1903.

With reference to your despatch (New Zealand, No. 15), dated the 12th ^{A.-2, 1904,} March, 1903, respecting the rates to be charged for Government telegrams from ^{No. 2.} England *via* the Pacific cable, I have the honour to inform you that my Government are unable to make any reduction in their terminal rate on Government

cable messages, which is only 1d. a word, as against the Commonwealth's 4d. The New Zealand rate for Government messages *via* Pacific is 1s. 6d. a word, as against the Commonwealth's 1s. 7½d. *via* Pacific and *via* Eastern.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

RANFURLY

No. 8.

(No 57.)

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 3rd July, 1903.

I have the honour to inform you that the first session of the fifteenth Parliament of New Zealand was opened by Commission on the 29th ultimo for the purpose of electing a Speaker, and was formally opened by me on the following day.

2. Copies of the Speech that I read on that occasion and the Address in reply will be forwarded by next mail.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

RANFURLY.

No. 9.

(No. 68.)

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 20th July, 1903.

With reference to your despatch (New Zealand, General), dated the 20th May, 1903, regarding conditions of service of South African and oversea contingents employed in the South African war, I have the honour to forward you herewith forms of attestation and forms of agreement for Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Contingents.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

RANFURLY.

No. 10.

(No. 69.)

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 20th July, 1903.

With reference to your despatch (New Zealand, No. 38), dated the 22nd May, 1903, regarding the deficit on the working of the Pacific cable for the two years ended the 31st March last, I have the honour to inform you that £10,000 was voted on last year's estimates in respect of New Zealand's share of the loss on the working of the Pacific cable for the two years ended the 31st March, 1903. The amount was imprested to the Agent-General in December for payment to the Pacific Cable Board.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

RANFURLY.

No. 11.

(No 71.)

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 21st July, 1903.

With reference to my despatch (New Zealand, No. 57), dated the 3rd instant, relative to the opening of Parliament, I have the honour to enclose copies of the following documents:—

(a.) The Speech that I read on that occasion.

(b.) Address in Reply presented to me by the Honourable the Legislative Council.

(c.) Address in Reply presented to me by the Speaker and members of the House of Representatives.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

RANFURLY.

No 12.

(No. 76.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 5th August, 1903.

With reference to your despatch on the subject of cancer research, I have the honour to inform you that instructions have been issued to the various District Health Officers with reference to the investigation of cancer.

2. At the present time my Government do not see their way to subscribing to the fund now being raised at Home in connection with this disease.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain,

RANFURLY.

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 13.

(No 87.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 2nd September, 1903.

With reference to your despatch (New Zealand, General), dated the 27th May, 1903, on the subject of the Industrial Property Convention, I have the honour to inform you that my Government consider that no alteration is required to bring the law of this colony into conformity with the provisions of the additional Act of 1900.

A copy of "The Patents, Designs, and Trade-marks Act, 1889," as amended by the Act of 1897, is forwarded herewith, and I would invite your attention to section 106 of the Act of 1889, page 41.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain,

RANFURLY.

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 14.

(No 91.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 5th September, 1903.

With reference to your despatch (New Zealand, No. 46), dated the 30th June, 1903, on the subject of the alleged differential treatment of Austrian and Hungarian goods, I have the honour to inform you that my Ministers have reported to me on this matter as follows: It is not the case that there is a difference in the treatment of goods coming from Vienna and Buda-Pesth *via* Hamburg, as compared with Canadian goods *via* New York. If goods made in Austria or Canada are sold and invoiced by the manufacturer in these countries f.o.b., Hamburg or New York duty is charged on the f.o.b. value. On the other hand, if the goods are sold and invoiced in, say, Vienna, or, say, Toronto, and if the Customs officers are satisfied that the transaction is generally a sale at the "fair market value" in those places, the carriage to port of shipment is not included in the value for duty. If a doubt exists as to the genuineness of the transaction, the officers require the importer to verify the amount alleged to be paid for carriage to port of shipment by production of a railway receipt or freight note, in which case such an amount would not be included. This applies to all goods from all countries alike, and goods from Vienna and Buda-Pesth are not exceptionally treated as compared with Canada or the United States. When the importer is dissatisfied with the action of the Customs Department, he is invited to submit the case to arbitration in accordance with section 46 of "The Customs Laws Consolidation Act, 1882," New Zealand.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain,

RANFURLY.

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 15.

(No. 92.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 16th September, 1903.

At the request of my Government I have the honour to enclose you herewith, for transmission to the Secretary of State for War, lists showing the

number of prisoners, guns, rifles, ammunition, wagons, &c., captured by the New Zealand Contingents in South Africa or by the columns in which the New Zealand Contingents were serving.

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.,

RANFURLY.

No. 16.

(No. 100.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 15th October, 1903.

With reference to your despatch (New Zealand, No. 65), dated the 4th September, 1903, on the subject of the Pacific cable, I have the honour to inform you that the sum of £57 11s. 7d. will be imprested the Agent-General for payment to the Imperial authorities, this being the balance of New Zealand's share of the loss in the working of the Pacific cable for the two years ended the 31st March, 1903.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. A. Lyttelton,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

RANFURLY.

No. 17.

(No. 109.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 20th November, 1903.

With reference to your despatch (New Zealand, Miscellaneous), dated the 14th September, 1903, I have the honour to acknowledge the new seal prepared for the Government of New Zealand, together with a warrant authorising its use, and the new press.

My Government ask that the old seal, which I forward you by this mail, may be returned to the colony after it has been defaced. A similar request was granted in 1881.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. A. Lyttelton,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

RANFURLY.

No. 18.

(No. 111.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 1st December, 1903.

With reference to my telegram of the 23rd November, regarding my having assented to "The Preferential and Reciprocal Trade Act, 1903," I have the honour, in accordance therewith, to forward the Act duly sealed, accompanied by a statement signed by the Attorney-General, that in his opinion the Royal assent may properly be given thereto.

On receiving the Bill, I sent for the Attorney-General and discussed the question, pointing out that this Bill certainly came within the Bills not to be assented to under clause 6 of section 4 of the Royal Instructions. He explained to me the urgent necessity of signing, as it was a tariff measure, and that under the concluding paragraph of clause 6 there was no reason for reserving, as the Bill contained nothing repugnant to the law of England, or inconsistent with any obligations imposed by treaty.

My Premier also pointed out that, if reserved, the whole country might be in the meantime flooded with foreign goods.

Under these circumstances, though still personally considering that the Bill is one that should have been reserved, I assented on behalf of His Majesty, as I considered that if reserved its purpose would be largely frustrated, and harm would accrue to the trade of the colony.

I have the honour to request that you will advise me by cable if His Majesty has been pleased to allow the same.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. A. Lyttelton,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

RANFURLY.

No. 19.

(No. 114.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 9th December, 1903.

With reference to your despatch (New Zealand, General), dated the 21st October, 1902, on the subject of the mutual protection of patents in the Mother-country and the colonies, I have the honour to inform you that my Government consider that any scheme of the nature contemplated would require to be very carefully thought out, and that no satisfactory proposal could be formulated without full discussion and interchange of views between the various colonies concerned.

My Government would be willing to co-operate in giving effect to the proposal, provided that a satisfactory scheme can be arranged. They consider that probably the most convenient plan would be for the Imperial authorities to lay down the heads of a scheme, and then submit it to the colonies.

I have, &c.,

RANFURLY.

The Right Hon. A. Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 20.

(No. 117.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 12th December, 1903.

I have the honour to forward you herewith a synopsis, prepared by the Attorney-General, of the Acts passed during the first session of the Fifteenth Parliament of New Zealand, together with the Acts duly authenticated with the Seal of the Colony.

I have, &c.,

RANFURLY.

The Right Hon. A. Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Enclosure.

SPECIAL REPORT.

FOR the information of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to report as follows:—

1. The synopsis attached hereto contain a list of all the Acts passed by the General Assembly of New Zealand during the session which ended on the 24th day of November, 1903.

2. In my opinion, none of those Acts are repugnant to the law of England; nor was it necessary, except as regards Acts Nos. 95 and 96, that they should have been reserved for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure thereon, in accordance with the Royal Instructions of the 26th day of March, 1892.

3. Acts Nos. 95 and 96 have been so reserved in accordance with the provisions of "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894" (57 and 58 Vict., c. 60).

4. Act No. 78 (the Preferential and Reciprocal Trade Act) imposes preferential duties on certain foreign goods, and therefore comes under clause 6 of the Royal Instructions, but was assented to by His Excellency (as authorised by that clause) on the advice of Ministers that urgent necessity existed requiring it to be brought into immediate operation, so as to prevent the colony being flooded with extra-dutiable goods whilst the Act was reserved.

Dated at Wellington, this 2nd day of December, 1903.

ALBERT PITT, Attorney-General.

SYNOPSIS of ACTS passed by the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of NEW ZEALAND in the Session ended the 24th Day of November, 1903.

Public General Acts.

1. "The Imprest Supply Act, 1903."—Granting £465,000 and £10,000 towards the services of the current financial year.

2. "The Rotokare Domain Act Repeal Act, 1903."—Making provision for the protection of the Rotokare Domain.

3. "The Imprest Supply Act, 1903 (No. 2)."—Granting £465,000 and £10,000 towards the services of the current financial year.

4. "The Road and Town Districts Rating Act, 1903."—Extending the rating-powers of Road and Town Boards.

5. "The Weights and Measures Act, 1903."—Consolidating and amending the law relating to weights and measures, legalising the use of the metric system, and empowering the Governor to declare such system in force in New Zealand at a future date.

6. "The First Offenders' Probation Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending the law relating to the release of first offenders on probation.

7. "The Inebriates Institutions Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Inebriates Institutions Act, 1898," by providing for separate institutions for the treatment of curable patients.
8. "The Imprest Supply Act, 1903 (No. 3)."—Granting £465,000 and £52,000 towards the services of the current financial year.
9. "The Supreme Court Judges Act, 1903."—Providing increased facilities for the retirement on pension of Judges of the Supreme Court on attaining a certain age.
10. "The Arbitration Court Emergency Act, 1903."—Making provision for the temporary appointment of an acting-member of the Arbitration Court in certain cases.
11. "The Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1903."—Providing for the establishment and control of stations for the purpose of wireless telegraphy.
12. "The Inspection of Machinery Act Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Inspection of Machinery Act, 1902," with regard to service certificates.
13. "The Dairy Industry Act Extension Act, 1903."—Extending the time wherein loans under "The Dairy Industry Act, 1898," may be made.
14. "The Arbitration Court Emergency Act, 1903 (No. 2)."—Providing for an omission in "The Arbitration Court Emergency Act, 1903."
15. "The Counties Act Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Counties Act, 1886," by increasing the rating-powers of County Councils and in other matters.
16. "The Dramatic Copyright Act, 1903."—Imposing penalties for certain offences against the law of copyright.
17. "The Imprest Supply Act, 1903 (No. 4)."—Granting £515,000 and £10,000 towards the services of the current financial year.
18. "The Interpretation Act Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Interpretation Act, 1888," by providing further rules to be observed in the construction of Acts of the General Assembly.
19. "The Legitimation Act Amendment Act, 1903."—Removing an impediment to the legitimation of children whose father was the brother of the mother's deceased husband, or whose mother was the sister of the father's deceased wife.
20. "The Commissioners Act, 1903."—Defining the powers of persons appointed by the Governor as Commissioners.
21. "The Testator's Family Maintenance Act, 1903."—Providing for payment of duties on an order being made under "The Testator's Family Maintenance Act, 1900."
22. "The Intestates' Estates Act, 1903."—Making provision for widows and widowers in the distribution of intestates' estates in certain cases.
23. "The General Assembly Library Act, 1903."—Providing for the free delivery to the General Assembly Library of books published in New Zealand.
24. "The Police Offences Amendment Act, 1903."—Providing for the closing of public billiard-rooms at certain hours and other matters.
25. "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903."—Providing for the encouragement of settlement on bush and swamp Crown lands by remission of rent and rates for certain periods.
26. "The Water-power Act, 1903."—Vesting in the Crown the right to the user of water for electrical purposes.
27. "The Crown Grant Act Amendment Act, 1903."—Authorising the compounding of certain fees in connection with Crown grants.
28. "The Sand-drift Act, 1903."—Providing against the encroachment of sand-drift on land.
29. "The Queen's Scholarships Act, 1903."—Establishing certain scholarships in connection with Victoria College.
30. "The Clutha Floods Relief Fund Trustees Empowering Act, 1903."—Providing for the application of the unexpended balance of certain relief funds.
31. "The Military Pensions Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Military Pensions Act, 1866," by extending the right to pensions or allowances of the New Zealand contingents in the South African War.
32. "The Sea-fisheries Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Sea-fisheries Act, 1894," by providing for the licensing of fishing-boats and other matters.
33. "The Native Townships Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Native Townships Act, 1895," by providing for the modification of plans of townships.
34. "The Imprest Supply Act, 1903 (No. 5)."—Granting £515,000 and £10,000 towards the services of the current financial year.
35. "The Products Export Act, 1903."—Providing for the inspection of certain products intended for export.
36. "The Local Bodies' Loans Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending the law relating to the terms on which loans may be granted by the Government to local bodies and in other matters.
37. "The Land and Income Assessment Act Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Land and Income Assessment Act, 1900," by altering the rate of graduated land-tax and in other matters.
38. "The Land-tax and Income-tax Act, 1903."—Imposing a land-tax and income-tax for the current financial year.
39. "The Poukawa Native Reserve Act, 1903."—Providing for the administration and improvement of the Poukawa Native Reserve.
40. "The Aid to Public Works and Land Settlement Act, 1903."—Authorising the raising of a loan of £1,000,000 to be applied to the purposes specified in the schedule to the Act.
41. "The Municipal Corporations Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1900," in certain matters suggested by the Municipal Conference.

42. "The Treasury Bills Extension Act, 1903."—Extending the currency and time for payment of Treasury bills.
43. "The Public Loans Renewal Act, 1903."—Facilitating the renewal of certain public loans by extending the existing statutory provisions under which the loans were raised.
44. "The Midland Railway Petitions Settlement Act Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Midland Railway Petitions Settlement Act, 1902," by authorising the creation and issue of inscribed stock or debentures to an amount sufficient to the payment to the Receiver mentioned in the Act of the sum of £150,000.
45. "The Labour Department Act, 1903."—Authorising the creation of a Department of Labour for the purpose of obtaining statistics relating to labour matters and for other purposes.
46. "The Animals Protection Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Animals Protection Act, 1880," by providing for a uniform game season and other matters.
47. "The Gold Duties Act, 1903."—Enabling gold duties to be apportioned between neighbouring local authorities in certain cases.
48. "The New Zealand Institute Act, 1903."—Reconstituting the New Zealand Institute and making provision for its future government.
49. "The State Fire Insurance Act, 1903."—Authorising the establishment of a State Fire Insurance Office, and for the carrying-on therein of the business of fire insurance.
50. "The Australian and New Zealand Naval Defence Act, 1903."—Ratifying an agreement entered into between His Majesty's Government, the Commonwealth of Australia, and New Zealand for naval defence, and providing for the contribution by New Zealand of a proportionate part of the cost thereof.
51. "The Fisheries Conservation Act Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Fisheries Conservation Act, 1884," by providing for a uniform trout-fishing season and other matters.
52. "The Fisheries Encouragement Act, 1903."—Extending the time during which bonuses may be paid for canned or cured fish.
53. "The Companies Act, 1903."—Consolidating and amending the law relating to the formation, regulation, and winding-up of trading companies.
54. "The Scenery Preservation Act, 1903."—Providing for the proclaiming and acquisition of lands of scenic or historic interest, or on which there are thermal springs.
55. "The City Single Electorates Act, 1903."—Providing for the representation of the electors of cities, and for the taking of licensing polls in cities.
56. "The Rating on Unimproved Value Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Rating on Unimproved Value Act, 1896," in various matters of detail.
57. "The Timber Export Duty Act, 1903."—Authorising the collection of an increased Customs duty on the exportation of timber.
58. "The Patriotic Funds Act, 1903."—Providing for the application of the unexpended balance of certain funds raised in connection with the South African War.
59. "The Government Valuation of Land Act, 1903."—Amending "The Government Valuation of Land Act, 1896," in various matters of detail.
60. "The School Committees' Funds Act, 1903."—Enabling School Committees to operate on their funds through the Post-Office Savings-Bank.
61. "The Paeroa-Waihi Railway Act, 1903."—Providing for the speedy construction of a railway from Paeroa to Waihi.
62. "The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1900," by appointing Inspectors of Awards and in other matters.
63. "The Life Assurance Policies Act Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Life Assurance Policies Act, 1884," in various matters, and enabling persons of fifteen years of age to insure their lives and deal with the policy moneys.
64. "The Imprisonment for Debt Limitation Amendment Act, 1903."—Removing a difficulty in the administration of "The Imprisonment for Debt Limitation Act, 1900."
65. "The Law Practitioners Act, 1903."—Providing for the admission of English legal practitioners into New Zealand, and for the reciprocal admission of legal practitioners in and from other parts of the British dominions.
66. "The Hutt Road Act, 1903."—Providing for the repair and maintenance of the Hutt Road.
67. "The Orchard and Garden Pests Act, 1903."—Providing against the introduction and spread of diseases affecting orchards and gardens.
68. "The Maori Councils Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Maori Councils Act, 1900," by extending the powers of Village Committees and in other matters.
69. "The Government Railways Superannuation Fund Contributions Act, 1903."—Explaining a doubt as to the amount of contribution payable under "The Government Railways Superannuation Fund Act, 1902."
70. "The Agricultural and Pastoral Societies Amendment Act, 1903."—Enlarging the borrowing-powers of agricultural and pastoral societies.
71. "The Kauri-gum Industry Amendment Act, 1903."—Coal- and gold-mining leases to be granted over kauri-gum reserves.
72. "The School Committees Election Act, 1903."—Conferring the right to vote at elections of School Committees on the wife or husband of a householder.
73. "The Secondary Schools Act, 1903."—Making better provision for secondary education by founding free places or scholarships at secondary schools.
74. "The Waihi Hospital Board Act, 1903."—Appointing the Waihi Borough Council as the Hospital Board of the district.

75. "The Statutes Compilation Act Amendment Act, 1903."—Removing a difficulty in carrying out "The Statutes Compilation Act, 1902."

76. "The Admiralty House Act Repeal Act, 1903."—Authorising the Auckland Harbour Board to sell or lease the Admiralty House in Auckland.

77. "The Impounding Act Amendment Act, 1903."—Defining the meaning of the expression "the nearest accessible pound."

78. "The Preferential and Reciprocal Trade Act, 1903."—Imposing an increased duty of Customs on certain specified articles not being the produce or manufacture of some part of the British dominions, and providing for reciprocal trade with foreign countries.

79. "The Public Domains Act Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Public Domains Act, 1881," in various matters of detail.

80. "The Coal-mines Act Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Coal-mines Act, 1891," by making better provision for the payment of compensation for accidents and in other matters.

81. "The Mining Act Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Mining Act, 1898," by making better provision for the payment of compensation for accidents and in other matters.

82. "The Public Health Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Public Health Act, 1900," by transferring the control of infectious hospitals from local authorities to Hospital Boards and in other matters.

83. "The Bank of New Zealand Act, 1903."—Providing for the continuance of a State guarantee for the issue to His Majesty of certain preference shares, and for the eventual abolition of the Assets Board.

84. "The National Scholarships Act, 1903."—Providing for the establishment of National Scholarships in connection with higher education.

85. "The Hutt Railway and Road Improvement Act, 1903."—Providing for the improvement of the Wellington-Hutt Railway by the reclamation of land, for the construction of a new Hutt Road, and for the disposal of surplus land.

86. "The Mutual Fire Insurance Act, 1903."—Authorising the formation of mutual fire-insurance associations.

87. "The Juvenile Smoking Suppression Act, 1903."—Prohibiting the supply to and the smoking of tobacco by persons under fifteen years of age.

88. "The Workers' Compensation for Accidents Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Workers' Compensation for Accidents Act, 1900," by providing for the hearing of claims under £200 by Stipendiary Magistrates and in other matters.

89. "The Cook and other Islands Government Act Amendment Act, 1903."—Making special provision for the government of Niue, and otherwise amending "The Cook and other Islands Government Act, 1901."

90. "The Kawhia and Awakino Counties Act, 1903."—Establishing a new county and bringing Kawhia County under "The Counties Act, 1886."

91. "The Stock Act Amendment Act, 1903."—Extending the provisions of "The Stock Act, 1893," relating to the introduction and spread of disease, to bones and other animal manures.

92. "The Maori Land Laws Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending the various laws relating to Maori lands in matters of detail.

93. "The Public Works Act, 1903."—Making better provision for the dedication of land for roads, and otherwise amending "The Public Works Act, 1894."

94. "The Appropriation Act, 1903."—Being the annual grant to His Majesty of the sums mentioned in the Act for the services of the current financial year.

Acts Reserved for the Signification of His Majesty's Pleasure thereon

95. "The Coastwise Trade Act, 1903."—Providing for the prohibition or restriction of coastwise trade in New Zealand by ships of certain countries.

96. "The Shipping and Seamen Act, 1903."—Consolidating and amending the law relating to shipping owned or trading in New Zealand.

Local Acts.

1. "The Canterbury College Powers Act 1898 Amendment Act, 1903."—Enabling the Board to satisfy out of capital or income an award made in favour of the Canterbury Agricultural College.

2. "The Waimate Racecourse Reserve Act 1881 Amendment Act, 1903."—Providing for the vacating of office of trustee through non-attendance.

3. "The Christchurch Tramways District Act 1902 Amendment Act, 1903."—Reconstituting the Board constituted under "The Christchurch Tramways District Act, 1902," and otherwise amending that Act.

4. "The Borough of Gore Electric Power Empowering Act, 1903"—Authorising the Gore Borough Council to obtain power for electric lighting and other purposes.

5. "The Wellington Harbour Board Empowering Act 1902 Amendment Act, 1903."—Providing a Dock Fund Account and for the use of moneys therein.

6. "The Wellington Harbour Board Reclamation and Empowering Act, 1903."—Vesting certain land in the Board and authorising the reclamation thereof from the sea.

7. "The Wellington Hospital Contributors Empowering Act, 1903."—Authorising the extension of the Hospital site.

8. "The Dunedin City and Suburban Tramways and Water-power Act, 1903."—Authorising the Dunedin City Council to undertake certain works for the generation of electricity and other matters.

9. "The City of Christchurch Special Loans Enabling Act, 1903."—Authorising the payment of certain moneys out of general rates.
10. "The Huirangi Domain and Huirangi Institute Empowering Act, 1903."—Vesting certain property in the Domain Board.
11. "The Carterton Borough Water-supply Act, 1903."—Extending to the Carterton Borough Council certain powers conferred on County Councils by "The Water-supply Act, 1891."
12. "The Christchurch District Drainage Act 1875 Amendment Act, 1903."—Extending the borrowing-powers of the Christchurch District Drainage Board.
13. "The Collingwood County Act, 1903."—Constituting a new county for local-government purposes.
14. "The Gisborne Harbour Board Amendment Act, 1903."—Authorising the investment by the Public Trustee of certain moneys of the Board.
15. "The Wainono Drainage District Adjustment Act, 1903."—Enabling the adjustment of the boundaries of the district.
16. "The New Plymouth Borough and Taranaki Hospital Exchange Act, 1903."—Authorising the exchange of certain lands.
17. "The Timaru Harbour District and Harbour Board Act, 1903."—Providing for certain matters affecting the Timaru Harbour District and Harbour Board.
18. "The Wanganui Suburbs Lighting Act, 1903."—Authorising the Wanganui Borough Council to supply gas and electric light to its suburbs.
19. "The Otago Harbour Board Empowering Act, 1903."—Authorising the Board to contribute to the cost of constructing a graving-dock.
20. "The Waikopu Harbour Act, 1903."—Constituting a harbour district and authorising the raising of a loan.
21. "The Waimate County Water-races Validation Act, 1903."—Validating the acts of the Waimate County Council in relation to certain water-races.
22. "The St. Albans Special Loan Validation and Empowering Act, 1903."—Validating the proceedings of the St. Albans Borough Council in relation to the raising of a certain special loan.
23. "The Wellington City Recreation-ground Act, 1903."—Authorising the acquisition of certain land as a recreation-ground and for other purposes connected therewith.
24. "The Port Chalmers Corporation Empowering Act, 1903."—Authorising the Port Chalmers Borough Council to contribute to the cost of constructing a graving-dock.
25. "The Hutt Mechanics' Institute Sale Act, 1903."—Authorising the Lower Hutt Borough Council to sell certain land, and devote the proceeds to the establishment of a public library.
26. "The Gore Athenæum Reserve Vesting and Empowering Act, 1903."—Vesting certain land in the Gore Borough Council.
27. "The Otago Dock Trust Electric Lighting Act, 1903."—Authorising the Dock Trust to undertake certain works at Port Chalmers.
28. "The Whangarei Borough Repayment of Kensington Park Rate Enabling Act, 1903."—Authorising the repayment of certain moneys by the Whangarei Borough Council to its ratepayers.
29. "The Oamaru Harbour Board Loan Act, 1903."—Authorising the raising of a loan.
30. "The Taranaki and Hawera Hospital Districts Apportionment Act, 1903."—Authorising an apportionment of the assets and liabilities of the Taranaki Hospital District on the formation of a new district.
31. "The Waiapu Hospital District Act, 1903."—Constituting a new district under "The Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act, 1885."
32. "The Wairoa Harbour Board Empowering and Loan Act, 1903"—Authorising the construction of certain works and the raising of a loan therefor.
33. "The Inch-Clutha Road, River, and Drainage Act 1901 Amendment Act, 1903."—Amending "The Inch-Clutha Road, River, and Drainage Act, 1901," in a matter of detail.
34. "The Lyttelton Harbour Board Enlargement Act, 1903."—Providing for the representation of certain districts on the Harbour Board.
35. "The Thames Harbour Board Empowering Act, 1903."—Authorising the sale of certain land to the Thames Borough Council as a recreation-ground.
36. "The Mokau River Trust Act, 1903."—Establishing a trust for the protection and improvement of the natural scenery of the upper waters of the Mokau River.
37. "The Wellington Corporation Leasing Act, 1903."—Authorising the Wellington City Council to lease certain land for specific purposes.
38. "The Taranaki School Commissioners and Borough Exchange Act, 1903."—Authorising the exchange of certain lands.
39. "The Masterton Hospital Contributors Empowering Act, 1903."—Authorising the sale of the present Hospital, and the acquisition of land for, and the erection of a new Hospital.
40. "The Borough of Dannevirke Electric Power and Loan Empowering Act, 1903."—Authorising the Dannevirke Borough Council to obtain power for electric lighting and other purposes.
41. "The Patea Harbour Board Foreshore Act, 1903."—Vesting certain lands in the Harbour Board as an endowment.
42. "The City of Auckland Empowering Act, 1903."—Authorising the leasing of certain lands.

Private Acts.

1. "The Grand Lodge of Freemasons of New Zealand Trustees Act, 1903."—Providing for the succession of title to property of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons.
2. "The Presbyterian College Site Act, 1903."—Providing a site for a college at Dunedin and for its endowment.

No. 21.

(No. 118.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 14th December, 1903.

With reference to your despatch (New Zealand, Miscellaneous), dated the 18th September, 1903, on the subject of bonuses being presented to various colonial contingents which served in the late war in South Africa, I have the honour to inform you that my Government point out that ten New Zealand contingents went to South Africa, and that it would be a great favour if the number could be extended to ten banners, and thus avoid heartburnings to the last three contingents.

It has not yet been determined in what manner the banners will be distributed; but the Government desire that they should be presented by the Governor on the first suitable occasion after their receipt.

I have, &c.,

RANFURLY.

The Right Hon. A. Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 22.

(No. 120.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 24th December, 1903.

In reply to your despatch (General) of the 9th April, 1903, I have the honour to forward you six copies of an Act to amend the law relating to legal practitioners, passed last session.

1. It will be observed that this Act provides (section 2) for the admission in New Zealand, without examination, of barristers and solicitors who have been in practice in the United Kingdom for not less than three years.

2. Section 3 provides for the reciprocal admission of barristers and solicitors of the Supreme Court in other parts of the British dominions.

3. My Government having now provided for the admission not only of solicitors of the United Kingdom but also of barristers, without examination, trust that an Order in Council applying the provisions of the Colonial Solicitors Act to New Zealand may now be issued. It is presumed that the Order will contain the conditions laid down by the incorporated Law Society, and set out in Lord Onslow's despatch (General) of the 5th February, 1903.

4. It is desired that the Act should apply to this colony as regards the whole of the United Kingdom, unless it is considered that law agents in Scotland are not eligible for admission under the Act of 1903, and in that case that the Imperial Act should be made to apply as regards England and Ireland only.

I have, &c.,

RANFURLY.

The Right Hon. A. Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 23.

(No. 2.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 7th January, 1904.

I have the honour to inform you, with regret, of the death of the Hon. W. C. Walker, C.M.G., Speaker of the Legislative Council.

I have, &c.,

RANFURLY.

The Right Hon. A. Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 24.

(No. 4.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 15th January, 1904.

In reply to your telegram of the 10th December, 1903, regarding the Shipping and Seamen Bill, I have the honour to forward you a full report from the Attorney-General of New Zealand on this "reserved" Bill, showing the changes in the law that will take place should such receive His Majesty's sanction.

Under separate cover I forward six copies of the Bill.

The report of the Attorney-General reached me just too late for the last San Francisco mail.

I have, &c.,

RANFURLY.

The Right Hon. A. Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Enclosure.

"THE SHIPPING AND SEAMEN ACT, 1903."

THE alterations in the existing law proposed by this Act are as follows:—

Section 4 (prescribing the powers of Superintendent of Marine, Surveyors, &c.): Additional 1894, sec. 4. power is given to "see that the provisions of this Act referring to load-lines are complied with."

Section 15 authorises the Minister to appoint a Chief Surveyor of Ships for New Zealand. 1877, secs. 13, 183.

Section 21 (requiring certain ships to be provided with certificated officers) has the following additional requirements:— 1877, sec. 28; 1894, sec. 34

(a.) Home-trade sailing-ships of 100 tons or upwards, and home-trade steamships of 60 tons or upwards to carry at least one certificated mate, and any such ship of 100 tons or upwards running more than 300 miles between terminal ports to carry a second mate holding a certificate not lower than that of master of a fishing-boat or cargo-vessel under 25 tons. (1).

(b.) Foreign-going ships to carry a first and second mate duly certificated.

(c.) Sailing-ships under 25 tons plying within restricted limits to carry master having prescribed certificate.

Section 22, (3), entitles the holder of a second mate's foreign-going certificate to ship as mate of a home-trade ship. 1877, sec. 29.

Section 23, (4), provides that applicants for examination as master, mate, or engineer must be British subjects. 1877, sec. 25.

Section 24 authorises the appointment of examiners in such sight-tests as may be prescribed.

Section 25, (2), authorises the Minister to require re-examination or further inquiry before issue of a certificate. 1877, sec. 26.

Section 26 extends the right to certificate without examination to officers of His Majesty's Indian marine service. 1877, sec. 27.

Section 27 authorises the issue of certificates of service in certain cases. 1877, sec. 27.

Section 34 provides for the apprenticeship to the sea of inmates of industrial schools.

Section 35, (2), requires apprenticeship indentures to be in the prescribed form. 1877, sec. 35.

Section 38 allows only certain specified persons to engage or supply seamen. 1877, sec. 37.

Section 41: The agreement with the crew to contain the following additional particulars:— 1877, sec. 39.

(a.) The number of A.B.s, ordinary seamen, and boys to be separately specified.

(b.) The freeboard when loaded to be stated.

Section 42: The rules to be observed in respect to agreement with crew made in New Zealand in the case of foreign-going ships are extended to intercolonial ships. A penalty is imposed if the master fails to make the required indorsement on the agreement as to the engagement and discharge of seamen in the case of running agreements. 1877, sec. 40. 1877, sec. 43.

Section 43 requires the engagement of a crew to be before a Superintendent, and the engagement of single seamen to be reported at first port of call. 1877, sec. 49; 1894, sec. 6.

Section 46, (3), imposes a penalty for removing, defacing, or destroying the copy of the agreement posted up in ships. 1877, sec. 54.

Section 50 provides for the engagement of seamen abroad, and is in terms of section 124 of Merchant Shipping Act.

Section 51, (3), provides for the indorsement of discharge when service has been in steamships only. 1894, sec. 8.

Section 51, (4), prohibits a seaman being employed (except as provided) in a different capacity than that for which he signed.

Section 53 provides for the rating of greasers

1894, sec. 9.

Section 54 authorises the Governor to prescribe the number of firemen, trimmers, and greasers to be carried by turbine vessels.

Section 56 provides for the return by the master to the seaman on his discharge of all previous discharges in the master's possession. 1877, sec. 60.

Section 59 allows a wages account in the case of a home-trade ship to be delivered not less than twelve hours before discharge. 1877, sec. 59.

Section 60 requires all entries of deduction from wages to be initialled by the seaman concerned. 1877, sec. 59.

Section 63: The provisions requiring wages in certain cases to be paid monthly extended to intercolonial trading steamships. 1894, sec. 14.

Sections 72 to 74 provide for the issue of seamen's money-orders through the Post Office (see sections 145 to 147 of Merchant Shipping Act).

Section 75 requires the master of a ship trading coastwise in New Zealand to be notified of the current rate of wages payable, and authorises a Superintendent to detain the clearance of such ship until he is satisfied such wages have been paid. 1896, sec. 10.

Sections 92 and 93 adapt to New Zealand ships the provisions of sections 172 and 173 of the Merchant Shipping Act.

Section 105: Official certificate of seaman being left abroad not required in case of men being absent from a ship at time of sailing from any port in Australian Commonwealth. 1877, sec. 91.

Section 116 relates to the inspection of provisions on certain voyages, and is adapted from section 206 of the Merchant Shipping Act.

- 1890, secs. 2, 3. Section 119 extends to intercolonial trading-ships the existing law relating to the payment of wages and maintenance of a seaman left on shore in New Zealand on account of illness by a home-trade ship, and reduces the period of illness that entitles a seaman to relief from one month to fourteen days.
- 1896, sec. 8. Section 121 requires separate accommodation to be provided for each mate in the case of home-trade and intercolonial trading ships.
- 1877, sec. 142. Section 124 requires a report to be made by the master to the Superintendent on arrival at any port in New Zealand of any case of death or of accident incapacitating from work.
Section 131 prescribes a penalty for a master, mate, or engineer assaulting any of the crew on the high seas.
- 1894, sec. 17 (1). Section 132 provides for the delivery to the Superintendent of the effects of deserters.
Section 133, (5), provides for the prosecution of a deserter by the owner or agent after the ship's departure.
- 1885, sec. 10. Section 134, (2), limits to foreign-going ships the right of a seaman to give notice of intention to absent himself from his ship.
- 1894, sec. 17, (4) and (7). Section 135 reduces the maximum penalty for disobedience on the high seas and for combining to disobey while in harbour.
- 1877, sec. 185. Section 144: Wages forfeited for any cause other than desertion to be paid into Public Account.
- 1877, sec. 146. Section 153 requires the entry in the official log of the following additional matters:—
(a.) Every birth and death taking place on board with the names and ages of the parties
(b.) Every stranding, or fire, and the circumstances under which it occurred.
- 1877, sec. 150. Section 154 provides for the delivery to the Superintendent at certain specified periods of the official logs of home-trade ships.
Section 156 requires the chief engineer to keep an engine-room log.
Sections 160, 161, provides for the appointment of a Registrar of Seamen and for the registration of seamen. (See sections 251-253 of Merchant Shipping Act.)
Section 162 requires the list of the crew to be transmitted to Superintendent on transfer or loss of ship. (See sections 255 of Merchant Shipping Act.)
Section 165 provides for the making of regulations as to registration of seamen
- 1877, sec. 16. Section 166 exempts pleasure-yachts under 50 tons, missionary ships, and fishing-boats from certain provisions of Part II. of the Act.
- 1877, sec. 205. Section 168, (j), imposes a penalty on any person who not being a passenger is on board a ship and refuses to leave when requested by an officer of the ship.
- 1877, sec. 190. Section 176, (4), authorises the issue of an interim certificate of survey in certain cases.
- 1877, sec. 200. Section 185, (4): Ships trading to or from places beyond intercolonial limits, and not required by the Board of Trade to be surveyed, need not be surveyed under the Act.
Section 185, (5), provides for the issue of a permit when ship arrives in New Zealand after expiration of survey certificate.
Section 186 requires intercolonial sailing-ships to be surveyed.
Section 187, (5), imposes a penalty for obstructing the working of reversing-gear.
- 1877, sec. 210. Section 194 applies to all British and foreign ships plying between places in New Zealand the duty to report accidents.
- 1895, sec. 4. Section 201: Authorising the licensing of compass-adjuster and the making of regulations for the adjustment of compasses, and extending the law requiring adjustment to all sea-going ships.
- 1877, sec. 215. Section 214, (4): Empowering the Minister by *Gazette* notice to declare any goods to be dangerous goods.
- 1877, sec. 221. Section 219: Prohibiting the carriage in any British ship in New Zealand of grain cargo in bulk, except in accordance with regulations (if any).
Section 220: Empowering the Governor to make regulations respecting the loading and stowage of ballast.
Section 221: Making special provision as to the shipment of wool, flax, tow, or skins.
- 1877, sec. 155. Section 226: A ship is declared to be an "unsafe ship" if "by reason of the defective condition of her hull, equipments, or machinery, or by reason of overloading or improper loading, or by reason of undermanning, or being insufficiently ballasted, or, in the case of a steamship, by reason of having insufficient fuel on board for the intending voyage, she is unfit to proceed to sea."
- 1877, secs. 237-248; 1896, sec. 3. Sections 233-250, relating to shipping inquiries, are adapted from Part VI. of the Merchant Shipping Act.
- 1877, sec. 232. Section 289 provides for the recovery of light dues by distress.
Sections 293-304 relate to the liability of shipowners as carriers. Section 293 exempts owners from liability in certain cases; sections 294 to 299 and section 304 are adapted from Part VIII. of the Merchant Shipping Act; section 300 prohibits the insertion of certain clauses in bills of lading; section 301 limits the shipowners' liability on shipment of gold, jewels, &c.; section 302 relates to short delivery and pillage of cargo; section 303 makes a bill of lading binding on the master and owner.
Sections 305-325 relate to the registration of ships in New Zealand and are adapted from sections 1 to 21 and 47 to 53 of the Merchant Shipping Act.
Section 334 confers jurisdiction on New Zealand Courts to try any offence committed on board any British ship on the high seas by any person found in New Zealand, and is adapted from section 686 of the Merchant Shipping Act.
Section 341 prescribes a flag for merchant ships registered in New Zealand (being the flag authorised by Admiralty Warrant).
Section 343 exempts masters of all ships, and the seamen actually employed therein, from serving on juries.
- 1894, First Schedule. Third Schedule: The complement required for sea-going steamships is slightly increased.
Section 346 repeals "The Shipping and Seamen's Act, 1877," and its amendments of 1885, 1889, 1890, 1894, 1895, 1896, and 1899.

No. 25.

(No. 7.)

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 13th February, 1904.

With reference to your despatch (New Zealand, No. 91), dated the 28th November, 1903, asking for information on certain points connected with the working of the "probation" system in this colony, I have the honour to inform you that in localities where prisons are established the Gaolers are invariably the Probation Officers, and at towns and districts where there are no prisons the senior police sergeant or constable carry out these duties, and no remuneration is given in either case. A. 2, 1904, No. 24.

Probation Officers are directly responsible to the Minister of Justice, and report to him through the officer in charge of the Prisons Department, and these reports do not go through any police officers or Magistrates.

The costs which probationers are ordinarily ordered to pay are costs of the prosecution, such as witnesses' expenses, police expenses, &c., and such costs when paid are allocated to the public revenue of the colony.

No statistics are available of the area and population of the probation districts, so much depending on the access by sea, rivers, roads, and rail. As a rule the probation districts are the same as the police districts, and the sergeant or constable of police at the nearest stations to where Courts sit are made Probation Officers.

I have the honour to enclose for your information the forms in use in the colony. The form marked A is the instructions given to Probation Officers, and the regulations under which the Act is administered. The form marked B is the report furnished by the Probation Officer to the Court; while that marked C is the license given to the person placed on probation. The form marked D is the report made by the Probation Officer to the Minister of Justice through the head of the Prisons Department as soon as a person is placed on probation; and F is the form of monthly report furnished by the Probation Officers as long as a person remains on probation. Form E is the receipt given by the probationer to the officer when the former first receives his license.

These forms in themselves show fairly well how the provisions of the Act are worked.

I have, &c.,

RANFURLY.

The Right Hon. A. Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 26.

(No. 8.)

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 15th February, 1904.

With reference to your despatch (New Zealand, No. 93), dated the 10th December, 1903, on the subject of the position of British manufacturers of glass bottles under New Zealand preferential tariff, I have the honour to inform you that the representation made by the Rylands' Glass and Engineering Company, whose letter you enclosed in your despatch, will be brought up for consideration in the event of an amendment to "The Preferential and Reciprocal Trade Act, 1903," being introduced. A. 2, 1904, No. 26.

I have, &c.,

RANFURLY.

The Right Hon. A. Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 27.

(No. 14.)

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 2nd March, 1904.

With reference to your despatch (New Zealand, No. 90), dated the 28th November, 1903, enclosing a letter from Mr. Barton, proposing export duty on kauri-gum exported from New Zealand to places other than the United Kingdom, I have the honour to inform you that Mr. Barton's representations will receive the careful consideration of my Government. A. 2, 1904, No. 23.

I have, &c.,

RANFURLY.

The Right Hon. A. Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 23.

(No. 17.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 18th March, 1904.

Referring to Lord Carnarvon's despatch of the 29th September, 1877, I have the honour, at the request of my Government, to forward for your favourable consideration the name of Mr. Edward Tennyson Conolly for the privilege of bearing the title of "Honourable."

The Premier has furnished me with the following particulars of Mr. Conolly's career: Sat in the House of Representatives from 1882 to 1887. Held the portfolios of Minister of Justice from October, 1882 to August, 1884; Attorney-General from September, 1883, to August, 1884. Appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court Bench on the 19th August, 1889, and retired on pension on the 9th September, 1903.

I have, &c.,

RANFURLY.

The Right Hon. A. Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 29.

(No. 18.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 19th March, 1904.

In conformity with Mr. Chamberlain's request contained in a despatch of the 8th December, 1898, I have the honour to inform you that the quantities of gold and silver entered for export for the year ended the 31st December, 1903, were 533,314 oz., equal to 16,588.30 kilogrammes, valued at £2,037,831; and 911,914 oz., equal to 28,364.35 kilogrammes, valued at £91,497, respectively.

I have, &c.,

RANFURLY.

The Right Hon. A. Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 30.

(No. 19.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 24th March, 1904.

I have the honour, at the request of my Government, to forward you herewith a copy of a letter from the Agent-General for New Zealand, on the subject of the payment of death duties on the estate of the late J. W. Smith, of Dunedin, and would ask that you would bring this matter under the notice of the estate duty authorities in England.

The question is one of considerable importance, and my Premier ventures to hope that action may be taken with a view of arriving at a mutual arrangement whereby the payment of duty both here and in England, in respect of the same property, may be avoided.

I have &c.,

RANFURLY.

The Right Hon. A. Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 31.

(No. 20.)

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 30th March, 1904.

With reference to your despatch circular, dated the 13th January, 1904, on the subject of cancer research, I have the honour to inform you that the Chief Health Officer has been instructed to send any unusual pathological growths to the Superintendent, Cancer Research, Victoria Embankment, London.

All pathological specimens are reported on by the Pathologist, and perhaps it would serve the same purpose if sections of growths were sent on to London instead of the actual tumour.

My Government also inform me that a report setting out the number and natures of the growths examined can be sent yearly.

I have, &c.,

RANFURLY.

The Right Hon. A. Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies.