

2. I enclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of the speech that I subsequently delivered the same day, together with copies of the Addresses in Reply from the Legislative Council and House of Representatives.

I have, &c.,

PLUNKET,
Governor.

To the Earl of Crewe, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Enclosures.

[See Journals of House of Representatives, 1909.]

No. 17.

New Zealand, No. 53.

MY LORD,—

Government House, Wellington, 17th June, 1909.

With reference to your despatch, No. 51, of the 4th March, on the subject of the proposed establishment of reciprocity in matters connected with the examination and authorisation of surveyors throughout the Empire, to which Lord Plunket replied in despatch No. 36, of the 3rd May, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that my Prime Minister has requested that a further communication be sent to you upon this subject.

2. On page 9 of the "Memorandum by the Council of the Surveyors' Institution" (transmitted with your despatch) it is mentioned that co-ordinate surveying is treated lightly in Australasia. This statement, I am desired to point out, is incorrect so far as this Dominion is concerned, co-ordinate surveying having for many years been a strong point of the New Zealand survey system.

3. I enclose a copy of a memorandum from Sir Joseph Ward dealing with this matter.

I have, &c.,

JAMES PRENDERGAST,
Deputy Governor.

To the Earl of Crewe, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Enclosure.

Wellington, 14th June, 1909.

HIS Excellency the Governor is respectfully advised to inform the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies that in the recent despatch covering a communication from the Council of Surveyors in England appears, *inter alia*, a statement that "the Cape lays a very great stress on co-ordinate surveying, which subject is treated lightly in Australasia and Canada." It is in order to remove an erroneous opinion which may have been formed as to the New Zealand practice that the Government of the Dominion of New Zealand would respectfully ask that the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies convey to the Council of the Institute of Surveyors its assurance that "co-ordinate surveying is not and has not been treated lightly in New Zealand." If there is one fact more than another that New Zealand prides itself upon, it is the fact that since 1878 the system of co-ordinate surveying has been the strong point of the New Zealand survey system. Since 1878 a major and minor triangulation has been carried over the greater part of New Zealand, subtended from carefully and accurately measured bases, and on the true meridian, the co-ordinates of each station being calculated. The section surveyors then use the co-ordinates of the trigonometrical stations supplied them, and from such meridian and perpendicular distances compute the co-ordinates of each peg of the periphery. This, again, is computed in terms of, and referred back to, the initial station of the meridional circuit. The limit of error allowed in the New Zealand survey system is, for standard survey, 1 link to a mile, and in settlement survey rarely exceeds—even in rough forest country—4 links to a mile, and generally only 2 links to a mile, and, practically, with the ten-chain steel wires now in use, and computation for "sag," is reduced to under a link to a mile.

J. G. WARD,
Prime Minister.