

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1856.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment; Mr. Speaker and thirty-four members being present; Mr. Speaker read prayers and took the Chair.

2. Improvement of accommodation in the House:—Mr. Elliott, Chairman of the House Committee, obtained leave of the House to bring up the report of the Committee on Tuesday next.

3. Standing Orders:—Mr. Stafford pursuant to amended notice, moved, That the following proposed Standing Orders be referred to the Standing Orders Committee to report thereon,—“At the time of giving notices of motion, questions are permitted to be put to Ministers relating to public affairs, and to other members relating to any bill, motion, or other public matter connected with the business of the House, in which such members may be concerned.

“In putting any such question, no argument or opinion is to be offered, nor any facts stated, except so far as may be necessary to explain such question.

“In answering any such question, a member is not to debate the matter to which the same refers.

“By the indulgence of the House, a member may explain matters of a personal nature, although there be no question before the House; but such matters may not be debated.

“A reply is allowed to a member who has made a substantive motion to the House, or moved an order of the day, but not to any member who has moved an amendment, or an instruction to a Select Committee.”

Question put and passed.

4. Pilot at Kaipara:—Mr. Lee, pursuant to notice, asked Mr. Sewell whether any formal complaint had been lodged by Mr. Nolan, commander of the “Prince of Wales,” now lying at Kaipara, against the pilot of that port for dereliction of his public duty; and if so, whether any step has been, or is about to be taken, to investigate the charge of gross neglect and injury to the public service by that public officer.

Mr. Sewell replied, by stating that no communication on the subject had been received at the Colonial Secretary's Office.

5. Message:—The following Message from his Excellency the Governor received and read:—

Returns, in answer to addresses.

THOMAS GORE BROWNE,
Governor.

Message No. 10.

In conformity with the wish expressed in resolutions Nos. 5 and 12, dated 25th and 29th of April, respectively, the Governor transmits to the House of Representatives the accompanying copies of correspondence.

Despatch from Secretary of State respecting the position and right of precedence of Superintendents of Provinces, and the correspondence relative thereto.

Correspondence between the Colonial Secretary and the Superintendent of Canterbury relative to the power of the Provincial Legislature to authorise the diversion of existing lines of road and the construction of embankments on river beds in that Province.

Government House,
Auckland, 3rd May, 1856.

6. Address in reply to his Excellency's speech:—The order of the day having been read, the debate on the reply to his Excellency's Speech resumed.

Question put, That the words proposed to be omitted do stand part of the question.

House divided.

Ayes, 15.