

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1856.

1. The House met pursuant to adjournment; Mr. Speaker and thirty-three members being present; Mr. Speaker read prayers and took the chair.
2. Returns, expense of furnishing:—Mr. Hall, pursuant to notice, moved that a return of the cost of all returns furnished to the Legislative Council and to the last House of Representatives; also, a return of the expense incurred in printing for the House of Representatives and Legislative Council, be laid upon the table of this House.

Question put and passed.

3. Receivers of Public Revenue:—Mr. Fox pursuant to notice moved that the returns laid upon the table relative to the defalcation of public officers, and the amount of security given by officers receiving the public revenue, be referred to the "Committee on Sir George Grey's Land Regulations and other matters."

Question put and passed.

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

(1.) Native Disturbances at New Plymouth.

THOMAS GORE BROWNE,

Governor

Message No. 18.

In accordance with the wish expressed in resolution No. 16, dated the 9th May, 1856, the Governor transmits for the information of the House of Representatives copy of the reply from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Memorial to Her Majesty from the Superintendent and Provincial Council of New Plymouth on the native disturbances in that Province.

Government House,

Auckland, 14th May, 1856.

5. Powers of General and Provincial Governments:—Mr. Fox pursuant to notice moved the adoption of the following resolutions:—

(1.) That this House is of opinion that in apportioning the Customs Revenue of the Colony, not less than two thirds of the net receipts ought to be secured by appropriation to the provinces, and with that view, the appropriations of the General assembly ought to be limited as much as possible, consistently with the efficient exercise of the legitimate functions of the General Government.

(2.) That so long as the appropriation of two thirds of the Customs Revenue shall be so secured to the Provinces, the General Government should receive a contribution of two shillings and six pence per acre, and no more, on all lands sold within the Colony.

(3.) That the over-ruling Legislative power of the General Assembly, and the veto of the Governor on Provincial Legislation, should remain as at present provided by the Constitution Act, and should neither be extended nor limited.

(4.) That the General Assembly ought to define any of the 13 subjects specified in the 19th section of the constitution Act, on which it may be of opinion that the provinces ought to legislate; and also to define any other subjects on which legislation ought to be uniform; and should by enactment reserve to itself the exclusive right of legislation on such last mentioned subjects, but that until such definition, the powers of the Provincial Councils ought to continue as at present.

(5.) That the relations of the Superintendents towards the General Executive, and their responsibility to the electors of the several Provinces ought to continue as defined by the Constitution Act.

Mr. Sewell moved as an amendment that the consideration of the first and second resolutions as moved by Mr. Fox be postponed until after the financial statement of the Government be laid before the House.

Debate ensued.

Question