

The Council meets at 2.30 p.m.

ORDER PAPER.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 22nd day of June, 1886.

QUESTION.

1. The Honourable Mr. CHAMBERLIN to ask the Government, (1.) If at any time they have received any official information to the effect that rabbits are so numerous in the King Country that it would take an army of soldiers to exterminate them? (2.) Does the Government intend to put into force in the King Country the powers given them under the Rabbit Nuisance Act, now that they have purchased, or are about to do so, large blocks of land in that part of the colony? (3.) What protection does the Government intend to give to the European settlements surrounding the King Country against the constant invasion of rabbits from the King Country? (4.) Are the Government employing their officers during the winter months in putting down poisoned wheat upon their unsold lands, their educational reserves and Native reserves, in the central and western districts of the North Island?

NOTICES OF MOTION.

1. The Honourable Mr. ROBINSON to move, For a Return (1) of the districts within the colony where scab is reported; (2) of the number of sheep that have been killed by order of the Inspector within each infected district, and of the number of sheep in each district still infected, or for which owners do not hold clean certificates.
2. The Honourable Mr. PETER to move, That a Return be laid upon the Table showing, (1) The number of Land Boards in the colony; (2) the names and number of the members of the different Boards, and their emoluments; (3) the names of the Crown Lands Commissioners and chief surveyors, and the cases where the same individual holds both appointments; (4) the acreage of land sold in each land district for the twelve months ending the 31st March, 1886.
3. Adjourned Debate upon the Question, That the following Resolutions be agreed to:—
 - (1.) That it is of importance to Great Britain, and of especial importance to the Australasian Colonies, that a satisfactory understanding should be come to between the several States having interests in the Western Pacific as to their respective rights and claims.
 - (2.) That the most pressing question at present requiring settlement is that between Great Britain and France in reference to the New Hebrides.
 - (3.) That the most satisfactory settlement of this question which now appears to be practicable would be a treaty between Great Britain and France, whereby Great Britain should withdraw all opposition to the acquisition by France of the New Hebrides Islands, on condition,—
 - (a.) That no more convicts of any class be sent by France to any of her possessions in the Western Pacific.
 - (b.) That protection, religious freedom, and peaceable possession of their rights and properties be guaranteed to all British subjects residing in or resorting to the New Hebrides, and especially to the Presbyterian mission established there.
 - (c.) That freedom of trade and commerce be guaranteed to British subjects equally with those of France.
 - (d.) That the Island of Rapa be ceded by France to Great Britain.

Contingent Notice of Motion.

The Honourable Mr. MENZIES to move, That the Resolutions moved by the Honourable Sir Frederick Whitaker be omitted with the view of substituting the following Resolution, namely:—

That it is of importance to Great Britain, and of especial importance to the Australasian Colonies, that a satisfactory arrangement should be concluded between the several States having interests in the Western Pacific as to their respective rights and claims, in order that (1) no more convicts of any class shall be sent to any of the islands of the Western Pacific; and (2) that the protection, religious freedom, peaceful possession of their rights and properties, and freedom of trade and commerce, be guaranteed to all persons residing in, or resorting to, any of these islands.

4. The Honourable Mr. HART to move, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into, consider, and report upon the condition of New Zealand; with power to call for persons and papers; to report within one month. Such Committee to consist of the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, the Honourable Dr. Pollen, the Honourable Mr. Miller, the Honourable Mr. Barnicoat, the Honourable Mr. Peter, the Honourable Mr. Bathgate, and the Mover.
5. The Honourable Mr. REYNOLDS to move, For leave to introduce a Bill intituled "The Harbours Act 1876 Amendment Act, 1886."

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

1. Bible-reading in Schools Bill—third reading. (Hon. Mr. Menzies.)
2. Stock-driving Bill—to be further considered in Committee. (Hon. Colonial Secretary.)
3. Native Equitable Owners Bill—to be committed. (Hon. Colonial Secretary.)

Contingent Notice of Motion.

The Honourable Mr. TAIAROA, in Committee, to move the following amendments:—

Clause 3. After the word "entitled," in line 26, add "and the date whereon such right accrued."

Clause 4. To omit all the words of the clause after "deemed to be" in line 5, and substitute "hereditaments within the meaning of "The Native Land Succession Act, 1881," and may be dealt with under that Act, and also under "The Native Land Division Act, 1882," and any Act affecting the same, anything contained to the contrary in section two of the last-named Act notwithstanding.

Clauses 7 (the enacting part) and 8 to be omitted and the following substituted:—

a. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in "The Native Land Court Act, 1880," or "The Native Succession Act, 1881," or "The Native Land Division Act, 1882," respectively or any Act passed in substitution thereof, it is hereby declared that the Native Land Court shall, in respect to all or any of the lands lastly hereinbefore recited, and of the Native beneficiaries thereof in the same recitals mentioned, have and may exercise all the jurisdiction which the said Court possesses under the aforesaid Acts respectively, for ascertaining the title, or making division, or appointing successors to Native lands, in the same manner as if such recited lands were Native lands owned by Natives under their customs and usages.

b. It is also hereby further declared that the said Court shall have and may exercise the like jurisdiction in respect of any Native reserve situate in the South Island or in Stewart Island, which may be submitted to such jurisdiction by Order in Council which the Governor is hereby authorized to issue from time to time for the purpose.

But the Court, in determining the title or interests to any of such reserves, shall give effect to the original intention for which the said lands were respectively set apart.

c. Every certificate of title to be granted by the said Court under the authority of this Act shall contain a restriction to the effect that

the land mentioned in such certificate shall be inalienable by sale or mortgage, or by lease for a longer period than twenty-one years, unless with the consent of the Governor.

4. Native Reserves Titles Grant Empowering Bill—to be committed. (Hon. Colonial Secretary.)

Contingent Notice of Motion.

The Honourable the COLONIAL SECRETARY, in Committee, to move the following amendments:—

After the word “advisable,” in subsection (1) of section two on the seventh line, add, “and may fix therein the dates on which the legal estate therein shall respectively vest.”

After the word “land,” on the first line of subsection (2) of section two, add, “subject to such conditions and restrictions as aforesaid.”

After subsection (2), “Every certificate of title to be issued under the provisions hereof shall be expressed to take effect as from the date fixed for the vesting of the title as aforesaid, and all dealings with the land subsequent to such date, and prior to the issue of such certificate, shall take effect as if the lands had been from such date under the operation of the Land Transfer Act; subject, nevertheless, to any rights of priority which may have been acquired by registration under “The Deeds Registration Act, 1868.”

After subsection (3),—

“Every grant heretofore issued for the purpose mentioned in subsection (2), since the date of the repeal of ‘The Stewart Island Grants Act, 1873,’ is hereby validated, and shall be deemed to have been good and valid for all purposes from the date thereof as if the Act last aforesaid had not been repealed.”

5. Animals Protection Act 1880 Amendment Bill—third reading. (Hon. Colonial Secretary.)
6. Charitable Trusts Extension Bill—to be recommitted. (Hon. Colonial Secretary.)

Wednesday, the 23rd day of June, 1886.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

1. Settled Land Bill—second reading. (Hon. Colonial Secretary.)

Thursday, the 24th day of June, 1886.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

1. French Criminals Bill—second reading. (Hon. Sir F. Whitaker, K.C.M.G.)

PETITIONS, PAPERS, AND REPORTS.

FRIDAY, 18TH JUNE, 1886.

PETITION.

19. Of the President and Secretary of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of New Zealand, praying the Council to pass more stringent laws for the protection of girls and young women. (Hon. Mr. Shephard.)

PAPERS.

81. Land Transfer and Deeds Registration: Annual Report of Department, 1885–1886. H.—15. (By command.)

82. Employment of Females and Others Act, 1881, Reports of Inspectors appointed under. H.—20. (By command.)

83. National Mutual Life Association of Australasia (Limited): Revenue Account and Balance-sheet for Year ending 30th September, 1885. (In pursuance of section 38 of “The Life Assurance Companies Act, 1873.”)