SOCIETY OF CANTERBURY
COLONISTS

MINUTE BOOK

APRIL, 1850 - DECEMBER, 1851
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Minutes drawn up by the First Body of the Canterbury Colonists at these Rooms 14. Adelphi Terrace.

The "Society of Canterbury Colonists"

April 25, 1850.

Minutes etc.

March 18th 1850. At a Meeting of the Colonists it was moved by Capt. Bellairs seconded by Mr. Brittan

1. That a meeting of all the Colonists intending to join the Canterbury Settlement be held at these Rooms every Tuesday and Thursday at twelve o'clock, for the purpose of making suggestions and expressing the opinions of the Colonists upon matters relating to the welfare of the proposed Colony: And that minutes be kept of the proceedings.

2. That Mr. Fitzgerald be requested to act as Secretary upon these occasions.

The following minute was agreed to on Saturday last and now ordered to be recorded.

The colonists feel it their duty to take this first opportunity of expressing their high sense of the services which have hitherto been rendered by Mr. Brittan by his constant attendance at these Rooms and by the trouble which he has taken in answering the inquiries of persons calling and writing for information.

An advertisement was read announcing the intention of the Colonists to form a public library for the settlement and requesting presents of books for the purpose.

It was ordered

That authorised copies of this advertisement be printed immediately for distribution.

Resolved,

That notice of these Meetings be sent to all intending Colonists.
April 25, 1850. At a meeting held this day in the
Canterbury Colonists' Rooms - the following gentlemen
or their proxies being present:-

Mr. Hart, Mr. Sewell, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Rowley,
Mr. Felix Wakefield, Mr. Porter, Mr. Townsend,
Mr. E. Gibbon Wakefield, Mr. W. Lawrence, Mr. J. J.
Townsend, Mr. Edward Townsend, Mr. C. L. Rose,
Mr. Edward Wam, Mr. W. Brittan, Mr. Clifford,
Mr. J. Longden, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. W. F. Edlin,
Mr. H. Draper, Mr. Wm. Burdett, Mr. C. Fooks,
Mr. C. B. Focks, Mr. Carrington, Mr. Alfred Wills,
Mr. J. B. Austin, Mr. C. J. W. Cookson, Mr. Dampier,
Lieut. Col. Campbell, Mr. Harman, Mr. Gerard Spooner,
Mr. Jos. Dickin, C. I. Moulie, Mr. H. F. Way, Rev. J. Paulson,
Mr. Henry Ward, Mr. R. Le Cron, Mr. Edward Power,
Capt. Martin (Mr. Brittan in the chair) Mr. Henry Barrett
Mr. Arthur Jackson.

It was moved by Mr. Sewell
seconded by Mr. Rose - and resolved

1. That this meeting do constitute itself a body, to
be called "The Society of Canterbury Colonists" and
that the following rules and regulations be adopted
by the Society.

1. That all the gentlemen present at this
meeting, either in person or by proxy,
or who shall send in their names within
one week from the present date, do constitute
the First members of the Society.

2. That the following gentlemen be appointed
a Committee of Management (with power to add
to the said members): - viz.

Mr. W. F. Brittan
Lieut. Col. Campbell
Mr. Jas. Edward Fitzgerald
The Rev. Dr. Rowley
Mr. Henry Phillips
Mr. C. L. Rose
Mr. Henry Sewell
Mr. Edward Ward

(with power to add to their number)

and that Mr. Edward Ward be requested
to act for the present as honorary Secretary
at their meetings.
3. That all future members of the Society be selected by ballot; the names of the candidates - proposed and seconded by members - being given in and entered on a paper (to be kept in the rooms for that purpose) one week previous to their election; and that a majority of two-thirds of those present be requisite to ensure the election of a candidate.

4. That members shall have the right of voting by proxy.

5. That the Bishop elect and the following gentlemen who have already sailed for the Settlement, be elected honorary members of the Society.

   The Bishop elect
   The Archdeacon & Clergy
   John Robt. Godley Esq.,
   Capt. Thomas Lee, Esq.
   Augustus Percival, Esq.
   F. Pollard, Esq.
   Henry Tancred, Esq.

6. That a general meeting of the members be held every Thursday at one o'clock to transact the necessary business of the Society; and by cooperation and mutual assistance to suggest and discuss among themselves questions of interest to the general welfare of the Settlement and of the general body of members.

7. That the Chairman be instructed to forward a copy of the minutes of this meeting to the Committee of Management of the Canterbury Association, to request their countenance and sanction to these proceedings and to ask the use of these rooms for their future meetings and for the transacting the necessary business of the Society.

II. (Moved by Mr. Townsend; seconded by Mr. Porter)
That the gentlemen named in the 2nd clause of the foregoing resolution do from the Committee of Management of the Society of Canterbury Colonists.

III. (Moved by Mr. Phillips; seconded by Mr. Rose).
That the gentlemen named in the 5th clause of the foregoing resolution be elected Honorary Members of the Society.
IV. Moved by Mr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mr. Sewell

That the thanks of the Society are due to Mr. W.G. Brittan for his strong and constant exertions in their behalf hitherto, through which they are sensible that many advantages have been secured to their position and for which he deserves their gratitude and confidence.

W.G. Brittan,
Chairman.

The following letter referring to the 7th clause of the 1st resolution at the first meeting was received on the 2nd of May from the Secretary of the Canterbury Association:

41 Charing Cross,
1st May 1850.

Sir,

I am instructed by the Committee of Management of the Canterbury Association, to acquaint you that they have had before them your letter of the 27th acquainting the Committee that some of the first body of Colonists have formed themselves into a society called "The Society of Canterbury Colonists" for the purpose of cooperation and mutual assistance and discussion amongst themselves upon questions of interest to the general welfare of the settlement.

The Committee have received with great pleasure the announcement of the formation of this Society, which they hope will have the effect of maintaining a unity of feeling amongst the Colonists and will prove of great general service to the colony.

The Committee have much pleasure in placing the Colonists' Rooms at the disposal of the Society of Colonists, for their General and Committee Meetings.

I have the honor etc.

(Signed) H. F. Alston
Secretary
May 2nd. General Meeting.

Gentlemen present. Mr. Hart, Mr. Butterfield, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Brittan, Mr. Bowley, Mr. Ward, Mr. Simeon, Mr. A. Stafford, Mr. Wills, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Felix Wakefield, Mr. Duncan, Mr. C. Dampier, Mr. Power, Mr. Le Cren, Mr. Whitcombe, Mr. J. Whitcombe.

A letter of recognition of the Society received from the Committee of the Canterbury Association in reply to resolution I passed at the preceding meeting, was read by the Chairman.

A letter from the Revd. Wm. Bradley having been read, it was therefore resolved, on the motion of Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Wills, that the name of Mr. Richard Anstruther Bradley be enrolled on the list of original members.

A letter from Sir Thos. Tancred having been read, requesting to be enrolled a member of the Society, it was therefore moved by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Butterfield and adopted unanimously.

"That it is the opinion of the meeting that the members of their Society should consist of Colonists only; and that the Secretary be instructed to inform Sir Thos. Tancred that on this consideration only they are compelled to decline the honour of enrolling him among their number."

On the motion of Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Butterfield, the Secretary was directed to enrol the name of H.J. Cridland Esq. among the Honorary Members.

It was moved by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Ward

"That a list be opened and kept at these rooms in which intending Colonists may enter their names, addresses, number of family and other particulars which shall be open for the inspection of parties applying at these rooms for such information."

A letter from the Rev. O. Mathias having been read announcing a donation of valuable books to the Library of the Colony, it was moved by Mr. Power, seconded by Mr. Phillips

"That the Secretary be instructed to convey to Mr. Mathias the thanks of the meeting for the same."

On the motion of Mr. Felix Wakefield, seconded by Mr. Wills, the Secretary was instructed to convey the thanks of the meeting to Sir Wm. Hooker of the Royal Gardens, Kew, for having placed some interesting specimens of New Zealand shrubs at the disposal of the Society.
The Chairman announced that Mr. Felix Wakefield and other gentlemen of experience in the Colonies had consented at future meetings to read papers and devise other means of communicating instruction and information to the colonists on matters of practical interest to them.

The Society was ordered to provide a board to contain previous notices of such communications.

The meeting adjourned till Thursday the 9th May.

W.G. Brittan, Chairman.

May 9 1840 [sic] General Meeting. Mr. Brittan in the chair. Present, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Le Cren, Mr. Longden, Mr. G.B. Bishop, Mr. C.E. Bishop, Mr. Joshua Porter, Mr. F. Wakefield, Mr. Butterfield, Mr. E.G. Wakefield, Mr. Pendall, Mr. Ward, Mr. Fitzmaurice, Mr. Hart, Mr. C.E. Fooks, Mr. Orchard.

The Chairman announced donations of valuable books from Mr. Rose, from Mr. Edward Gibbon Wakefield, and from Mr. Vaux.

A paper communicated by Dr. Ramsey of Gloucester upon the "Medical and sanitary provision necessary for a newly-formed community" was read, and upon the motion of Mr. Wills seconded by Mr. Butterfield, the Secretary was requested to convey to Dr. Ramsey an expression of the gratification of the meeting herewith, and to invite further communications upon the same subject.

It was moved by Mr. Felix Wakefield seconded by Mr. Wills and adopted unanimously.

"That it be an instruction to the Committee to inquire of the Association and report to the next general meeting, the rules which are to regulate the frontage of large blocks of land; for example, what frontage a purchaser of one thousand acres would be entitled to claim according to the present terms of purchase."

The meeting adjourned till Thursday the 16th May.

W.G. Brittan, Chairman.
General Meeting May 16.

Present
Mr. Rose
H. Phillips
Brittan
F. Wakefield
E. C. Wakefield
Carington
Mrs. Carrington
J. E. Fitzgerald

The Dean of Canterbury
The Revd. C. Wynter
Lord Lytton
Revd. Thos. Jackson
John Simson, M. P.
Albert Allom
Moore
Lawrence
The Knight of Kerry
Chas. Mountfort
C. E. Fooks
H. Barrett
C. B. Fooks
Chisholm
E. T. Wakefield
Fitzmaurice
Jenner

Mr. W. G. Brittan in the Chair.

The Chairman, with reference to the instruction to the Committee resolved at the last general meeting, announced that in pursuance thereof he had obtained an interview with the Committee of Management and would be prepared with a report upon the subject in a few days.

The Chairman read a letter received from the Committee of Management dated the 4th of May, announcing its intentions with regard to the endowment of a college (see letter filed); announced that the emigration regulations were published and to be had at the rooms; and in reply to a question from Mr. Felix Wakefield stated that no certain information was yet to be had on arrangements of intermediate passages.

It was moved by Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Rose and adopted unanimously

"That the Committee of Colonists" be called in future the "Council of Canterbury Colonists".

Members proposed
By Mr. Brittan - Mr. Edward Twining, Hull.
By Mr. F. Wakefield - Mr. Inwood of Wandelsham
Mr. Harman
The business of the meeting over - Lord Lyttelton addressed the colonists for the purpose of introducing to them the Revd. Thos. Jackson, their bishop elect. His Lordship took occasion to observe that, with a view to forming an estimate of the probable fund to be at the disposal of the Association, for Ecclesiastical purposes, it was no unreasonable thing to request that the Committee of Management should be informed of the names and the amount of purchase of all who had made up their minds to be of the first body of colonists.

The Revd. Thomas Jackson then addressed the meeting in most impressive terms.

The Revd. Ernest Hawkins enforced the recommendation of Lord Lyttelton.

The Chairman assured Lord Lyttelton that steps had been already taken by the Society and other means would be tried, to obtain the information which the Association desired.

The meeting adjourned to the 23rd of May.

W.G. Brittan

Chairman.

May 23rd General Meeting.

Thirty-nine gentlemen present. Mr. Brittan in the chair.

The Chairman announced donations of books to the Library from the Hon. Francis Baring, Sir William Molesworth and the Archbishop of Dublin.

The Chairman announced that two ships had been taken up and recommended applicants for cabins to be early: That chief cabin passage would be fixed at £42 - Intermediate £25 - Steerage £15. That passengers of every grade would be allowed ½ a ton meat &c. &c. Mr. Bowler attended to answer various enquiries and requested the colonists to let the Superintendent know the amount of freight he might expect. Dead weight, such as iron, bricks, machinery, should be sent at once. Public notice of all these points would be given. The ships would be ready to be seen in a week and plans should be immediately provided.

The Chairman read a letter from Mr. Frederic Moore on the subject of Steam communication with New Zealand. And thereupon it was moved by Mr. Dampier, seconded by Mr. Ward and resolved

"That the Secretary be requested to convey to Mr. Moore..."
the thanks of the meeting for his communication, first read, and to recommend it to the consideration of the Canterbury Association."

It was moved by Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Rose

"That the Secretary be requested to write a letter of thanks to Mr. Jackson for his kindness in attending the meeting of Thursday last, and to express the feelings of satisfaction with which the Society had heard that he is likely to be appointed the first Bishop of the Settlement."

A minute agreed to at a meeting of the Council of the 20th inst. was read, to the following effect.

1. The colonists being informed that a college was about to be established in Canterbury, and that there were strong grounds for believing that the college would be set on foot from the earliest period of the Settlement.

2. Understanding also that it was contemplated to attach a Library to the college, and to solicit donations of books for that purpose.

3. Being under the impression that it would be very unwise to attempt the collection of two distinct libraries for the New Colony, one for the general use of the colonists and the other for the college.

4. And being deeply sensible of the importance of the foundation of the college according to all the details of the plan now proposed.

5. And being informed that the gentlemen whose names had been published as Trustees of the Public Library fully consent to the following arrangement.

Resolved

I. That all the books hitherto collected shall be handed over to the College Library and shall be vested in the Corporation of the Warden and Fellows or their representatives for the time being.

II. That it be an understanding that every facility shall be given to the colonists generally to make use of the Library as far as may be possible consistent with the arrangements which shall be found expeditious.

It was therefore moved by Mr. Dampier, seconded by Mr. Bishop, that the said minute of the Council be adopted by the meeting.
The following members were proposed

By Mr. Brittan, Mr. D. Boulay of Cintra, Torquay,
Mr. W.C. Fendall of Crambe, Yorkshire,
Mr. Edward Daniel of Liverpool, and
Mr. Buchanan of Portobello, Edinburgh.

By Mr. Felix Wakefield, Mr. David Porter of Reigate,
Mr. Buchanan, Portobello, Edinburgh.

The meeting adjourned till the 30th of May.

W.G. Brittan.
May 30th, General Meeting.
Present, 37 gentlemen. Mr. Brittan in the chair.

The Chairman read to the meeting the minute of the Committee of Management of 25th May, explaining the present and future relations between the Association and the Colonists.

Mr. Simeon M.P., a member of the Association being present, addressed the meeting upon the principle object of the document read which he explained originated from the anxiety which the Association felt to give everything, and to place very Great issues they could into the hands of the colonists, consistently with the arrangements which they the Association had contracted with the Government. It was impossible entirely to shake off the responsibility which they had incurred in undertaking to found such a settlement as that of Canterbury, as far as a certain degree of control and management were, but he could assure the colonists that the principle of the Association's action (so far as they were at liberty to indulge it) was that of securing distinct colonial self-government - the only principle on which he (Mr. Simeon) would ever have taken a part in a colonizing Society.

Mr. Brittan gave notice that the next general meeting he would introduce the subject of the name of the capital town of the settlement, that a recommendation to that effect might go forth to the Association with its proper weight.

Members proposed. Mr. Charles Mountfort, Mr. Benjamin Mountfort, Mr. Augustus Cooper, Revd. James Wilson.

W.G. Brittan.
General Meeting, June 6.

72 Gentlemen present, Mr. Brittan in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The minute of the proposed relations between the Association and the colonists being brought forward for final consideration, it was moved by Mr. Dampier, seconded by Mr. Ward.

"That the Secretary be instructed to write to the Committee of Management expressing the cordial approbation and concurrence of this Society in the views taken by the Association and expressed by their minute of the 24th of May 1850 concerning the present and future relations of the association and the colonists and in regard to the future management of the internal affairs of the colony."

Mr. Brittan moved, in pursuance of notice to that effect.

"That this Society, considering that the time has properly arrived when the name of the future capital of the Canterbury Settlement may be definitely fixed, and feeling convinced from the general character of their intercourse and relations with the association that that body are always anxious to pay every attention to the expressed wishes of the colonists on any practical question affecting their interests and feelings, venture to express to the Managing Committee of the Association their anxiously desire that the capital of the settlement may be called by the name of "Lyttelton." He (Mr. Brittan) disdained any idea of interfering with the Association in their privilege of naming the chief town: on the contrary he felt satisfied that it was their wish to consult the opinions of the colonists on this as on every other matter affecting their interests and feelings. He had reason to know that there were a great many who objected to the name of Christ-Church &c., and who would prefer the name which he proposed, viz., that of Lyttelton.

Mr. Fitzgerald explained that the origin of the name of Christchurch was in the fact of its being part of the scheme that the settlement should contain a large college, and partly because that was the name of the Cathedral church of Canterbury. He did not wish to oppose Mr. Brittan's motion, but he wished that more time should be given for discussing it, and therefore he moved, and Mr. Sewell seconded, "That the question stand adjourned for consideration till Thursday the 13th inst. — which being assented to by Mr. Brittan was accordingly adopted."
Mr. Sewell then took occasion to observe that though out of order, he wished to make a remark upon the resolution which had been agreed to at the commencement of the proceedings relative to the minute defining the relations between the Asson. and the colonists. He fully concurred in the object of that motion, but seeing some of the members of the Asson. present, it occurred to him that it was a good opportunity to satisfy himself and the colonists once for all upon a point referred to in that minute. He alluded to the appropriation of the funds:—the appropriation of the religious and educational portion of that fund was a most important and delicate duty, and with reference to this the minute suggests the rule, that in the administration of this fund the Association will be governed by the views of the colonists, and as a medium of communication they point to the "governing body of the colony", as the organ. He (Mr. Sewell) wished to know the exact meaning of this arrangement. If it is intended thereby that the funds should be under the control of the municipal body of the colony for the time being—whatever that might be, he (Mr. Sewell) would say that he for one would not be willing to entrust a religious fund to a mere municipal body. The distributing body should be one of a different constitution. He threw this out merely as a suggestion, and not with any want of confidence in the general plan contemplated by the minute of the Committee of Management—but at the same time it might remain as a sort of protest; lest the colonists should afterwards be considered as having pledged themselves to accept the minute in its integrity as a law, and among other things be considered bound to accept the municipal body as sole distributor of the religious fund, an arrangement to which he had the strongest objection. He had no doubt but that the members of the Asson, then present could inform him upon this point to his satisfaction.

Sir Walter James said that Lord Lyttelton's object when he drew up the minute in question was to prescribe the circumstances under which the Association's control would cease— but what the nature of the substituted control would be must depend upon the constitution hereafter granted to them by the Government. (In answer to a remark from Mr. Sewell) he considered it distinctly understood that the question in this point was left open by the Association.

Mr. Symon declared his distinct impression that the document in question was to be taken now for as much only as it was worth, and by no means as a law binding or irrevocable.

Mr. Fitzgerald announced that with a view to assist employers and employed in his department (that of emigration-agent) he had opened a register at his office 20 Cockspur St., of the names of those who wanted labourers and of those who wanted employment. Purchasers of land who were unable to exercise their right of nomination should therefore apply to him for such servants as they might require.

Mr. Ward gave notice that at the next meeting he would move
"That a list be opened for subscription by the colonists to raise a fund for providing English wild animals to be set at liberty in the Canterbury settlement."

The following members were proposed

By Mr. Wakefield
   Mr. Stephen Fisher R.N.
   Mr. James Temple Fisher

By Mr. Brittan
   Mr. Fredk. Pitch) of Ipswich
   Mr. Wood 
   Mr. Barker - Surgeon of Rugby
   Mr. Charles Bridge - Great Malvern

The meeting adjourned till the 13th instant.

W.G. Brittan.