

plains, will probably exercise a more powerful influence than anything else upon the rapid development of the resources of the colony.

The council forbear at present to suggest any plan by which this may be effected; but they conceive that the prospective land sales, which cannot but be materially increased by the completion of the road,—the surplus of the public revenue above the expenditure, which the council have reason to believe is even already accumulating with considerable rapidity; and the tolls which may be imposed on the traffic passing along the road when finished, offer three sources of security, all of which may be made collaterally available for the repayment of any sums of money which it may be necessary to borrow in order to finish the road.

As soon as the council are prepared with a definite plan, they will lose no time in laying it before the land-purchasers, and if necessary, will call a special meeting for that purpose.

2. The council have also taken into their consideration the whole question of the pasturage regulations of the Association. They appointed a special committee to draw up a report on the subject. This report was adopted, and has been forwarded to Mr. Godley. The council now lay the report upon the table for the perusal of any of the members of the society, and especially invite the attention of those who are interested in the pasturage of the district, to the recommendations which the council have made to the Association. The council confidently anticipate that this report, having been prepared with great care, and with the advice of those who are most experienced in such matters, will meet with general approval by the land-purchasers.

Since, however, the carrying into effect these recommendations involves the passing of a new Act of Parliament for the purpose. Some time must necessarily elapse before the colonists can know the result.

3. The council having had their attention directed to the subject of the cutting of timber in the bushes belonging to the Association, thought right to communicate with Mr. Godley on the subject, and the arrangements which have been made in consequence met with their approval. These arrangements provided in the first instance free license to all parties to cut timber for firewood and building purposes without any charge whatever. This was done with the view of affording every assistance to the first body of settlers to get temporary dwellings erected with as little delay as possible. Three months free license seemed, however, sufficient for this purpose. The peculiar circumstances requiring it have now in a great measure passed; and it being found that the woods of the settlement, (which from their limited extent require great care in their preservation,) were being cut to great waste, overrun by idle and dissolute characters, and the free licences becoming in a great measure monopolised by men who made a trade of them, realizing considerable profits, without in any material degree lessening the price of timber to the consumer, it has been determined, and the council think wisely, to charge in future a moderate sum for such licenses.

The council have been given to understand that this measure has already had a beneficial effect in clearing the woods of many bad characters, and in checking the wanton cutting and waste of timber; and whilst it has not been followed by any sensible increase in the market price of timber, it promises to afford a certain increase to the revenues and resources of the Association.

It has been, however, matter for consideration whether the present charge made for the licenses, one pound per month for each man, be not too high, and the Council have reason to expect from representations which have been made on this head, that after the present month the charge will be reduced to 10s. per month for each licence.

4. The question of the dues charged for wharfage by the Association also, came before the council. Dues were being levied upon all goods landed or taken to sea from any part of the sea wall in front of the town of Lyttelton. The council were of opinion that it was right and necessary that some charge should be made sufficient to keep these public premises in repair, but that there should be one place at which persons should be able to land small goods free of any charge. Mr. Godley, upon a communication to this effect from the council, immediately set apart a place opposite one of the slips, as a public landing place, and the council are satisfied that this is the best arrangement which can be made.

5. The next point which the council have had under their notice, is that of the ecclesiastical arrangements which have been made.

The council are commissioned to express on the part of the bishop designate of the settlement his great regret that he was unable to meet the society during his brief stay in the colony. A special meeting was called for the purpose on the 11th inst., but the violence of the weather, and the state of the roads, rendered it impossible to be held. The object, however, for which the bishop designate came out, has been accomplished. The school and college have been set on foot, with such temporary accommodation as could be obtained in so early a stage of the colony. Arrangements have been made for the performance of the Church Services in the most populous places, and above all, Dr. Jackson has concerted such measures with the Bishop of New Zealand, as it is confidently expected will remove the difficulties which stood in the way of his consecration before he left England.

6. The council have taken such steps as will lead to the establishment of public reading rooms at Christchurch and at Lyttelton. They recommend that there should be public reading rooms which all subscribers shall be entitled to avail themselves. They will be supplied with newspapers and periodicals from England and the neighbouring colonies to the extent which the number of subscribers will admit of. Mr. Godley has placed rooms at the disposal of the council for the purpose. At Christchurch in the land offices, and at Lyttelton in that part of the Emigration Barracks which is about to be set apart for the college. It is hoped that the books presented to the colonists in London, which they gave to the college library as well as those presented immediately to the College library will be placed in the reading rooms and be at the services of the subscribers; Under such regulations, however, as the college authorities may consider it necessary to enforce, for the safe custody of the volumes committed to their trust.

The council have prepared, and annexed to this report, an account of the expences which they have incurred since the last general meeting, together with an estimate of those which it is thought they will have to meet during the next six months. In this estimate the Society will perceive an item amounting to 12l. 10s. for the services of a clerk. The council are of opinion that the appointment of such an office has become absolutely necessary.

The secretaries have been compelled to resign, nor can any one be expected, without adequate remuneration, to give up his time upon which there is so large a demand at this active period, to attend efficiently to the business of the society. The council therefore recommend the appointment of a clerk to the council at a salary of 25l. a year, and they have reason to believe that they shall be able to obtain the services of a gentleman in every way most competent for the task.

For this purpose the council recommend that a subscription of 5s. be levied upon every member of the society for the expenses of the next six months.

The council in conclusion would press upon every member of the society that upon their active and regular attention to the public affairs of the society, will depend the influence which the colonists will be able to exercise in the attempt to gain a municipal government in the settlement.

That the colonists have well and wisely managed all their affairs already within their control, and that they have cheerfully contributed the funds requisite for the purpose, will afford the strongest evidence of their ability to undertake the direction of all the local affairs of the colony.

On behalf of the Council,
W. G. BRITTAN, Chairman.

APPENDIX.—Estimate of expenses of the Society for the six months ending October 3rd, 1851.

	£.	s.	d.
Expenses incurred since the last General Meeting	1	11	0
Printing and Stationary	5	0	0
Salary of Clerk to the Council	12	10	0
	19	1	0

would be to move the adjournment of the meeting for the day to allow time for another election.

Mr. Beach moved seconded by Mr. Dudley that the election of the late council with the substitution of Mr. Worthy's name for that of Mr. Johnson be confirmed.

~~The Chairman said that the~~

Mr. Willcock & Mr. Hand objected to the election of Mr. Worthy, he being a minor.

The Chairman said reminded the meeting that Mr. Worthy's name being the only candidate who had supplied the terms prescribed by the rules for the vacant place, it was not competent for anyone to object to his election now, but that anyone who desired it might object to his purpose by moving the adjournment of the meeting for 14 days.

No such motion being made, Mr. Dampier moved seconded by Mr. Ward "That Mr. Worthy notwithstanding the fact of his being under age if that sh^d turn out to be so, be received as the representative of Lord Wharfedale a Landowner in this colony, and that his vote on all occasions be received accordingly." This was put & passed.

The Chairman then announced that the election of Mr. Brittan the President and the reelection of the late council with the substitution of Mr. Worthy's name for Mr. Johnson, stood confirmed.

The Chairman then read the Quarterly Report of the Council.

On the reading of the clause relating to the estimate for completing the Sumner Road, Mr. Dampier as a member of the Council declined

Quarterly Report of the Council to the General Meeting.

The Council have the honour to report that since the last General Meeting, several important questions relating to the prosperity of the settlement have come before them.

1. They have requested Mr. Godley to furnish them with an estimate of the expense of completing the whole road from Lyttelton to the Ferry over the Heathcote, and as soon as they shall have received that estimate, they propose applying themselves seriously to the task of ascertaining whether any plan may be devised for completing the road as speedily as possible. The Society is aware that the amount of land hitherto sold by the Association has not supplied funds sufficient for the purpose: the council are of opinion that it would be highly impolitic to wait until funds may arise from that source, before making an effort to finish the road. The accomplishment of this great work, so that there may be at all times a safe and certain communication between the port and the