

Sir

Lyttelton. June 1st 1851.

I beg you will lay before the Council a copy of a letter which I have addressed to M^r. Aitken. If the Colonists approve of it I will ratify it by a formal agreement, and act in a similar manner towards other persons applying for pastoral runs. It may be necessary to add that a condition should be appended to all such agreements, to the effect that within six months the run shall be stocked, and I suggest that a run shall be considered as stocked, if one breeding cow for every twenty acres or one head of breeding cattle for every 120 acres, be placed upon it. In my letter to M^r. Aitken no such condition was mentioned, because I knew his run to be already stocked. My opinion as to the absolute necessity of immediately relaxing the strictness of our pasturage regulations is well known to the Council, and, I believe, fully participated in by the Colonists. I am aware that the plan now proposed by me is anything but satisfactory, but M^r. Aitken and other stockholders are content to accept it as a provisional arrangement, and it is the best I can become a party to without danger to myself.

Edward Wright Esquire

I am, Sir, your obedient servant

Clerk to the Council of Land Purchasers.

John Robert Godley. A. C. A.

Sir

Lyttelton. May 27. 1851.

I have had under consideration your application to take a run of 20000 acres at a gradually increasing rent, and in reply beg to explain the terms on which I am prepared to meet your wishes as nearly as I can.

I will undertake not to give during the next seven years to any person not having a legal right to demand it, occupation of the run which you apply for on condition that you engage to take at the ordinary rent, and in conformity with the general regulations, as much land as will produce £10 at the commencement of the first year, £20 the second, £30 the third, £40 the fourth and £100 at the commencement of the fifth year. I am advised that no person has a legal right to demand occupation of a particular district for pastoral purposes, except purchasers of rural lands, who have a right to five acres of pasturage for every acre of freehold. I am prepared therefore to refuse to any other persons than such purchasers license to depasture on any part of the 20,000 acres applied for

M^r. Bridge moved "That No Land Purchaser in receipt of a yearly salary from the Association be eligible to sit in the Council of Land Purchasers." M^r. Pollard seconded the motion, which was put to the meeting and lost.

M^r. Fitzgerald called on the Clerk to read a letter received from M^r. Godley on the subject of pasturage regulations with an enclosed copy of a letter addressed by M^r. Godley to M^r. Aitken stating the terms on which he was prepared to let sheep runs. These letters having been read, on the motion of M^r. Fitzgerald it was

- Resolved 1. That it is of the highest importance to this settlement to encourage the importation of stock which has already commenced and which is certain to proceed extensively if circumstances be favorable to its reception.
2. That the pasturage regulations recently issued by Government offer runs on far more advantageous terms than those of the Canterbury Association, and will therefore tend to abstract pastoral capital from this settlement to other parts of New Zealand.
3. That in order to meet the difficulties which these circumstances have produced, some steps of a temporary and provisional kind ought to be taken until a final and satisfactory settlement of the whole question shall have been made, by an alteration in the Act of Parliament, into which the present regulations have been unfortunately incorporated.
4. That the plan proposed by M^r. Godley in his letter to the Council of June 1st being understood to be such as will satisfy the importers of stock, is approved of, though necessarily imperfect, as a provisional arrangement.
5. That in the opinion of this meeting it is of the highest importance that any alteration in the existing Act of Parliament should provide that the regulation of all pastoral questions should be left in future to a local authority.
6. That the Council be instructed to transmit a copy of these resolutions by the earliest opportunity to the Managing Committee of the Canterbury Association.