

the circumstances which had compelled nine members of the Council to tender their resignations and to take the necessary steps for the election of a new Council." This request was made in accordance with the fourth rule which was also read.

The President referred to Mr. Godley's letter published in the first number of "The Lyttelton Times" expressing his readiness to communicate with the Council on all subjects connected with the interests of the Land Purchasers, and stated that Mr. Godley had accordingly on April 18th informed the Council of certain facts respecting Mr. Dampier which had compelled him to have recourse to another professional adviser on the part of the Association. Mr. Dampier's letter of May 2nd in explanation was read to the meeting; the minutes of Council in reference to the same subject were also read. These minutes were considered libellous by Mr. Dampier, who expressed his determination to bring an action against the President of the Council; the majority of the members concurred in thinking Mr. Dampier bound to resign his seat if he pursued this intention, but as Mr. Dampier declined to resign, the majority had no alternative but to tender their resignations.

Mr. Alport moved the following resolutions -

- (1) That those resignations be accepted.
- (2) That the Council having been reduced to less than a quorum all the seats be considered vacant, and that a new Council of twelve members be elected.
- (3) That a special general meeting be called on Thursday July 10th for the purpose of electing a new President and Council.
- (4) That the election which was fixed for the 3rd July be postponed to the same day.

Mr. Dampier addressed the meeting in explanation of his conduct: he stated that his exposure of certain errors committed by the Association had drawn upon him the opposition of the Council, who had adopted some libellous minutes with reference to his conduct, and concluded by repating his intention to take legal proceedings against both the President and Mr. Fitzgerald.

Mr. Fitzgerald denied that the interests of the Council and the Land Purchasers could be antagonistic, as they had been represented by Mr. Dampier; he justified Mr. Godley's letter of April 18th and the subsequent proceedings of Council, who were determined to advance no individual interest to the prejudice of the common interest of the Colonists.

Mr. Percival seconded Mr. Alport's motion.