

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 meet 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 licences.

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 being made for the licences, one pound per month for each man, be not too high, and the Council have reason from representations which have been made on this head, that after 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.