

grounds. Possibly it may be held by some to have been indispensable to the security of the northern landed estate, but it could not be held as in any degree essential to the conservation of any interest of this island. I certainly see no reason why the Government of New Zealand should be called upon to pay the costs of a war, induced by a long train of circumstances, which the Imperial Government had specially retained to itself the sole right to deal with.

It is worthy of remark that there is no mention in the constitutional civil list of any provision for the cost of maintaining an army, or for the suppression of a native rebellion. Had the Imperial Government, by the Constitution, handed over to the people of New Zealand the government of the country without excepting the Maories, it is possible in such a case that the late necessity for an appeal to arms might not have arisen. Certainly, opportunity would have been given to the settlers to attempt a peaceful solution of all difficulties. The Crown did, however, solely govern the Maories; under its government causes of war arose, and that Government cannot consistently

with liberal principles coercively exact indemnity from the colonies against the expenses and risks of an administration, neither erected nor desired by them. In the very limited space allotted for brief mention of this subject, it is impossible to touch upon many reasons in support of the opinion I have expressed in reference to the cost of the native war. A discussion of the policy of the late war would be extra-functional on your part, nevertheless it is not only within the limits of your proper functions to discuss the legality or policy of any and all rumoured general financial arrangements likely to affect the revenues of the Provincial Government as settled by existing statutes and customs, but it may also not unfrequently be your duty to give effect to your opinions on such matters by way of memorial or resolution.

The recent discovery of gold in the adjoining Province of Otago will, I anticipate, be productive of immediate as well as great ultimate advantage to Canterbury. Notwithstanding that great numbers of our ablest and most respectable working settlers have visited the gold fields, I am well