

From facts within the knowledge of Government, I am firmly of opinion that with regard to the inhabitants of the two principal towns in Canterbury, their choice of alternatives will very shortly be limited to taxation or typhus fever. It is my intention to ask your concurrence in a scheme for the endowment of such towns as shall accept Municipal Government.

I shall request your deliberation on certain measures for improving the organization of the armed police force, making better provisions for the diversion of roads, and the suppression of the dog nuisance—an English Agents' Bill—House-keeper's Bill—Roads Diversion—Road Ordinance, and Public Hospital Amendment Bill. In the course of this session I shall ask you to make provision for steam communication with Melbourne; also for coastal service between the different parts of this province and Otago; for the erection of a beacon or lighthouse on the heads of Lyttelton harbour; a Lunatic Asylum; also a great number of minor requirements.

The estimated expenditure of the present

financial year has been, together with the estimated revenue for the same period, carefully compiled.

Gentlemen,—Having very briefly adverted to the leading matters of business to be presented for your acceptance this session, before leaving you to the commencement of your labours, I beg to assure you of my confidence that nothing will arise to interrupt the good understanding with the Council which is necessary to promote the effective transaction of public business. Gentlemen, I have now to declare this Council to be duly opened.