

composed of five members, all laymen, of whom two were to be nominated by the Superintendent, and three by the Provincial Council. In them were to be vested (not to particularize their functions) direct and almost irresponsible control of schools, teachers, and Government grant-in-aid. On the introduction of the Bill, it was stated by the Provincial Secretary that out of 17,000 souls (the population of the Province at that time) about 2200 were children attending school, 3958 were persons unable to read or write, 3500 of whom were under sixteen years of age; and this number was assumed as one-half of those requiring instruction, and it was suggested that £5000 should be granted annually for that purpose. This, however, did not suit the ideas of the Opposition; Mr. FitzGerald moved as an amendment,—that it being desirable to obtain further information of the operation of the system then existing, and as to the future requirements of the Province, and also as to the funds out of which permanent provision ought to be made for the establishment and maintenance of schools, that a Commission should be appointed by the Superintendent for the purpose of acquiring such information, to report at the next following session of the Council. The House adopted the amendment, which had passed through committee, and the Bill was consequently thrown out, much to the astonishment of the Government and their supporters, who, by their extraordinary action in voting for the consideration of the amendment, promoted the exclusion of their own measure, from which so much had been expected.

On the same evening that this *coup de finesse* took place, the Council laid aside its party feelings to perform an act graceful in itself and honorable to the doers and the Province at large. The story is best told in the words of a resolution put to a crowded House, and received in deep and reverent silence, forming a striking contrast to the excitement of the previous debate:—"That this Council, desiring to record its deep sense of the loss which the Province of Canterbury has sustained by the death of its founder, and deeming it right to preserve for ever amongst the inhabitants of the Province the memory of labors to which it is so deeply indebted, as well as an example of worth and excellence in private life, and of wisdom and uprightness in the administration of public affairs, resolves, that a statue of the late John Robert Godley, be erected in the city of Christchurch, in such public place as His Honor the Superintendent shall direct; and that His Honor the Superintendent be respectfully requested to take such steps as may be necessary to carry this resolution into effect; and that the Council undertakes to make due provision for the cost of such a work, out of the public revenues of the Province." The motion was carried unanimously. A large sum has since been voted for this purpose, and the statue, by Woolner, is in an advanced stage of progress.

The session was brought to a close on the 3rd of December, after a sitting of thirty days. The total of sums voted for the expenditure of the remainder of the financial year, a period of nine months, was about £403,000. Great Britain, with all her immense resources, does not raise or expend one fifth of the amount annually, in comparison to the population.

During the recess nothing of any note was to be observed in connection with political matters, with one important exception; in the month of March, Mr. Moorhouse resigned the office of Superintendent,—an office which he had held with honor to himself and profit to the Province, for a period of five years. The general public were surprised at the announcement, but most of the Superintendent's intimate friends were aware of his intention to retire at the first favorable opportunity. Seeing that the general interests of the Province were in a satisfactory condition, and knowing that the great public works which he had initiated were fairly launched, with a favorable prospect of being speedily completed, the late Superintendent at length judged the moment had arrived, and he retired from the prominent position which he had so long held, followed by the regrets of his friends, and the esteem of his political opponents. He has since been elected member of the Provincial Council for Kaiapoi, and more sub-

sequently still, has resigned his seat to devote his entire attention to his professional duties. The members composing the Executive Council, have remained the same with the exception of Mr. J. Strange Williams, who has taken the office of Provincial Solicitor, *vice* Mr. Duncan, resigned.

Mr. Samuel Bealey, the only candidate for the office of Superintendent, was elected with general approbation.

The result of placing upon the colonial markets £100,000, the first instalment of the half-million loan, has been the reception of tenders to the value of nearly £50,000; the lowest of these being at the rate of one and a-half per cent. premium; this too, free of all commission or brokerage. A premium of at least four per cent. would have been required in London to equal the value in the Colony now obtained, exclusive of the loss of interest upon money during the time of remittance. No New Zealand loan without Imperial guarantee, has yet realised, at first hand in London, a cash value to the Colony equal to that received for the first portion of the Canterbury half-million loan.

Consequent on the startling intelligence received from the North Island, the generally apathetic political feeling of the public of Canterbury seemed to rouse itself for a time to consider whether the direction of the war should be left in the hands of the Governor and his advisers, or if it was desirable to use means to bring the General Assembly to session at once, which at the time (August) stood re-prorogued till the 19th October. Two of the most numerous assemblages ever seen in Canterbury, attracted by the importance of the question, and also with the desire of obtaining an exposition of the political faith of their representatives, met, and after hearing the point ably argued in all its bearings, resolved not to interfere with the action of the General Government. There can be no doubt however, that the agitation acted indirectly, by preventing the further prorogation of the legislative body. The importance of the movement is not to be measured by its immediate effects, it clearly shows that the people of Canterbury are fully alive to the difficulties of the position in which the whole of the component Provinces of New Zealand are now placed.

The Provincial Council was opened by the new Superintendent on the 16th July. In his speech, his Honor congratulated the Council on the flourishing condition of the Province, and intimated the intention of the Government of recommending the inauguration of public works, far exceeding in magnitude, anything yet attempted. The speech was received with favor, and the Council settled to their work with great earnestness. The ranks of the Opposition had been thinned during the recess, so that with the exception of an attempt to oust the Executive, on the bringing in of the estimates, the Government yielding in minor matters, had not much difficulty in carrying through their more important measures. The principal business done during the session was the consideration of the report of the Lyttelton Harbour Commission, the passing of the Road District Bill; the Board of Education Bill; Canterbury Marine Boards Bill; and eighteen others of less importance. The Appropriation Bill provided for the expenditure of nearly £400,000 for the following twelve months. The estimated revenue for the same period was £213,000; under the heads ordinary, £45,958; Crown lands, £150,000; pasturage rents, £175,000; leaving a balance of £176,000 to be raised by debentures. When the half-million loan was sanctioned in the previous session, it was with the implied understanding that the old £250,000 should remain untouched. It has, however, been lately thought advisable to alter that intention, and resolutions to that effect were passed in the Provincial Council accordingly. Under the operation of resolutions adopted, the utmost celerity will be used during the recess in obtaining the necessary information required to commence the extension of railways north and south. A Commission will be appointed to report on the best method of bridging the large rivers of the Province, to receive which report it is probable that a special session of the Council will be convened, in order that these very necessary works may be proceeded