

Paper from John Morrison relative to Establishment of a General Government Agency
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Presented to the Honorable the House of Representatives by command of His Excellency.
Laid on the Table by the Hon. Col. Secretary 2nd July 1858.
Written at Auckland 28 June 1858

Sir, I beg leave to draw the attention of the General Government of New Zealand to the want existing in England of obtaining information respecting the Colony. In London there is no place where the Public can procure such in Detail or Examine for themselves the Government Official Regulations of the Provinces, what information is open to them can only be procured at different places, and is frequently circulated by individuals interested only in one or other of the Settlements; this serious inconvenience is no less detrimental to the interests of the Colony, as it is to many who seek to make New Zealand their home, for the conflicting opinions expressed tend only to unsettle and discourage enquirers, practical experience enables me to bear strong testimony to this existing drawback, that I beg respectfully to submit for the consideration of the General Government the proposal to establish in London, a General Government Agency, where at one Office information can be obtained for the whole of New Zealand, and the Maps and Official Documents filed and kept for general inspection.

Having undertaken the Voyage to New Zealand with the sole object of obtaining that information respecting the Colony, which cannot at present be got in England, and having personally visited every province and every Port and Township of importance, in the course of which I have ridden 1500 miles thro different parts of the Colony.

I beg respectfully to tender my services to the General Government to act in the Capacity of Agent for New Zealand in London. In discharging the duties of that office, while I would be able to give effect to such orders and suggestions as might from time to time be sent me, I would also be able to watch over every new movement bearing upon the Interests of the Colony, and at the same time be able to supply that information respecting the advantages and capabilities of the Colony which I have thus practically obtained by having made myself personally acquainted with them. I have &c. John Morrison.