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## COLONIAL NEWS.

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**NEW ZEALAND COMMISSIONERS' BILL.**—  
The Legislative Council was occupied the whole of Tuesday and yesterday, in hearing parties against the passing of this bill. The argument of Mr. Busby was based upon the fact of New Zealand having been acknowledged an independent state; the native chiefs having met several times and declared the independence of their country, which declaration was solemnly ratified by the British government. Mr. Busby, having been severely questioned by the Governor, admitted that the declaration of independence was drawn up by himself, and agreed to by the chiefs at his request, in conjunction with that of the missionaries; and that his and their titles to land were drawn up by him. He admitted, also, that the chiefs who met were selected by himself; and that they were such men as "would do whatever he desired them." In fact, to say nothing of the impropriety of a government officer's becoming a perfect land-jobber, and purchasing thousands of acres including both harbours and townships, the impression on the minds of the audience after hearing his speech was (we do not say it is the fact) that Mr. Busby made his office and the influence it gave him completely subservient to his personal interest and that of the missionaries; who appear to have likewise dedicated the influence which they derive from their sacred office to the acquisition of wealth. The speech of Mr. Wentworth was of a very different character. He set out by declaring the proclamations of Governors Gipps and Hobson unfounded in law, and therefore null and void; maintained the right of savages to dispose of their lands, and quoted a host of authorities, both legal and historical, to prove his positions. The arguments of the learned gentleman, as well as those of Messrs. A'Becket and Darvall, will be found in our columns; and we think that they have made out a good case in favour of the claims of such New Zealand proprietors as have made fair and equitable purchases. The right of the New Zealanders to dispose of their

right of the New Zealanders to dispose of their land, and the right of British subjects to purchase it, were, we think, sufficiently established; but we apprehend that the ground upon which the learned speakers attempted to deny the power of the crown to appoint a commission to try the validity of the titles acquired by these purchases, upon principles of equity, will be found altogether untenable; as will, likewise, that by which it is attempted to deny the Government the right to resume such lands as are necessary for Government purposes, by giving equivalent compensation for them. Upon the whole we are decidedly of opinion that a commission should be appointed, if, as we have little doubt, it can be done legally, and that those who are conscious of the equity of their purchases can have nothing to fear from such a measure. The interests of the proprietors themselves, the paramount rights of the aborigines, and the general welfare of the new colony all demand that some such step should be taken; and, on the other hand, it will be the duty of the executive to give a liberal construction to the reports of the commissioners, so as not to attach an undue importance to the mere nature of the purchase, without a proper consideration of the circumstances under which it was effected; and the uncertainty existing at the time as to the future prospects of the settlement.---AUSTRALASIAN CHRONICLE.

IMMIGRATION.—A number of extensive land proprietors in this colony, who are dissatisfied with both the systems under which immigrants are brought out here, have proposed to raise a subscription of £50 from each person requiring numbers of farm servants; by which they expect to raise £50,000. With this sum they propose to employ trustworthy agents of their own, and pay such other expenses as will be incurred in procuring a selection of useful people from the rural districts of the mother country; which they calculate will amount to about £300 for every vessel freighted with emigrants, over and above the bounty to be received from the land fund. Thus, in the gradual expenditure of the £50,000, at least 30,000 such persons as are wanted would be introduced into the colony. We have no objection to this company; but we warn them that we shall look very narrowly after their system of provisioning and accommodating their emigrants; as well as to the proceedings of their agents in England—so that the land fund may not be diverted to party purposes, nor the bounty claimed for the introduction of “*Canterbury men*.” Brad-

introduction of "Canterbury men," Bradshaws, Chartists, and the like.---IBID.

**AUSTRALIAN MINING COMPANY.**—A new company has been formed under the above title, for the purpose of sinking a mine in the vicinity of Sydney, to meet the increasing demand for coal in this place. The capital has been fixed at £100,000, in five thousand shares of £20 each. Applications for shares are to be made at the Bank of Australia. The want of a supply of coals has been long felt in Sydney, and we have no doubt that the purchase of shares in this company will prove a profitable investment of capital. But will not this interfere with the Agricultural Company's charter?---IBID.

**GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, JULY 1.**—Proclamation by the Governor declaring that the district of Port Phillip has been divided in two districts; namely, No. 9, "Western Port district," bounded on the north-east by the main range between the river Ovens and the Goulbourn; on the east by the Australian Alps; on the west by the Weariby river, and a line in continuation of the direction thereof north-westerly towards the Australian Pyrenees; and No. 10, "Portland Bay district," bound on the east by the Weariby river, and a line in continuation thereof north-westerly towards the Australian Pyrenees, and embracing the whole country to the west as far as South Australia. In reference to the above-mentioned proclamation, the following gentlemen are appointed commissioners of crown lands beyond the boundaries of location, viz. :--- No. 9, Western Port district, F. A. Powlett, Esq., Melbourne; No. 15, Portland Bay district, F. Fyans, Esq., Geelong. The governor has accepted the resignation of H. F. Gisborne, Esq., as commissioner of crown lands for the Port Phillip districts, which that gentleman has tendered in consequence of continued ill health  
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