

Letter: John Morrison to the Colonial Secretary's Office 19 May 1862
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The following Despatch and letter, relative to the disposal of articles contributed by New Zealand to the International Exhibition, are published for general information; and the several Commissions appointed by his Excellency the Governor in August, 1861, on behalf of the Provinces, are invited to communicate to the Government for transmission to the Home Authorities, their views respecting such disposal. Alfred Domett.

Office of the New Zealand Government Agency, 3, Adelaide Place, King William Street,
London 19 May 1862

Sir, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 60 of 15th February last, informing me my proposal for the continuance of this office would be subject to the General Assembly at its next Session. Should the Governor decide in favour of it, I beg to direct your attention to a matter that if carried out would, I believe, greatly tend to promote the interest of the Colony.

As the specimens forwarded by the Provinces to the International Exhibition are for the first time brought together and show so distinctly the large resources of the Colony, I venture to submit for the consideration of the Government the propriety of securing them after the Exhibition is over, and of arranging them in one collection. Such a step would enable manufacturers and others to have access to specimens at all times, - the want of which is at present a great drawback. The expense of so doing would be nominal, should the Government retain these rooms, the one at present used for the Government maps, official documents, papers and use of colonists being upwards of 35 feet long could be arranged to contain all, without interfering with its present use. The cases now in service at the Exhibition, which must be paid for, would serve without further cost, for the preservation of the various articles; under these circumstances I believe I am justified in stating the expense would be trifling, while the opinion that it would be of an advantage to the Colony, is based on the remarks made to be by practical men who have seen the various articles at the Exhibition.

Learning that other parties were desirous to rent the present rooms upon my relinquishing them on the 30th proximo, I have thought it advisable to retain them until informed of the decision of the General Assembly and of the Government, respecting the present suggestion. If it is practicable and convenient to let me have this by return mail it would be of service... John Morrison