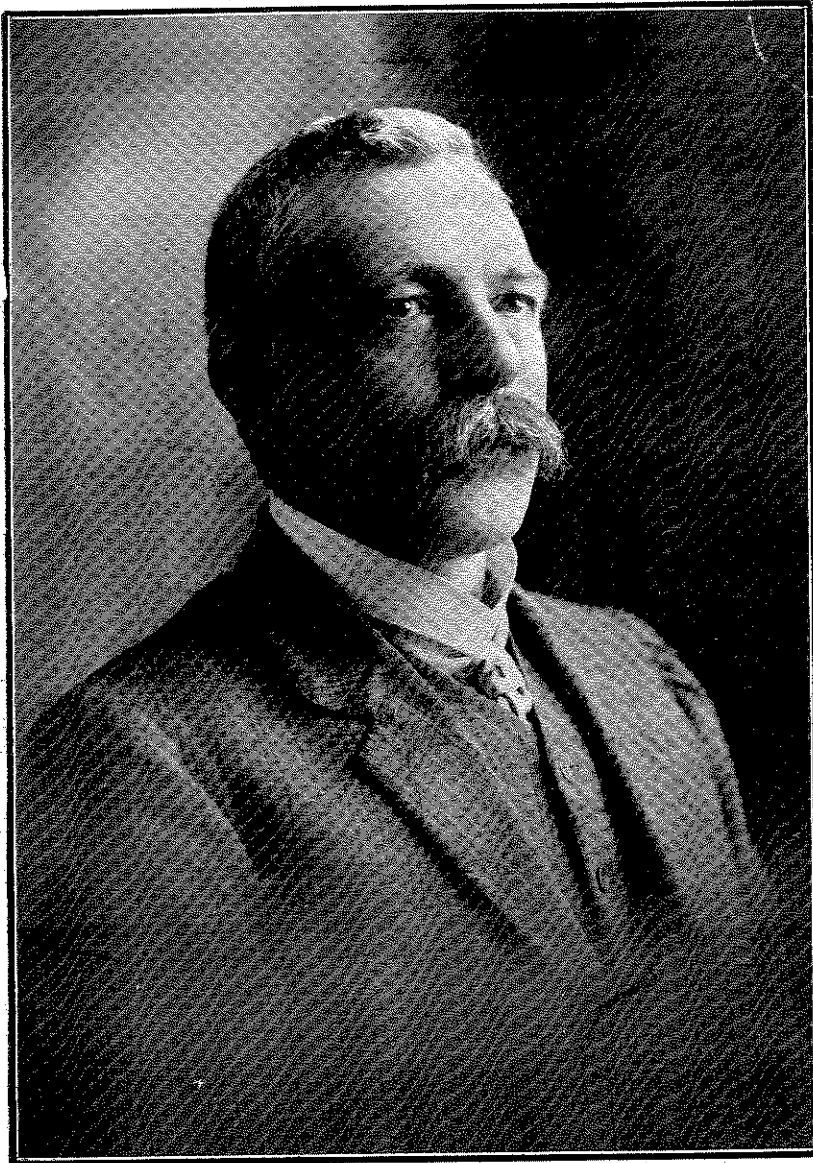


THE HON. GEO. FOWLDS,²⁻⁴²³

Formerly Minister of Education and Public Health.



Elected Auckland City, 1899.
Elected Grey Lynn, 1902, 1905, 1908.
Appointed Cabinet Minister, 1906.

To the Electors of Grey Lynn.

4th December, 1911.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On Thursday, December 7th you will have the privilege and responsibility of electing to Parliament a representative for this important constituency.

The Hon. Geo. Fowlds has ably represented us ever since the Grey Lynn Electorate was constituted nine years ago. He is one of the ablest men in Parliament, a man of unblemished character, a man who stands for principle and is not afraid to speak his mind clearly and forcibly on all political and economic questions.

People everywhere throughout New Zealand are looking to the Hon. Geo. Fowlds for leadership, and the Grey Lynn Election is being watched with great interest all over the Dominion

The times in which we live require the services of men with knowledge, experience and ability, and even political opponents admit that the Hon. Geo. Fowlds possesses these qualifications.

A leading oppositionist and the Chairman of an Education Board has called him "Our greatest Minister of Education," and similar testimony might be multiplied indefinitely.

Under these circumstances the Members of his Committee have every confidence in asking the Electors of Grey Lynn not only to elect him to Parliament but to return him with a record majority as a mark of their appreciation of his work and worth.

he has always displayed in public life and to the high personal reputation that he has always enjoyed. And as a member of the Ward Cabinet, Mr. Fowlds, by his conscientious industry, his devotion to his departmental duties, and his success as an administrator fully confirmed the high opinion that the people of Auckland had formed of his ability and his character. We have had far too few representatives of his type to speak for us, to advance our claims and to defend our rights; hence the comparative neglect, from which this portion of the Dominion has suffered so much in the past. And even though Mr. Fowlds is no longer a Minister, the prestige of Ministerial authority will help him as a private member to exercise his personal influence on our behalf, and to speak for us with infinitely more force and effect than would be possible for a political novice, without experience of office or of public life, entering Parliament now for the first time.

We have mentioned Mr. Fowlds' withdrawal from the Cabinet, and we do not think that either Mr. Fowlds or his friends would wish to shirk the debatable question of his resignation. For whatever view may be taken as to the practical wisdom of this step, it can hardly be denied that it indicated a high degree of sincerity and honesty on Mr. Fowlds' part, and a capacity rare indeed among public men for sacrificing material advantage to political principle and a sense of duty. In any case, the difference between Mr. Fowlds' views and the convictions of the average Liberal is more than anything else a matter of degree. All true Liberals will agree with Mr. Fowlds that it is wise to throw a large share of the burden

of taxation upon land, to check abuses in the liquor traffic, and to guard the general public carefully against the evil effects of the monopolies that are liable to develop under a protective tariff. And no doubt if Mr. Fowlds were in office again he would find that the responsibilities of his position would produce, in his case, the same moderating effects as they have exercised in many other statesmen and politicians. Those who hold opinions adverse to Mr. Fowlds may, if they choose, regard some of his theories as visionary and Utopian. But nearly all the great reforms that have marked the progress of humanity in the past have been the work of idealists of his type, who have asked of life and of their fellow-men more than the practical considerations and material conditions of existence will allow. In any case, there can be no doubt that Mr. Fowlds is a true Liberal—that is to say, he is on the side of the great majority; he stands for the recognition of the rights of the masses and the destruction of privilege, monopoly, and arbitrary power under whatever guise they are concealed. Extremist as he has been called, he has proved throughout his public career that he knows how to temper his enthusiasms with discretion and self-control. When these qualities are found in conjunction with real practical ability and honest devotion to duty, they form a combination of inestimable value to the community that can command them; and in our opinion the electors of Grey Lynn are fortunate, indeed, in having an opportunity to secure for themselves the services of so capable a representative, so experienced a politician, and so estimable a man as Mr. Fowlds.

FOR THE COMMITTEES :

J. JENKIN, Chairman	
W. J. HOULDSWORTH, Hon Secretary	} Executive Committee.
S. C. BROWN, Chairman	
A. JENKIN, Hon. Secretary	} Great North Rd. Committee
G. GWILLIAM, Chairman	
M. GRAINGER, Hon. Secretary	} Sussex Committee.
J. W. TATTERSFIELD, Chairman	
F. W. JONES, Hon. Secretary.	} Richmond Committee.
JOHN DAVIS, Chairman	
E. J. WINKS, Hon. Secretary	} Mt. Eden Committee.
F. J. H. ELLISDON, Chairman	
GEO. STEVENSON, Hon. Sec.	} Kingsland Committee.

Reprint of Leading Article, "Auckland Star," 29th Nov., 1911.

MR. FOWLDS AND GREY LYNN,

Grey Lynn is in one respect more fortunately circumstanced than any other of the city or suburban constituencies. For while there may be some room for choice among the candidates elsewhere, we do not see how the electors of Grey Lynn can have any possible difficulty in making up their minds how to cast their votes. For the Hon. George Fowlds is manifestly superior to his two competitors in all the qualifications essential for political success, no matter what standard of comparison we may apply. We are glad to see that campaign in this electorate has been conducted with due regard for the amenities of public life, and we have no desire to introduce any objectionably personal element into it. Apart from their politics, we have nothing to say against Mr. Payne and Mr. Murray, except this, that

in ability, in knowledge of affairs, and in political experience they are both obviously inferior to Mr. Fowlds. And having said this, we have surely said enough to justify our contention that the electors of Grey Lynn, if they wish to consult the best interests of their own district, the City of Auckland, and the country at large, have no choice but to re-elect the sitting member.

If we consider Mr. Fowlds' political record alone, his case is so strong that it hardly needs any detailed exposition. For twelve years he has represented an Auckland constituency, and during this long period he has not only played a prominent part in Parliamentary affairs, but he has shown himself to be one of the most capable and valuable representatives that this city has ever sent to Parliament. His final elevation to Ministerial rank was a well-deserved tribute to the energy and ability that