

Premiers and  
Prime Minister



What's the story?  
Encyclopedia of New Zealand

(McLintock, A. H.,  
2009q)



## PRIME MINISTERS OF NEW ZEALAND

### The First Premier

It is often stated that J. E. FitzGerald and T. S. Forsaith were the first two Premiers of New Zealand. This is quite erroneous. They were nothing more than members, without portfolio, of the Executive Council, which was presided over by the Administrator, Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Wynyard. The first responsible ministry did not take shape until April 1856, with Henry Sewell as Colonial Secretary. To him, therefore, goes the honour of being the first Premier.

How to cite this page: 'The First Premier', from An Encyclopaedia of New Zealand, edited by A. H. McIntock, originally published in 1966.

Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, updated 22-Apr-09

URL: <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/1966/prime-ministers-of-new-zealand/1>

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