



THE
NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE.

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WELLINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1870.

THE Fifth Session of the Fourth Parliament of New Zealand was this day prorogued by the Governor, when His Excellency was pleased to make the following

SPEECH.

HONOURABLE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,—

I thank you for the assiduity with which you have devoted yourselves to the consideration of the business of the country, and the care you have bestowed on the various important subjects to which I invited your attention at the commencement of the Session.

I sincerely hope that the large measures which you have passed, for the purpose of promoting public works, encouraging immigration, and developing the resources of the country, will be the means of reviving that spirit of colonization which led to the foundation of this Colony, and which must be the basis of its future prosperity. When I consider how small a portion of the country has yet been colonized, and how small a population occupies it, I cannot fail to observe that the responsibility of a great work rests not only on this but on future generations. By measures of such a character as those you have lately passed, the redundant capital and population of the parent country can be made available to supply the wants of the Colony.

An essential feature of these measures is the beneficial influence which they will necessarily have on the peace of the country and the settlement of Native difficulties. To both races it must be a source of profound gratification that you have determined to continue an essentially peaceful policy, and I congratulate you on the disposition which the Natives evince to reciprocate your conciliatory intentions.

The presence of Her Majesty's ships of war on this station has had a most beneficial effect, and the services of Commodore Lambert, C.B., and the officers and men under his command, are recognized through the Colony with gratitude

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,—

I thank you for the Supplies which you have granted for the Public Service of the year; they shall be administered with all due care.

HONOURABLE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,—

I cannot but congratulate you on the friendly feeling towards New Zealand which the Commissioners sent to Great Britain to communicate with the Imperial Government have succeeded in establishing.

The adoption of the Torrens system of Land Transfer, which has for some years past been worked with great success in South Australia and other neighbouring Colonies, will no doubt be attended here with the same advantages as elsewhere—it will simplify the complicated law of landed estate, and make it as easily transferable as any other species of property. Although apparently a mere administrative improvement, this measure really embodies a great social and economical reform.

The Act which provides for the use of the Ballot in the elections of Members of the House of Representatives and of Provincial Councils, will, I hope, prove a useful measure, facilitating the taking of votes, and securing the Franchise from abuse.

I congratulate you on your desire to increase the trade of the Colony, and to extend its connection with the rest of the world, as evidenced by your making provision for a Mail Service to England *via* San Francisco, and by the several measures of commercial importance which you have passed during the Session. The Act for reuniting the Provinces of Otago and Southland, and that for readjusting the financial relations of the Colony and the Provinces, afford proof of the elasticity of the existing institutions of the country, and of the readiness with which modifications to suit changes of circumstances can be effected.

I am sure you will join with me in deploring the intelligence just received of the commencement of a great European war, and in hoping that it will soon be brought to a close, and that the friendly relations of Great Britain with foreign countries may not be imperilled.

In releasing you from your labours, I will express a hope that under the blessing of God they may be found to be the means of advancing the prosperity of the Country, of consolidating the peaceful relations between the two races which inhabit it, and promoting their general welfare.