



THE  
**NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE.**

Published by Authority.

WELLINGTON, TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1871.

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

S P E E C H .

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

It is with satisfaction that I have summoned the Parliament of the Colony, and now invite your assistance and advice.

I am glad to learn that the Ballot, which has for the first time in this Colony been used at the late General Election of Members of the House of Representatives, has been found to work well.

Since I last addressed you, I have again visited the Provinces of the Middle Island, and its West Coast. I was greatly pleased to see material resources developed and social institutions established to so great an extent. I have also observed with much satisfaction the growing prosperity of the North Island, and particularly the extraordinary yield of gold in the Province of Auckland. Everywhere, in both Islands, my visits elicited expressions of loyalty to the Queen, and of good-will towards myself; and I shall always remember with gratitude the courteous and hospitable manner in which I have been received in all parts of New Zealand.

I congratulate you on the progress which has been made during the year in establishing, under improved arrangements, the Postal route to Great Britain by way of San Francisco. I hope that the line will attract the co-operation of the Australian Colonies, and the support of the United States.

Relations with the Natives continue to improve. A Bill will be laid before you to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the Native Lands Court.

You will concur with me in regretting the death of the celebrated Chief, Tamati Waka Nene, alike distinguished for his loyalty to the Queen and his friendship with the Pakeha; and who, whether in peace or war, was ever ready to aid in establishing the Queen's sovereignty and promoting colonization.

The Land Transfer Act of last Session has been brought into operation, and I am glad to state that, though so short a time has elapsed, the progress of the system, and its appreciation by owners of property, have been very marked.

The successful negotiation of a large part of the Loan authorized last year, and the continuance of internal tranquillity, have enabled my Government to initiate and carry on the colonizing policy of the late Parliament. Their endeavour has been to give effect to that policy in the spirit in which it was framed, and to apply the resources placed at their disposal for that purpose with frugality, with fairness, and with a steadfast view to lasting results. It is with great satisfaction that I have observed the general wish of the Native tribes in the interior of the North Island to promote the formation of great lines of road through their lands, and the practical proof which they give of their sincerity in that respect by themselves joining in the work. Commencement has been made in the public works authorized in the Middle Island; and Immigration will, in pursuance of the instructions recently given, be secured to those Provinces which have availed themselves of the provisions of the Immigration Act. You will, I feel sure, concur with me that the introduction and settlement of suitable immigrants are as necessary as the construction of large public works, and that both are essential to the proper development of the resources and the lasting welfare of the Colony.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,—

The Estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you. They will be framed with a strict regard to economy.

I congratulate you on the very favourable terms on which a large part of the Loan authorized by the Acts of last Session has been raised in London. The arrangements, also, which have been effected with the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury in reference to the guaranteed Million Loan, are of a character to enhance the credit of the Colony, and to facilitate its financial operations.

I regret to inform you that there has been a considerable falling off in the Colonial Revenue during the year—as there has been in some of the Australian Colonies. This, no doubt, is a consequence of the depressed value of the staple articles of production, and the stagnation of commercial and manufacturing industries attributable to the great European war. The present revival in the value of those products, the restoration of peace in Europe, the rapid growth of local industries, and the progress of immigration and public works, justify the belief that this depression is exceptional, and the hope that it will prove transitory. It rests with you to adopt measures for equalizing the Revenue and Expenditure.

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

It is of the greatest importance that elementary instruction should be more widely diffused, and also that popular education should be raised to a higher standard. A Bill will be laid before you to provide for both those ends.

The reduction in the Telegraph charges has resulted in a great increase of business during the year.

A number of Convicts lately arrived in Canterbury from the Penal Settlement of Western Australia. Steps were taken by my Government for their immediate removal.

Among other measures, you will be asked to give your consideration to Bills for improving the Law of Insolvency, for amending the Law relating to Gold Fields, for conferring powers on Committees on Disputed Elections, for the regulation of the Coasting Trade, for the encouragement of Fisheries, for conferring powers on Highway Boards, for providing for the appointment of a Public Trustee, for providing Land for the Settlement of Immigrants, and for the better regulation of Charitable Trusts.

I trust that your deliberations may, under the guidance of Divine Providence, contribute to the unity, peace, and prosperity of the Colony.