



THE
NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE.

Published by Authority.

WELLINGTON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1871

THE First Session of the Fifth Parliament of New Zealand was this day prorogued 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,—

I thank you for the attention you have bestowed on public business, and the consideration you have given to those measures which have been proposed during the Session with the object of promoting the advancement and prosperity of the Colony.

I have to congratulate you on the progress you have made in the noble policy of colonization, which, inaugurated during the Session of the last Parliament, has been vigorously continued by you during the present Session. Every one who has the welfare of the Colony at heart must eagerly welcome that desire to people the country and to open up its means of communication which has found expression in your measures for promoting Public Works and Immigration and for constructing Railways. Fortified by the support which you have given to the colonizing policy, it will be the duty of my Ministers to give effect to it to the utmost extent, consistent with provision being made for the employment and settlement of the immigrants introduced, and with care being exercised that the labour required for other enterprises is not unduly absorbed by public works. I hope that in a few months immigrants will commence to arrive under the new system, and will continue to do so with regularity, in numbers sufficiently large to supply the need of increased population, but not so large as to overstock the labour market, or as to overtax the means at command for comfortably settling them. I hope, also, that within very few months the Railway Works will be under construction in different parts of the Colony.

I observe with much satisfaction the support you have given to the Californian Service, and trust that the course you have taken will lead to the establishment permanently of a service which, whilst it brings New Zealand in near and convenient communication with Great Britain, also opens the way to large business relations with the prosperous and enterprising people of the United States.

It is with great gratification I notice the great improvement in the gold produce of the Colony. I am pleased to observe that you attach very great and deserved importance to the valuable industry of the gold miners.

I am also able to congratulate you on the improvement in the prospects of the wool and flax producers; and it is with the greatest pleasure I foresee that better days are in store for those who follow agricultural pursuits.

The presence in London of a Special Agent for the Colony—himself a colonist of thirty years' standing, intimately acquainted with its wants, and who in former Sessions has occupied a prominent place in the deliberations of the Parliament of the Colony—will, I trust, greatly aid you in the construction of the Public Works you propose, as well as lead to the judicious selection of the immigrants you require, and to the making of proper arrangements for their passage to the Colony. His presence will also, no doubt, tend to the permanence of those friendly relations which I am glad to say exist between the Imperial and Colonial Governments.

The Session has been profitable in results in respect to that most important stimulus to colonization, Local Municipal Government. I am sanguine that excellent effects will result from the pecuniary assistance you have agreed to render to Road Boards, and from the operation of the Highways Act.

I regret that the shortness of the Session and other reasons have prevented your legislating on the question of Education. Your attention has however been given to the subject, and its principles been fully discussed in the House of Representatives; and it is perhaps well that, on a subject on which there exist so many differences of opinion, time should be given to the Constituencies to consider more fully the bearings of the measure which was proposed to the House of Representatives.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,—

I thank you for the supplies which you have granted for the public service, which shall be administered with due care. I am glad, also, that you have revised the taxation in some particulars, with a view to providing the ways and means to meet the necessary expenditure of the Government.

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

Since the commencement of the Session there have not been wanting many indications of a growing inclination among the few remaining malcontents of the Native race to return to their allegiance, and to resume friendly relations with the Europeans. The presence of the highly intelligent Representatives of the Native race in the House of Representatives, and the judicious manner in which, I am informed by my Ministers, they have exercised their functions, fully justify the wisdom of the recommendation the House of Representatives have made, that persons of the Native race should be called to the Legislative Council. On the best method of giving effect to that recommendation I will consult my Responsible Advisers.

I shall forward to Her Majesty's Government, for presentation to Her Majesty, the Addresses which you have passed in both Chambers of the Legislature on the subject of the labour traffic which is being carried on between some of the Australian Colonies, the Fiji Islands, and various other islands in the Pacific Ocean. I have no doubt that the melancholy death of Bishop Patteson and his companions will deepen the interest which has already been excited on this question at Home, and that Her Majesty's Government will bestow upon it the attention it merits.

In releasing you from your labours, I venture to express my earnest hope that, under the blessing of Divine Providence, the measures you have authorized will promote the prosperity of the Colony.