



THE
NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE.

Published by Authority.

WELLINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 16, 1872.

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

SPEECH.

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

The alarming illness of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales produced in this Colony, no less than in other parts of the Empire, feelings of profound regret, and the subsequent intelligence of his recovery was hailed with universal rejoicing. My Advisers will submit to you Addresses to Her Majesty, in which you will be asked to express your gratitude for the preservation of the Empire from a great calamity, and your sympathy with your Sovereign and the Royal Family.

I have to congratulate you on the general tranquillity which prevails in the several Native Districts throughout New Zealand. The friendly disposition manifested by tribes hitherto disaffected, shows that progress is being made towards the peaceful settlement of the Native difficulty. I have lately made a tour through districts in the interior of this Island not long since disturbed by rebellion. I was everywhere treated by the Natives with the greatest respect and hospitality, and received from them the strongest assurances of their desire to cultivate friendly relations with the European colonists. I was much pleased to see the progress of the roads, which are being constructed to a great extent by Maori labour.

I also congratulate you on the steady development and prosperous condition of the agricultural, mining, and pastoral industries.

Since the close of last Session, my Government has been engaged in giving effect to the legislative measures passed by you for the construction of Railways. Contracts for sections of several lines of Railway have been entered into, upon terms which I trust you will consider favourable. The surveys of other lines are approaching completion.

Papers will be laid before you which will inform you what steps have been taken towards establishing a continuous stream of Immigration.

I am glad to be able to inform you that the operation of the Act which three years since the Legislature wisely passed, for establishing on Colonial security a system of Life Assurance and Annuities, continues to meet with marked success. The progress and development of that system on the principles on which it is based will, I am sure, materially tend to the social comfort and welfare, not only of those who directly share in it, but, indirectly, of the whole community.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,—

Estimates will be laid before you, framed with every regard for economy consistent with efficient administration.

A very satisfactory symptom of that reviving prosperity of the Colony which I ventured last Session to hope was not far distant, is to be found, I am happy to say, in the increased and increasing receipts of Revenue.

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

The occurrence of a few cases of Small-pox in the Colony should remind you of the importance of Sanitary Laws. A Bill will be submitted to you for improving the law relating to Vaccination and Quarantine, and for better enabling means to be taken for the repression of Epidemic Disease in towns and country districts.

Measures will be submitted to you to consolidate and amend the laws relating to Gold Mining; to reduce the Stamp Duty payable on Receipts, and the annual Stamp Duty payable by certain Companies; to reduce the Postage within the Colony on Newspapers; to enable Municipalities and Road Districts to enter into arrangements or grant concessions for the construction of Tramways; to make more liberal the terms on which Drawbacks are granted; to encourage Fisheries; to amend the laws relating to the Public Revenues; to amend the law of Bankruptcy; to provide for the appointment of a Public Trustee; and to consolidate and amend the laws relating to Elections.

These and other measures which may be brought before you I commend to your careful consideration; and I pray that your labours may, under the blessing of Providence, conduce to the prosperity of the Colony and the happiness of the two races which inhabit it.