



THE  
**NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE**  
 EXTRAORDINARY.

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

It gives me pleasure to meet you at so early a moment after assuming the charge of the Government of New Zealand, to which Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint me.

I am gratified to learn that the condition of the Colony is extremely prosperous; and that the Colonists at large, manifesting faith in its resources, are developing them with energy and enterprise.

The Public Works already authorized have been proceeded with as rapidly as circumstances have permitted. But in order to render effectual the policy of Public Works which has been adopted by Parliament, you must bear in mind that the principle upon which those works were undertaken involved not only a system of arterial communications throughout the country, but a concurrent settlement by numerous occupiers of the lands so opened up.

Papers will be laid before you indicative of the anxiety of the Government to promote and assist Immigration.

The increasing success of the Life Assurance and Annuities Department is highly satisfactory. Whilst the system of State Insurance affords great advantages to the Colonists, it does not close the door to private associated enterprise in the same useful direction.

At the Intercolonial Conference held during the recess, many important results were arrived at, to some of which your attention will be directed. In consideration of the unanimous desire of the Conference, Her Majesty's Government have obtained the assent of the Imperial Parliament to a measure by which the Australasian Colonies will have a right to enter into reciprocal tariff arrangements. I do not doubt that this concession will be gratifying to the Legislature of New Zealand, which has constantly advocated its justice and expediency, and I express the hope that such care will be exercised in making a proper and reasonable use of it as will prove that it has been wisely sought and granted.

Arising out of the Conference, though not directly associated with it, are proposals for the establishment of Cable communication between Australia and New Zealand, and Normantown and Singapore, in joint connection with other Colonies. Your early attention will be invited to these proposals, which await and are subject to your concurrence.

I regret that whilst so many other subjects received satisfactory consideration and decision at the hands of the Conference, upon the subject of Mail Services a unanimous conclusion was not arrived at, and in consequence it yet awaits final arrangement. My Advisers have given much consideration to the matter. Whilst they are anxious to reopen the Californian Service, they are only disposed to do so on terms which will do justice to the requirements of the Colony, and which will not disassociate New Zealand from the use of the Suez Service. Negotiations are still pending; but in all which have been entered into the approval of Parliament has been made an absolute condition.

The work of making Roads in Native Districts in the North Island, and thus, through their aid, of opening up the country for future settlement, has been prosecuted during the year with steadiness and success. It is gratifying to observe that the opposition originally manifested at several points to this undertaking is gradually lessening as the Natives more fully understand the intentions of the Government and the benefit accruing to themselves from these works in affording employment in the several districts, and in giving increased value to the tribal lands. It is also gratifying to observe that the Natives generally appreciate the advantages of peace, and are directing their attention to industrial pursuits and to the establishment of Schools, in which their children can obtain the advantages of an English education.

The murder committed in Waikato by certain Natives has attracted much public notice. While lamenting the occurrence of a crime now happily so rare, I would announce with satisfaction that it has evoked from the leading Tribes throughout the island a general and public condemnation, as well as renewed declarations of their loyalty. The Government have left the criminals to the ordinary operation of the law. That operation may be tardy in the district still remote from European settlement in which they have taken refuge; but the Government, while mindful of the requirements of justice and of the protection of the industrious inhabitants, have not deemed it expedient by any precipitate measures to risk the disturbance of the generally peaceful condition of the Colony.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,—

Estimates prepared with every desire to consult economy to the utmost extent, consistent with the requirements of the Public Service, will be laid before you. Your consideration will be asked to subjects relating to the Civil Service.

The public revenue is increasing, and the improved credit of the Colony is shown by the enhanced value of its securities.

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

Measures will be laid before you to initiate a reconstruction of the Constitution of the Legislative Council, to amend the Laws relating to the Gold Fields, to provide for Education, to consolidate the Laws relating to Prisons, to amend and consolidate the Electoral Laws, to establish a Silver and Copper Mint, to amend the Insolvency Laws and abolish Imprisonment for Debt, to provide for the election of Native District Councils, to amend the Laws relating to Native Lands, and to give increased security to persons Assuring their Lives.

I confide to your careful attention these and other measures, designed in the interests of the whole Colony and of the two Races which inhabit it, and I trust that Divine Providence will bless your efforts to discharge efficiently your onerous duties.