



THE
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 EXTRAORDINARY.

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THE Fourth 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 have to thank you for the attention which you have paid to the discharge of your onerous duties during the short but very arduous Session which I am now about to terminate.

This is the last occasion upon which I shall have the honor of addressing you from this place. I desire to assure you that, in resigning the high office which I have held but for a short term, I am deeply sensible of the constant courtesy and consideration which have been shown to me by all with whom I have been brought into contact, whether in official or private relations; that in returning to a private station at Home, I shall retain a deep interest in the welfare of this most promising community; and that I shall deem it not less a privilege than a duty to serve its interests, in so far as my humble means and opportunities may enable me.

I anticipate great benefit to the Colony from the State Forests Act which you have passed, providing as it does for the setting apart of Forests which will not only be of use in maintaining the future industries of the Colony, but which may be expected to have a beneficial effect on its climate and upon the productiveness of its lands. Providing as the Act does machinery for the establishment of State Forests, I am not disposed to regret a short delay in determining the actual positions of the Forests. You have unmistakably committed the Colony to the establishment of State Forests, and it will be your duty to see that adequate lands are provided for them, from which sufficient revenues will be obtainable to do justice to your intentions.

You have passed many measures this Session which will materially aid in carrying on the Public Service of the Colony, and in remedying defects which experience has proved to exist.

I regret that the length of the Session did not enable you to deal with the question of promoting commercial intercourse with Polynesia. It is one which I hope will have your careful consideration; and it will be the duty of my Advisers to bear in mind the large interest which New Zealand has in the subject, with a view of bringing it before you on a future occasion.

The attention of my Advisers will be earnestly given to further continuing Public Works and promoting Immigration.

The re-establishment of the Californian Mail Packet Service, in conjunction with New South Wales, and the giving effect to the provisions already agreed to for the establishment of cable communication with other parts of the world, will also have the zealous attention of my Advisers.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,—

I acknowledge with pleasure the provisions you have made for the Public Service; and it will be the care of my Advisers to administer them with the utmost economy consistent with efficiency.

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

This Session will be memorable for the decisive step which has been taken in the direction of abolishing the form of Provincial Government in the North Island. The opinion of the House of Representatives has been expressed by the large majority which voted in favour of the resolutions; whilst the debates in the Legislative Council have left no room to doubt that that Chamber is also favourable to the proposed policy. For some years past there has grown up the belief that the Provincial system in this island does not really afford that amount of Local Government the people desire. The decision arrived at is memorable, also, for the desire which the Legislature manifests, that the Land Fund of the Colony should be applied to suitable purposes, and, as far as possible, be localized. That decision must effectually do away with apprehensions in any part of the country, that change in the Provincial system would mean an absorption of the Land Fund in opposition to the opinions upon the subject which have been confirmed during a long course of years. I hope that the Provincial Governments of the North Island, loyally recognizing the decision of the House of Representatives, will, during the recess, exert themselves to the utmost to so manage the affairs of the Provinces as to enable the projected change to be effected next year with the least possible inconvenience.

I am glad to be able to continue to remind you of the increasing prosperity of the Colony.

I hope that the success which has attended your past efforts will, under the blessing of Divine Providence, continue to make itself manifest in the future; and that you will live to see the result in New Zealand becoming the home of a large, prosperous, and contented population.