



THE
NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE
 EXTRAORDINARY.

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THE Third Session of the Ninth 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.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,—

It affords me much pleasure to meet you thus early in Parliament assembled. The year which is now passing will be memorable throughout the British dominions as that on which our Gracious Sovereign enters on the fiftieth year of her reign. You will, I feel assured, desire to prove that the subjects of this the most distant portion of Her Majesty's possessions share equally with Her Majesty's subjects in other parts of the world the highest appreciation of the great results of her long and beneficent reign. You will be asked to consider the most suitable way of showing, on behalf of the people of New Zealand, their affection and duty to the person of the Sovereign, their love and loyalty to the Crown, their sense of gratification at belonging to a realm enjoying a sway so benignant, and their desire to see the bonds which unite every portion of Her Majesty's vast Empire confirmed and strengthened.

It is particularly appropriate to such a year that I am able to announce to you that, in the opinion of my Ministers, there has never been a time when the relations between Her Majesty's European and Maori subjects have been of so friendly a character. The Maoris are evincing an intelligent interest in colonizing operations, and a cordial recognition of the laws of the colony. They show this excellent disposition by the readiness with which they are seeking Crown titles for large areas of country through which the Northern Trunk Railway will pass, and by their willingness to part with land to the Government for the purposes of settlement along

that line of railway. Negotiations for such lands are, in the opinion of my Advisers, proceeding satisfactorily, and with due regard to the necessity of a sufficient quantity being retained by the Maoris for their own use. You will be asked to amend the laws relating to the disposal of Native lands in the direction which appears to my Ministers best adapted to do justice to the Maori owners and to hasten the occupation and settlement of the country.

Public works have been proceeded with as rapidly as the means placed at the disposal of the Government permitted. Proposals will be laid before you for continuing railways and other public works on a scale consistent with the circumstances of the colony, and in the manner most calculated to secure sound economical results.

New Zealand is suffering from the depression that appears to prevail throughout the world, but which is affecting this colony much less than other countries because of its great resources. My Advisers are of opinion that this depression, rather than tending to discourage the energies of the people, should lead them to additional exertions, and that if, concurrently with the progress of railways, abundant opportunity be offered to settlers to occupy and cultivate land in farms of reasonable size, farmers from other countries will be attracted to the colony and materially aid its progress.

In calling your attention to the gracious compliment which Her Majesty paid to all the Colonies and India by opening the Exhibition devoted to their products, and to the gratitude the Colonies and India owe to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales for the untiring exertions which have led to the success of the Exhibition, I am glad to be able to say that my Ministers have used their utmost endeavours to secure for this colony an adequate representation.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,—

The Estimates of revenue and expenditure for the current year will be laid before you. My Advisers fully recognize the importance of keeping down the expenditure to the lowest limit consistent with meeting the requirements of the public service and the wants of the country. The finances of the colony are in a sound condition, and gratifying progress is being made with the conversion of the loans. The San Francisco Mail Service has been re-established at a cost within the authority which you gave by resolution. It is gratifying that the contract should have been taken by a New Zealand Company on behalf of itself and a powerful American steamship organization. It is equally gratifying that New South Wales joins in the arrangement, and that assistance is received from the Government of the United States.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,—

Whilst giving attention to the undertakings which it is desirable the colony should carry out, it is not to be forgotten that the works constructed by local bodies are of essential importance towards promoting and extending the settlement of the lands. A measure will be placed before you dealing with the finance of local bodies, and enlarging their power of directly managing their own affairs.

My Ministers view with satisfaction the disposition which is being shown to develop the local resources of the colony, including those of the mines, the forests, and the fisheries. It is of infinite importance to recognize and take advantage of the natural wealth of New Zealand, and to encourage the prosecution of industries of a varied character. My Advisers place great faith in the operation of a policy which embraces the points of—

- Prosecuting local industries, and thus affording abundant occupation to the population;
- Promoting settlement by liberal land laws;
- Constructing railways with a view to opening the country, aiding the progress of settlement, and speedily securing satisfactory economical results;
- Placing local bodies in a position to open roads and do other useful work;
- Giving to the mining population liberal facilities; and the
- Establishing of friendly relations with the Maoris.

The arrangement for the construction of the Midland Railway, under authority conceded by Parliament, is, in the opinion of my Advisers, a matter of hearty rejoicing. Some points of a not material nature will have to be submitted for the ratification of Parliament.

The attention of my Ministers has been constantly directed to questions relating to the South Sea Islands. Whilst recognizing the important interest New Zealand has in these matters, they have carefully avoided exceeding the authority with which Parliament has endowed them. Papers on the subject will be presented.

Bills will be submitted to you to consolidate the laws relating to crimes, to municipalities, to volunteers, and to mines, to establish a parcels-post system, and to amend the Charitable Aid and Hospitals Act.

I commend to your attention the business that will come before you, and earnestly hope that your labours will, under the blessing of God, be attended with good to the colony.

