



THE
NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE
 EXTRAORDINARY.

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WELLINGTON, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1897.

THE First Session of the Thirteenth Parliament of New Zealand was this day opened by the Administrator of the Government, when His Excellency was pleased to make the following

SPEECH.

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

It is with pleasure that I have convened this meeting of Parliament to enable you to arrange for the fitting representation of the colony in the celebrations about to take place in London to commemorate the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Most Gracious Majesty's prolonged and beneficent reign.

New Zealand, in common with every other dependency of the Empire, has been invited to send representatives on this great occasion to England, such representatives to be the guests of the Mother-country. The despatches in reference thereto will be laid before you.

Both Houses of Parliament will be asked to adopt respectful addresses conveying to our Most Gracious Sovereign congratulations befitting this great occasion.

His Excellency the Earl of Glasgow left New Zealand in February last, carrying with him the respect and esteem of the inhabitants of the colony. On His Excellency's departure I assumed the office of Administrator of the Government, and for the fourth time in the history of the colony it has devolved upon the Administrator to deliver the opening speech to Parliament.

Despatches have been received announcing the appointment of the Earl of Ranfurly as Governor of New Zealand. His Excellency will shortly arrive in the colony, and be loyally and cordially welcomed as the representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,—

In the ordinary course of events, Parliament would have been summoned to meet in June next, and, as you are aware, supplies have been voted to the end of that month. Proposals for an extension of appropriation to a suitable date will be submitted for your consideration. A statement showing approximately the financial position of the colony will be placed before you.

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

My Advisers do not deem it expedient to bring before you any measures except such as are necessary to give effect to the wishes of the people of New Zealand that this colony should be worthily represented at the celebration of the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's memorable reign.

In order, however, to remove certain defects in the present law relating to the election of the Speaker of the Legislative Council, a Bill has been prepared and will be submitted for your consideration.

I trust that, with the blessing of God, the attendance of the leading colonial statesmen who have been invited to attend the celebration of the accomplishment of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign and take part in the discussion of subjects of interest to the Mother-country and her colonial possessions will redound to the glory of the Empire and to the credit of the colonies.