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THE Third Session of the Sixteenth 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 is with much pleasure that I again meet you in Parliament assembled.

During the year which has intervened between this and the last opening of Parliament, New Zealand has enjoyed in an increasing degree the blessings of widespread and solidly based prosperity. It is a matter for universal gratification that, judged by all the recognised tests of progress, wealth, population, and social improvement, New Zealand has advanced faster during the last ten years than during any previous decade of its history; and it is equally gratifying to note that the future promises a continuance of the prosperous times we at present enjoy.

I regret to say that since I last addressed you death has removed one of my advisers, the late Honourable Albert Pitt, who held the office of Attorney-General.

We have also to deplore the death of the late Honourable William M. Bolt and the Honourable Lancelot Walker, of the Legislative Council, and Mr. M. M. Kirkbride and Mr. E. M. Smith, of the House of Representatives, all of whom had rendered long and valuable services in the conduct of public affairs.

The last loss this colony has sustained is by the death of the late the Honourable Sir John Hall, K.C.M.G., one of the veterans of our public life who in the active days of his political career was a distinguished member of

both branches of the Legislature. He crowned his public life by occupying with conspicuous success the position of Prime Minister of this colony.

To fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Pitt's death, I summoned Dr. J. G. Findlay to the Legislative Council and appointed him Attorney-General and Colonial Secretary.

In the belief that a knowledge of the lands and harbours of the colony and its outlying islands is to some degree essential to a satisfactory discharge of the duties of His Majesty's representative, I have during the recess made an extended tour throughout the colony, and visited the Snares, Auckland Islands, Campbell Islands, Antipodes, Bounty Islands, and Chatham Islands. The general result of these visits has been to further reveal to me not only the extraordinary natural resources and advantages of this country, but the unfailing and universal loyalty of its people to His Majesty the King.

The earthquake catastrophes which lately occurred at Valparaiso and Jamaica roused much sympathy in New Zealand, and at the request of my Advisers I sent messages to that effect on behalf of our Government and people. I regret to say that the earthquake at Jamaica claimed as one of its victims the late Right Honourable Sir James Ferguson, a former Governor of New Zealand.

The Council of Defence provided for by "The Defence Act Amendment Act, 1906," has been set up, and my Advisers are of opinion that good results will follow from bringing the Volunteer officers into closer and more direct touch with Defence administration.

A squadron of H.I.M. the Emperor of Japan also visited New Zealand recently, and, it being the occasion of a visit of a squadron of our ally, the Admiral, his officers, and his men, were warmly welcomed, and treated with a kindness and hospitality worthy of our nation's traditions.

The year has been marked by two important conferences which have been held in London.

At the Conference of Prime Ministers of the self-governing over-sea dominions New Zealand was represented by Sir Joseph Ward. A full report of the proceedings will be placed before you. I agree with my Advisers that, although much that was attempted remains unachieved, yet much was accomplished in the best interests of the Empire.

On the important question of fiscal preference, the Imperial Government were unable to accept the proposals of the over-sea representatives. The subject, however, was fully and clearly discussed, and my Advisers are of opinion that the result will be for good in clearing the air and removing many prejudices and misunderstandings that as yet cloud the issue.

In treating the other matters brought forward, the Home Government showed every desire to co-operate in measures to promote Imperial unity, and, in particular, promised to give full consideration to the suggestions of my Prime Minister in favour of cheapening postal and telegraph rates, reducing the Suez Canal dues, and quickening steam communication between the United Kingdom and the over-sea dominions.

Amongst the matters agreed upon at the Conference, not the least important was that in the making of Imperial treaties and conventions the self-governing dependencies directly affected shall be consulted. In accordance with this principle, the British Government invited the Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth and New Zealand to nominate a British representative on an Anglo-French sub-convention then shortly to be held for the purpose of settling certain matters of detail under the existing New Hebrides Convention, and on the recommendation of my Prime Minister, the Solicitor-General of New Zealand, Dr. Fitchett, was appointed and acted.

The honours and attentions showered upon the visiting Prime Ministers give gratifying proof of the kindly feelings with which the over-sea dominions are regarded in the United Kingdom. In the case of Sir Joseph Ward, His Majesty caused him to be sworn in of his Privy Council; the Corporations of London, Manchester, Edinburgh, and Bristol admitted him to the freedom of their cities; and the Universities of Edinburgh and Dublin conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

As the outcome of discussions at the conference it is understood that the Imperial authorities will arrange that the self-governing dependencies will in future be administered separately from the Crown colonies. Inclusive of dependencies, there are no less than thirty-three colonies of the Crown.

In this connection it will, I am sure, be gratifying to you and our people generally to learn that, in compliance with representations made by Sir Joseph Ward, the British Government is prepared to advise His Majesty to raise the status of New Zealand by changing its designation from "Colony" to "Dominion," upon being requested so to do by resolution of Parliament. A motion to this effect will be submitted, and if carried the effect will be to place New Zealand in a higher position in the eyes of the world.

The New Zealand International Exhibition, which was opened on the 1st November last, was formally closed by me on the 15th April. The results have more than fulfilled expectations. The total attendance was nearly two millions, and my Ministers are satisfied that the net cost to the public treasury is more than compensated by the many direct and indirect advantages which New Zealand has gained by the undertaking. Quite irrespective of the direct financial receipts consequent on the influx of visitors and the Customs duties on exhibits sold, the Exhibition has served to bring into prominence the advantages and resources of New Zealand, and has also had a great educative influence in industry, science, and art.

The circumstances and position of New Zealand make—and will probably always make—our agricultural and pastoral interests the paramount concern of the whole community, and my Advisers feel that the already extensive machinery and functions of the Agricultural Department may be still further developed to the material benefit of our settlers by spreading more widely the most recent scientific knowledge in productive processes of all kinds of farming. To this end an experimental dairy school and other methods of instruction will be instituted, and two objects will be kept in view: first, that of insuring the highest grade of excellence in our products; and, secondly, that of protecting our farmers and the country generally against the injury resulting from inferior products being falsely sold as those of New Zealand.

The mining industry, in the widest meaning of the term, probably ranks second in importance to that of the agricultural and pastoral, and it is gratifying to know that it is progressing upon a solid and legitimate basis. The gold entered for exportation last year amounted to £2,270,904, being a large increase on that of the previous year's output. My Advisers will ask for authority to assist and promote on safe lines the development of this great industry, which in all its branches now gives employment to so many thousands of our people.

My Prime Minister also attended the Maritime Conference of delegates representing the shipping interests of the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth, and New Zealand. Full minutes of the proceedings will be laid before you, and from them you will see that many important subjects were discussed, and in some cases a satisfactory understanding was come to on points upon which difficulty and friction existed. My Advisers are pleased to find that the British shipowners had but little objection to urge against the New Zealand Shipping and Seamen's Act, or the manner in which the Marine Department administers it. In the comparatively few cases, however, where legislation is necessary in order to give effect to the resolutions of the conference, an amending Bill will be submitted for your consideration.

You will be asked to make further provision for workmen's homes, so that a smaller proportion of the wages earned by our city workers will have to be spent in rent.

The results of the last census have now been definitely ascertained. The population of New Zealand (excluding members of the Maori race) amounts to 888,579, showing a very satisfactory increase (115,859) over the census of 1901. The Representation Commission has considered the necessary redivision of electoral districts, and has forwarded to me its report, which will be presented to you.

Bills dealing comprehensively with the important question of our land system will be submitted to you at an early date.

The problem of how the State should deal with the vast areas of Native land in the North Island so as to open as much of it to European settlement as is consistent with the fullest regard to the interests of the Native owners has perplexed many past Administrations, and my Advisers, feeling that the first step to a permanent solution of this problem is a full and reliable knowledge of the facts and conditions involved, have, during the recess, advised me to appoint a Royal Commission, consisting of the Chief Justice and Mr. A. T. Ngata, M.H.R., and this Commission has accordingly been set up to investigate the land-requirements for maintenance of the Native owners and of the Native race throughout the colony, and also to ascertain what area of such Native land can, with full justice to the Native owners, be made available for European settlement. This Commission has been actively engaged in the pursuit of its duties for some months, and the result of its labours will be laid before you at an early date. It is proposed to introduce legislation, based upon the material supplied by the reports of this Commission, securing to the Native owners such land as they require, and making available for European settlement the surplus above these requirements.

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,—

The estimates of the revenue and expenditure for the year will be placed before you. They have been framed with a due regard both to efficiency and economy. The accounts show a very substantial surplus on the year's transactions, and so far this year the receipts are in excess of the corresponding period of last year.

My Advisers believe that a judicious system of reciprocal tariff treaties with other portions of the Empire will benefit, not only New Zealand, but the Empire generally. A provisional treaty has been entered into with South Africa, subject of course, to confirmation by Parliament, and will be submitted for consideration accordingly.

Whilst in London, my Prime Minister discussed with Sir Wilfrid Laurier the question of a tariff treaty between this country and Canada, and negotiations are now in progress, the results of which, if they take practical form, will be submitted to you in due course.

A vigorous promotion of closer settlement and energetic construction of the main railway-lines now in hand will be cardinal objects of the policy of my Advisers will work to secure the completion of the North Island Main Trunk Railway by the end of next year.

My Ministers are fully alive to the hardships of our settlers, especially of those in the backblocks, consequent upon want of access to their holdings. You will be asked to make liberal provision for the construction of roads, telephones, and such other conveniences as may render the good work done by these settlers less irksome and trying than it has been in the past.

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

My Advisers are of opinion that it will be a great benefit to the trading community if the Customs tariff were revised and simplified. A measure dealing with this matter will be submitted to you, and provision will be made for lightening taxation as far as possible on the necessaries of life.

My Advisers fully appreciate the necessity of procuring for the ranks of the Civil Service men of the best ability and qualifications. The good results which have been achieved in our Post and Telegraph Department by its scheme of classification has led my Advisers to prepare for submission to you an extension of the system to other branches of the Public Service. Proposals dealing with a superannuation scheme for the Civil Service have also received the careful consideration of Ministers, and will be submitted to you.

During the recess a Judge has been appointed under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of last year, and according to the terms of that Act he is devoting the whole of his time to the work of industrial disputes and other labour matters, with the result that the arrears existing at the time of his appointment will shortly entirely disappear. Some amendments supplying machinery necessary to the effective operation of the Act will be submitted.

My Advisers think that the time has arrived to extend the benefit of the Workers' Compensation for Accidents Act to those engaged in our industries, and a Bill will be submitted to you for this purpose, and also making more definite of ascertainment the compensation payable.

The discontinuance of the San Francisco mail-service has left New Zealand without an expeditious over-sea steam service to England. The necessity for this country maintaining a close association with the United Kingdom is keenly felt, and it is of the utmost importance to all classes of the community that this want should be remedied as early and as effectively as possible. My Advisers hope that a practical solution of the difficulty will be devised, and, in such event, proposals will be submitted for your consideration.

The development of our trade with other countries has been under the consideration of my Advisers, and they are earnestly seeking means of more cheaply reaching our best markets and of opening up and extending new markets for some of our largest products. The importance to our producers of being able to compete with the products of other lands makes cheap and expeditious means of transit all-important, and careful consideration has been given to this matter, and steps will be taken to further its objects.

The law relating to local bodies, especially in regard to their borrowing-powers, is uncertain and unsatisfactory, and a measure dealing with this and other branches of local government will be submitted to you in due course.

Bills dealing with the gambling evil, secret commissions, mental hospitals, fire brigades, shops and offices, pure foods, and other important matters, will be introduced.

I am satisfied you will bring to all the matters I have brought under your notice, and to other measures which are to be submitted to you, your earnest consideration and best judgment, and I trust that your labours and decisions may have God's blessing, resulting in still furthering the prosperity, happiness, and permanent well-being of the people of this colony as a whole.

The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem of the origin of life. It is shown that the problem is one of the most important and interesting in the history of science. The author discusses the various theories of the origin of life, and shows that the most plausible is the theory of spontaneous generation.

The second part of the paper is devoted to a detailed discussion of the theory of spontaneous generation. It is shown that this theory is based on the fact that life is a complex of many different parts, and that these parts are not all equally important. The author shows that the most important part of life is the cell, and that the cell is the basic unit of life.

The third part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the theory of evolution. It is shown that the theory of evolution is based on the fact that life is a process of change, and that the changes are not all equally important. The author shows that the most important change is the change from a simple cell to a complex organism.

The fourth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the theory of heredity. It is shown that the theory of heredity is based on the fact that life is a process of inheritance, and that the inheritance is not all equally important. The author shows that the most important inheritance is the inheritance of the cell.

The fifth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the theory of the origin of life. It is shown that the theory of the origin of life is based on the fact that life is a process of creation, and that the creation is not all equally important. The author shows that the most important creation is the creation of the cell.