

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuesday, the 30th Day of August, 1904.

Mr. MASSEY to move, as an amendment to the Rt. Hon. Mr. Seddon's motion to set up a Commission of Inquiry with regard to land settlement and tenure, that all the words after "that" be struck out, with a view to inserting the following:—

1. This House, as representing the people—

- (a.) Recognises the urgent necessity for reform in the land laws of the colony;
- (b.) Asserts its competency to devise remedial measures without the delay which would be occasioned by the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry; and
- (c.) Is therefore of opinion that it should be afforded an opportunity during the present session of passing the necessary legislation.

2. That, with a view to further encouraging and promoting settlement, giving more confidence to those occupying the lands, and removing causes of irritation, it is desirable—

- (a.) That tenants occupying Crown lands under lease in perpetuity who have complied with reasonable conditions shall be allowed the option of converting their leaseholds into freeholds, with limitation of area, and that all moneys so received shall be used for the purchase of further land under the Land for Settlements Act.
- (b.) That the conditions of occupation and residence shall be accommodated to the exigencies of pioneer settlement, and that the regulations governing the cultivation and management of land held under lease from the Crown shall be modified to suit climatic conditions and the characteristics of the soil.
- (c.) That the principle of the homestead provisions of "The Land Act, 1885," shall be embodied in the Land Act.
- (d.) That Parliament shall be given an early opportunity of deciding whether the constitution of Land Boards should be altered in the direction of securing the more effective representation of the views of Crown tenants.