



THE
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EXTRAORDINARY.

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THE Third Session of the nineteenth year of New Zealand was this day opened by the Governor-General. 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 pleasure I again meet you this day in the House of Representatives assembled.

In recognition of the services rendered to New Zealand since the outbreak of war and to mark the status of the Dominion, a signal mark of Royal favour has been recently bestowed by His Majesty the King of the dignity and title of General upon myself.

I regret to say that death has recently occurred of my Adviser, the late Honourable Dr. Robert McNab, who held the portfolios of Justice, Marine, and Stamps.

During the recess the course of the war has been definitely in favour of the Empire and its Allies. Our Royal Navy, true to its past history, is meeting new and difficult tasks as they arise with courage, resource, and success. It is specially gratifying to note that the transport of our regular reinforcements has proceeded without interruption, and happily without loss.

Imperial troops have exercised a constant pressure on our enemies, driving them from many elaborately prepared positions.

Bagdad, the old highway from the East to the West, is in the possession of British and Indian troops. This makes it possible in settling terms of peace to prevent developments on the part of our enemies designed to disturb our peace in the future.

The land Forces of His Majesty have as beyond the seas have been honoured with important tasks in the battlefields, and they have invariably proved that the quality of their training, their endurance, and discipline fitted them to fight beside their gallant Allies of the British Regular Army. The Battle of the Somme, the Battle of Bapaume, Vimy Ridge, and the recent storming of the lines at Messines and