

your deliberations simplified and facilitated by the experience they have gained not only in Great Britain but at the seat of war on the Western front.

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

You will find in the Public Accounts of the past year and the estimates for the present year proof that economy has been, and is being, exercised in every Department of the State.

The war expenses must of necessity increase, but this increased expenditure is essential to give effect to our determination that New Zealand shall bear her full part until victory is gained. In the present session you will be asked to determine what part of those expenses shall be met by loan raised within the Dominion.

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

The existence of a National Government prohibits the inclusion in the programme of legislation to be proposed to you by my Ministers of any measures other than such as are necessary to enable our country to carry out its obligation to assist in bringing the war to an early and successful conclusion. You will therefore be invited to devote your attention to legislation dealing with the present emergencies of this Dominion and of the Empire as a whole, and the provision of means to meet our financial obligations.

I trust that Divine Providence may guide your deliberations to the advantage of our Sovereign, of his Empire, and of this Dominion.