



THE
NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE
EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

WELLINGTON, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1918.

THE Fifth Session of the nineteenth Parliament of New Zealand was this day opened by the Governor-General, when His Excellency was pleased to make the following

SPEECH.

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

When I addressed you on the 9th April of the present year at the opening of last session the position of the allied armies on the western front was such as to give grave cause for anxiety. In that speech, after stating that the then present moment probably marked the crisis of the war in which the Empire had so long been engaged, I said, "We are well assured that the courage and endurance of our armies, now tried to the uttermost, will not fail in the present or the future. We have the record of the past three years to justify that confidence." Soon after the termination of that session the strategy of Marshal Foch and the splendid valour and endurance of the allied armies under his single command changed the course of the war from defence to continuous attack upon the enemy's positions, and thenceforward victory has followed victory until there has come first the unconditional surrender of Bulgaria and then urgent proposals for peace from the other enemy countries, while the Allies occupy large parts of Belgium and of France which for four years had been under the domination of Germany. In the operations on the western front our New Zealand Division has been constantly in action, and has given the Dominion renewed cause to be proud of our soldiers' record of courage and discipline. In the East also our mounted forces have had part in the wonderful series of successes by which the army under General Allenby's command has driven the enemy far beyond the bounds of Palestine.