



THE
NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE
 EXTRAORDINARY.

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WELLINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1918.

THE Fourth 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

S P E E C H .

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

The Imperial Government having informed the several Governments of the overseas Dominions and Dependencies of His Majesty's desire that an Imperial Conference and a meeting of the Imperial War Cabinet should be held in London during the present year, my Ministers have advised me to convene the present session of Parliament.

You will be invited to consider the proposal that my Prime Minister and Minister of Finance should represent New Zealand at the Imperial Conference and War Cabinet and to make provision for the financial requirements of the Dominion during their absence. During the present session the legislation to be proposed by my Ministers will be limited to the financial exigencies of the Dominion and such other matters as demand immediate attention consequent on war conditions.

A second session of Parliament will be convened later in the year, for the transaction of general business, and for the consideration of such legislation as may then be considered necessary in the public interest.

The present moment probably marks the crisis of the war in which the Empire has so long been engaged. The British Empire, with our Allies, is defending civilization and the liberties of the world against the tremendous efforts of an enemy whose victory would mean the triumph of unscrupulous tyranny. Our own brave soldiers stand with the men of the Mother-country and other portions of the Empire in the line which faces the enemy on the Western Front, as well as on other battlefields. 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.

I do not doubt that both branches of the Legislature, speaking and acting for the whole people of the Dominion, will join with my Government in their determination that still further effort on our part is necessary to ensure that New Zealand shall continue to assist, to the utmost limit of our resources of men and material, the Mother-country in the righteous war in which she is engaged.

I pray that Divine Providence may guide your deliberations.