



THE
NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE
 EXTRAORDINARY.

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THE Sixth 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,—

I last addressed you at the opening of your fifth session of the present Parliament on the 24th October, 1918. Though the victory of the Allies appeared to be assured, one only of our enemies, Bulgaria, had then laid down its arms and submitted to accept any terms which the Allies might dictate. From that date onward until the 12th November, 1918, when the news was received of the signing of the Armistice with Germany, our enemies in swift succession sued for peace. The invitation of the Imperial Government to this Dominion to send its representatives to the Conference constituted to determine the terms of peace to be imposed met with a ready response from both Houses of this Parliament, and my Prime Minister and Minister of Finance left immediately after the close of your last session to attend that Conference and to take a not unimportant part in the deliberations of that great assemblage of statesmen. You will be able to gather from papers which will be laid before you that New Zealand, with the other great self-governing Dominions of the British Empire, has been accorded a status by the Allied nations which marks the beginning of a new era in our national history.

Your present Parliament, the members of the House of Representatives for which were elected in the year 1914, a few months after the beginning of the Great War, would have in the ordinary course expired at the end of the year 1917. Its existence has been prolonged by statute until the end of this year, and therefore, with the exception of the occupation of German Samoa and of the despatch of the