

first Expeditionary Force to Egypt and Gallipoli, all the great events of the war specially affecting New Zealand have taken place during the existence of the present Parliament, which has been called upon to deal with the affairs of the Dominion under unexampled difficulties. By the extension at the wish of the Sovereign of my own term of office I have had the honour of being His Majesty's Representative during the whole period of the war, and, looking back with you over those years of trial, I feel that I may join you in the proud memory that this Dominion has never faltered in its determination to give and continue its support to the utmost of its power to the cause of the Empire, that no promise made by New Zealand to the Imperial Government remains unfulfilled by this Parliament and the Government of this Dominion, and that our soldiers have by their splendid courage, discipline, and conduct won a name for themselves and a place for New Zealand in the annals of the greatest of wars. I am sure you will join with me in the deepest sympathy with those whose sons and relatives have fallen, and with the many who have returned maimed and wounded to their homes. My Ministers recognize that the first duty of Government and of Parliament in the new era of peace is to the men who have fought for us and to the relatives of the men who have fallen in our service.

You will be invited at as early a date as possible, by resolution of both Houses, to ratify the treaty with Germany and to accept the mandate of the League of Nations for government and administration by New Zealand of that part of the Samoan Group which was formerly under German rule. My Ministers are confident that you will not fail to undertake the responsibilities which those provisions of the Treaty of Peace impose upon a mandatory Government, and they hope to be able to submit during your present session in statutory form the methods proposed for the establishment of a new scheme of government for those islands under the control of New Zealand.

During the past three years your legislation has been confined to urgent matters arising from the war and to minor amendments of existing general and local statutes. My Ministers recognize that, as there remain only four months of the life of the present Parliament, and as your session must therefore be of short duration, the legislation to be submitted for your consideration should be limited to matters of urgency which cannot be postponed for the consideration of the new Parliament. Although the work of repatriation and training of returned soldiers has proceeded smoothly and satisfactorily, the measures which you have passed in previous sessions providing for repatriation and for assistance to soldiers in various occupations, and especially for the acquisition of land for their settlement, have in some respects proved to be insufficient, and amendments of the existing laws on these subjects have been prepared and will be submitted to you. The Mortgages Extension Act and its amendments expire on the 31st of the present month and require immediate attention, and you will be asked to pass with as little delay as possible an Expiring Laws Continuance Act, which will extend the operation of those Acts for a further period. You will later be requested to consider an amending and consolidating Act continuing for a certain period the existing limitations upon the powers of mortgagees, and defining a time when these limitations may be safely removed. Bills amending the Government Railways Act, the labour laws, the Workers' Dwellings Act, the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act, the land laws, the Mining Act, the Coal-mines Act, the Chattels Transfer Act, the Post and Telegraph Act, and others have been prepared for your consideration.

You will doubtless be pleased to learn that the Lake Coleridge hydro-electric scheme continues to be a success. Steps are being taken to complete those works to enable the extension of the benefits throughout Canterbury. Initiatory steps are being taken in regard to the Mangahao and Arapuni schemes. The purchase of the Horahora plant and transmission-lines from the Waihi Gold-mining Company has been satis-