

factorily completed. The acquisition of the Horahora installation will enable the farmers of the Waikato and surrounding districts, and the boroughs and factories, to be supplied with electric power as soon as reticulation-lines can be erected.

New Zealand has not entirely escaped the unrest which is prevalent in many other countries of the world and which is the aftermath of the Great War, but I am confident that the good sense and industry of the citizens of the Dominion will more than counteract any attempts to spread the pernicious doctrines which have proved so mischievous in certain European countries.

The failure of supply of coal has caused my Government much anxiety during the recess, and my Ministers trust that you will find time sufficient to enable you to consider fully the position. The shortage has been due to two causes: Firstly, the reduction of the output from New Zealand mines; and, secondly, the difficulty of supplementing that supply by cargoes from Australia. There is now good ground for hope that one of the reasons which has prevented import from Australia may be shortly removed, but deficiency of shipping exists, and to a certain extent must for the present continue. My Ministers view with anxiety the conditions which leave this Dominion dependent upon sources of supply of coal from other countries. At the present moment the freezing-chambers are full of meat the property of the Imperial Government, on account of which millions of money have been paid by that Government, and every obligation of honour and duty requires that while such meat remains in store coal shall be supplied for the efficient continuous working of the freezing machinery. It has been found absolutely necessary to cut down the railway service to an extent which has caused great inconvenience to the public and loss to the industries of the Dominion. The loss of revenue consequent upon that reduction has been most serious, but that loss constitutes by no means the principal ground of the present anxiety of the Government. The supply for every household has been necessarily curtailed to a limit which has caused general inconvenience and considerable suffering during the winter months. My Ministers hope that some satisfactory basis of arrangement may be arrived at under which, by increasing the production of existing mines and opening new mines, the Dominion may become self-reliant in the provision of coal for its industries and its homes.

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

The sums granted by Parliament for repatriation and land-settlement of our soldiers have been found to be wholly insufficient to meet the requirements. My Ministers have felt that it is impossible to delay the process, and they have therefore in anticipation of your support expended moneys and entered into obligations largely in excess of the amounts authorized. My Ministers do not doubt that you will confirm that action and will grant the very large further supply which is necessary to enable the country to fulfil its obligations to the men of the Expeditionary Forces and to the relatives of those who died in our service. The public throughout the Dominion has united in the endeavour, by the cordiality of welcome to every transport carrying returned soldiers, to emphasize the general sentiment that what our soldiers have done for us demands in return from us the utmost that we can do for them. Such obligations cannot be met wholly from revenue, and my Ministers do not doubt that you will cheerfully grant them the borrowing-powers they will propose, and confer your authority to raise the necessary moneys.

With regard to the ordinary revenue and expenditure, you will find that the authority granted in your last session has enabled my Government to carry on the business of the country beyond the period when in ordinary years supply ceases. Fortunately both the collection of revenue and the expenditure on public services till a late day in the present month