



THE
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 EXTRAORDINARY.

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THE First Session of the Twentieth 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,—

I am glad that the extension of my term of office as Governor-General has enabled me to meet you at the opening of the first session of the twentieth Parliament of New Zealand.

The visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales to the Dominion has happily provided an occasion for a demonstration of loyalty to the Crown and of personal regard for the Sovereign and the Royal Family from the whole people of the Dominion. My Ministers desire to record that while arrangements were necessarily made for gatherings of school-children at every point of His Royal Highness' stay, no such arrangements were made for the assembly of the people generally. The great and orderly assemblies of the people at every place were entirely spontaneous, and their welcome everywhere to the Heir to the Throne was marked by an enthusiasm far beyond anything we are accustomed to witness in New Zealand. The Maori gathering at Rotorua afforded an equal opportunity for our fellow-subjects of the Native race to again demonstrate their loyalty to the Sovereign in a manner consonant with their customs and usages, and to repeat to the Prince the loyal welcome to which they had given expression on the occasion of the visit of the present King nineteen years ago.

Much of the undoubted success of the visit is due to His Royal Highness himself. From the moment of his first landing at Auckland his response to the great popular welcome won for him a personal regard and affection which will continue during the lives of all those who were privileged to meet him. Our soldiers, whom he claimed as his comrades of the war; the crowds of children, whom he delighted by his unaffected kindness and consideration to them; and the whole people, whose loyal greetings he never failed to recognize, will long bear in mind the visit which he himself has done so much to make memorable.

