



THE
NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE
 EXTRAORDINARY.

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THE Third Session of the Twenty-first 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 necessity for the attendance of my Prime Minister at the Imperial Conference and the Imperial Economic Conference in London last year, which had rendered it desirable to summon the General Assembly to meet at an earlier date than is customary, also led to the session closing before the usual time. In consequence, the recess has exceeded the normal period.

The resignation of His Majesty's Government, as the result of the General Election held shortly after the Imperial Conferences referred to, was followed by the accession to power of an entirely new Administration, which has in some important matters arrived at conclusions differing from the resolutions passed by those Conferences. However much they may regret this result, my Ministers recognize clearly that an Administration whose Prime Minister was not present, and which was not otherwise represented, at Imperial Conferences must necessarily be absolutely free to determine whether it will or will not support in Parliament resolutions passed at such Conferences. The policy of this Dominion which provides special preference to British Empire trade was adopted without request on our part for reciprocal treatment, and remains unaffected. My Ministers will propose an extension of that preference by an increase in the proportion of British production or manufacture which gives title to the advantage in Customs duties.

The Special Service Squadron of the Royal Navy, under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Field, received an enthusiastic welcome from the people of New Zealand. The presence in our waters of so large a number of His Majesty's ships, headed by the magnificent battle-cruiser "Hood," and the generous opportunity granted for public