

The subject of fishing rights in the interior waters of the Dominion has been under the consideration of my Government. Legislation is necessary to prevent the sale of such rights, whether in gross or as attached to riparian ownership, and especially to prevent the acquisition by persons not resident in the Dominion of power to exclude others from certain waters. A Bill having those objects will be laid before you. My Ministers anticipate that you may find it necessary to postpone finally settling the whole subject-matter pending special investigation into the nature and existence of the rights, but that you may consider it sufficient in the meantime to prohibit any such dealings.

In addition to the legislation to which I have made special reference, you will have submitted for consideration, along with other measures, Bills dealing with the Stamp Laws, the Chattels Security Acts, Motor-vehicles, Copyright, Public Works, Education, Defence, Local Bodies' Loans, War Funds, Police Offences, Public Debt Reduction.

My term of office as Governor-General of New Zealand will expire at the end of September next, and I shall be leaving the Dominion towards the end of November.

The severance of the ties which have, with ever-increasing strength bound me in close attachment to the people of New Zealand will cause me the deepest possible regret.

Our sojourn here has been a time of great interest and of unalloyed happiness to Her Excellency and myself.

As the representative of His Majesty, I have witnessed with the keenest satisfaction the spirit of fervent loyalty to the Throne and Empire which is so marked a characteristic of the people of New Zealand, and of which so many proofs have been given.

I have watched with great pleasure the increased production and the growth in trade of the Dominion, and the manner in which recovery from the aftermath of war has been effected is a subject for sincere congratulation.

The birth and development of the New Zealand Division of the Royal Navy during my term of office, and the high standard attained by the recruits entering the Service, have been of much interest to me as a Naval officer.

To the past and present members of the two Houses of the Legislature with whom I have been associated I beg to express my deep appreciation of their uniform courtesy and consideration, and I should like to take this opportunity also of voicing my warmest gratitude to the people of this Dominion for their exceeding kindness to Her Excellency, to myself, and to the members of our family.

The future prosperity of New Zealand and the welfare and happiness of its people will ever be matters of profound interest to me.

Finally, I express the earnest hope that Divine Providence may guide your deliberations and further the welfare of the people of the Dominion.