

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND GENTLEMEN
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,—

I note that the gross trade of the Dominion has been fairly well maintained in the past year, although the value of exports, owing to a fall in prices, does not balance favourably with imports, which show a substantial increase. I have no doubt, however, that with a realization of the position the adjustment of the trade balance will be gradually brought about.

My Ministers have arranged for the Dominion to be represented at the Toronto Exhibition in August next, thus recognizing the importance and desirability of inter-Empire trade and communication.

By arrangement with the Government, Sir Frank Heath, Secretary to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in England, visited New Zealand in February last to advise on the question of scientific organization for the assistance of primary and secondary industries. My Ministers have carefully considered the proposals contained in the report, and legislation in this connection will be submitted.

A measure dealing with the important subject of town-planning will be laid before you for consideration.

Bills will be submitted to you for the purpose of compiling and amending the existing law with regard to mining, hospitals and charitable institutions, and fire brigades.

A Bill will also be laid before you for the purpose of effecting improvements in the licensing law.

You will be asked to consider legislation designed to make better provision for University education in the Dominion. A comprehensive measure has been prepared on the lines suggested by the Royal Commission whose report was laid before you last year. It is intended to repeal all existing legislation relating to the University of New Zealand and its affiliated colleges, and to reconstitute the University as a federal University.

Other Bills will be laid before you dealing with amendments to the law relating to lands, dairy-produce export control, census and statistics, destitute persons, scenery-preservation, and other matters.

In commending these various matters to your consideration, I trust your deliberations will be directed by Divine Providence.

By Authority: W. A. G. SKINNER, Government Printer, Wellington.