

THE

NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE

EXTRAORDINARY.

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THE Second Session of the Twenty-third Parliament of New Zealand was this day opened by the Governor-General, when His Excellency was pleased to make the following statement of the causes of the calling of this Session of Parliament together:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,—

It is in a spirit of thankfulness that in the opening paragraph of my speech I am able to record the satisfactory recovery of the King from the serious illness from which His Majesty suffered throughout a long and anxious period. The citizens of this Dominion shared with the rest of the Empire—and, indeed, with other nations—in the feelings of pleasure and relief at His Majesty's return to good health.

In December next I shall have completed a term of five years in office, and I have received His Majesty's permission to leave the Dominion on the

1st February next year.

It is with great regret that Her Excellency and I see the time of our departure drawing near after these years of great interest and unalloyed happiness. From one and all we have received nothing but kindness and consideration, and the friendly and generous way in which we have been welcomed on our journeys through the country will remain a happy memory for all time. Among the most pleasant of our recollections will be those of our relations with the people of the Maori race.

During our stay in the Dominion all sections of the people have made us feel at home among them, and I take this opportunity of expressing to them our sincere gratitude. We shall try in some measure to repay our debt to them by studying and promoting the interests of the Dominion at Home; and our most earnest desire will be that happiness, peace, and prosperity may ever be

vouchsafed to New Zealand and her people.