



THE
NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE
 EXTRAORDINARY.

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THE Third 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,—

The past year has been happily marked by the restoration to health of His Majesty the King, whose recovery from his serious illness has given his subjects throughout the Empire the deepest gratification.

I desire to express my pleasure in meeting you in Parliament assembled for the first time since my assumption of the office of Governor-General of New Zealand, and to assure you not only of the deep interest with which I shall follow your proceedings, but also of my earnest desire to co-operate with you in every way possible in your efforts to advance the prosperity of this Dominion and the welfare, contentment, and happiness of its people.

The spirit of loyalty, which I have found strikingly in evidence during my visits to several of the principal centres of population, has impressed me profoundly. By none has that spirit been more fervently demonstrated than by the Maori race, and I acknowledge with deep appreciation the loyal and cordial welcome which they have extended to me as the King's Representative. I am indeed much gratified and encouraged in the task which lies before me by the kindly reception which has been accorded to me by those of His Majesty's subjects, without distinction of class, occupation, or race, whom I have been privileged to meet since my arrival in New Zealand three months ago.

On the 22nd May last the Right Honourable Sir Joseph Ward, on account of ill health, tendered to me his resignation as Prime Minister and also the resignations of his Ministerial colleagues. On his advice I entrusted the Honourable George William Forbes with the formation of a Ministry. Mr. Forbes was appointed Prime Minister on the 28th May, and the Ministry was duly sworn in on that date. At the same time Sir Joseph Ward was confirmed in his membership of the Executive Council, and in this capacity his advice and counsel will still be available to the country.