



THE
NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE
 EXTRAORDINARY.

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THE Fifth 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 affords me much pleasure to meet you again at the opening of another session of Parliament. During my visits to various parts of the Dominion since I assumed the office of Governor-General I have been impressed by the deep-seated loyalty of the people of this Dominion and gratified by the kindly welcome to myself.

The deliberations on constitutional questions of the Imperial Conference of 1930 resulted in the preparation of a draft Statute of Westminster to clarify the constitutional position and the powers of His Majesty's Governments in the United Kingdom and in the Dominions. It is proposed that this Statute should be passed by the Parliament of Westminster on the receipt of approving resolutions from the Parliament of each Dominion, and a suitable resolution will be placed before you for that purpose during this session. My Prime Minister believed himself to be interpreting the general view on this question in taking the position at the Conference that no desire existed in this Dominion for any alteration of its present constitutional position. In view, however, of the general desire of other Dominions for a formal recognition of alterations in their status and of the requirement that the necessary enabling legislation must be approved by the Parliament of each Dominion, my Ministers are of the opinion that the best interests of the British Commonwealth of Nations would be served by the approval of the draft Statute of Westminster, which will in any case, notwithstanding such a resolution, have no application to this Dominion until legislation applying it thereto has been passed by the New Zealand Parliament.

The failure of the Imperial Conference to arrive at any effective conclusion on the economic policy of the British Commonwealth, and the reference