

The inadequacy of existing legislation to regulate efficiently commercial road transport has been particularly emphasised during the present financial depression, and proposals will be placed before you with the object of providing suitable administrative machinery with this object, and especially to bring about, in the public interest, closer operating relationship with the national railway system. The financial loss which has occurred in railway-working has been in a large measure caused by an overlapping in transport facilities. Moreover, the unrestricted use of our road system is continuing to impose heavy burdens on the country ratepayers, and thus accentuating their financial difficulties. My Advisers are confident that their proposals, which in many respects have been framed on similar lines to those adopted in other countries, will effect considerable national economies without imposing hardship on any section of the community.

Consequent upon the destruction by earthquake and fire of the records of the Land Registry Offices at Napier, an amendment of the Land Transfer Act will be introduced to provide for the reconstruction of the Land Transfer Register for the Hawke's Bay District. A Building Construction Bill will also be introduced, imposing on local authorities an obligation to make by-laws for the design and construction of buildings, with a view to securing a better degree of resistance against earthquake.

Bills will also be laid before you dealing with air-navigation, defence, public works, hospital and charitable institutions, rural intermediate credit, trading-coupons, the National Provident Fund, and other subjects.

The various matters to which I have referred are commended to your careful consideration, and I earnestly pray that with Divine guidance your deliberations may promote the happiness and prosperity of the people of this Dominion.

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