



THE
NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE
 EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

WELLINGTON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1932.

THE First Session of the Twenty-fourth Parliament of New Zealand was on the twenty-third day of February opened by Commissioners under the authority of Letters Patent, and His Excellency was this day 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,—

In conformity with the advice of my Ministers, I have summoned this special session of the new Parliament owing to the abnormal financial and economic position of the Dominion.

At the general election my Government, in inviting an expression of the country's confidence, appealed for unfettered authority in the existing emergency to adopt such measures for meeting it as circumstances might from time to time appear to justify. Since then Ministers have devoted their earnest attention to the difficult and complex problems confronting the Dominion, and suitable legislation will be submitted for your consideration.

A General Disarmament Conference under the auspices of the League of Nations is now meeting at Geneva, at which this Dominion is represented by its High Commissioner. It is earnestly hoped that this Conference may lead to an effective reduction in world armaments.

My Government view with deep regret the recent disturbance of peaceful relations between China and Japan—two nations with whom New Zealand has long enjoyed friendly commercial intercourse. They trust that the efforts of Great Britain and the other Powers to effect reconciliation and peace may be fraught with success.

An Imperial Economic Conference is to meet at Ottawa in July next. My Ministers attach the utmost importance to this Conference, the deliberations of which, they are convinced, will have a profound and lasting effect upon the economic welfare of the British Empire, and they are now engaged in taking the preliminary steps necessary to ensure the adequate representation of this Dominion and the due presentment of its views on Imperial trade.