

THE

NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE

EXTRAORDINARY.

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THE Fifth Session of the Twenty-fourth 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 Members of the House of Representatives,—

This year His Majesty the King completed twenty-five years of selfless devotion to the exalted duties of his high office, and in every portion of the British Commonwealth of Nations His Majesty's Silver Jubilee was celebrated with spontaneous and sincere demonstrations of affection and loyalty. In New Zealand, where loyalty to the Crown and to the Sovereign personally is heartfelt and universal, the Jubilee Celebrations evoked especial enthusiasm in every city, town, and village of the Dominion. It was my privilege, and indeed one of my first public duties as Governor-General of this Dominion, to preside over the official ceremony of celebration and of thanksgiving by which the occasion was marked in the capital city.

My Prime Minister, with the Prime Ministers of other portions of the British Commonwealth of Nations, represented this Dominion at the Jubilee Celebrations in London, and performed the happy function of conveying to His Majesty and to Her Majesty the Queen an expression of the loyal affection of the Government, the Parliament, and the people of New Zealand, both Maori and pakeha.

In December of last year the Dominion was honoured by a visit from His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester. His Royal Highness was the third of His Majesty's sons to visit New Zealand, and the warmth of the welcome extended to him in all parts of the country served once again to demonstrate the attachment of the people of this Dominion to Their Majesties and the Royal Family.

This is the first occasion upon which I have had the honour of meeting you in Parliament assembled, and the occasion is one which affords me the greatest pleasure. I have been greatly touched by the very warm welcome that has everywhere been extended to me and to Her Excellency since we first set foot