



THE
NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE
EXTRAORDINARY.

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THE Fourth Session of the Twenty-sixth 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,—

The gravity of the situation that has this week developed in the Pacific has, in the opinion of my Advisers, made it necessary that you should be called together at very short notice, in order that my Ministers may lay before you an account of the position as it has arisen and of the steps that they have taken and will feel it necessary to take in the immediate future.

In the Middle-East theatre of war New Zealand troops have played a full and noble part in the struggle now in progress. The New Zealand Division bore the brunt of the fighting during the early stages of the battle and met the full fury of the concentrated German and Italian armoured divisions. The casualties must inevitably be heavy, and my Ministers know that all sections of the community will join in the deepest sympathy with those who are afflicted or bereaved.

Negotiations between the Governments of the United States of America and of Japan, undertaken by the United States Government in the hope that it might still be possible to establish in the Pacific, by agreement with the Japanese, those principles of law, order, and international fair dealing which the United States, no less than the British Commonwealth and its Allies, are determined to uphold, were brought to a tragic conclusion this week. While conversations in Washington were still proceeding, the Japanese, by treacherous attacks on the great American Naval Base at Pearl Harbour, on Malaya, the Philippines, Hong Kong, and other British and American territories, have unmasked their real intentions.