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THE Third Session of the Thirtieth 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 MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,—

I welcome this, my first opportunity of addressing you in Parliament assembled and of acknowledging at the same time the honour conferred on me by the Queen in appointing me to the high and responsible office as Her Majesty's representative in New Zealand. My wife and I, with our family, look forward with great pleasure to the privilege of living and working amongst the people of this loyal outpost of our great British family of Nations. Since our arrival we have had the opportunity of meeting large numbers of people, including many members of the Maori race, and we have been deeply moved by the warmth and cordiality of the welcome extended to us. It is a source of special pleasure to me that I am able to renew my earlier association with members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force formed during the course of the North African campaign. It is my earnest hope that I may, by God's will, be able to assist in promoting the welfare of this country and its people.

On 25 March we learned, with profound sorrow, of the death of Queen Mary, for whom we all had the strongest feelings of affection and admiration. Throughout her long life she was unfailing in her devotion to the British peoples, and she will always be revered for the highest example of service which she set before us all.

The people of New Zealand and of its island territories look forward with joyous expectation to the historic event, now less than two months away, when our beloved Queen Elizabeth the Second will be crowned in Westminster Abbey. This will be a time when the ties that bind our family of nations together will be renewed and strengthened. We pray that Divine Providence will ever guide the Queen in the discharge of the manifold duties and responsibilities which, as head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty has been called upon to bear so early in life.