



THE New Zealand Gazette EXTRAORDINARY

Published by Authority

WELLINGTON, TUESDAY, 12 JANUARY 1954

THE Fourth Session of the Thirtieth Parliament of New Zealand was this day opened by Her Majesty the Queen, when Her Majesty 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,—

It is with a feeling of real satisfaction that I speak to you, the elected representatives of the people of New Zealand, as your Queen, and that I exercise my prerogative of opening the fourth session of this thirtieth Parliament.

This is the first occasion on which it has been possible for your Sovereign to exercise this high function in person in New Zealand. I know how much my father, with his intense devotion to his people, would have valued this historic privilege, of which his ill health so tragically deprived him. My constant prayer is that I may, in some measure, carry on that ideal of service of which he gave so outstanding an example.

The tragic disaster which occurred at Tangiwai on Christmas Eve has cast its shadow over us all, and I have experienced the most profound sadness and grief at the loss suffered by my people on that occasion. My husband and I feel most deeply for you all, and we have shared your sorrow with full hearts. Our sympathy goes out to those who were bereaved by this terrible event, and we pray that they may have courage and faith to sustain them in their loss.

In addressing this Assembly, I feel especially conscious of the community of spirit which exists among the Parliaments of our Commonwealth. Our association of nations and peoples, united in the possession of common traditions and ideals, can fairly lay claim to greatness; and I can think of no greatness more worthy of respect than that symbolized by a firm faith in the strength of parliamentary institutions and the rights of man.