

In Western Samoa significant constitutional changes provided for in the Samoa Amendment Act 1959 came into effect on 1 October, when the Honourable Fiaame Mata'afa assumed office as the Trust Territory's first Prime Minister. My Government, after consultations with the United Nations and the Samoan leaders, expects Western Samoa to achieve independence at the end of 1961.

The new refrigerated vessel, the *Moana Roa*, has been launched and should assist greatly in the economic development of the Cook Islands. You will be asked to consider a Bill to make certain amendments to the Cook Islands Act.

My Government has pressed forward its plan to maintain full employment and the standards of living of an increasing population. It has been particularly concerned to promote a balanced geographical pattern of industrial promotion. Proposals for the long-term development of the Chatham Islands are under consideration.

You will be asked to consider two Bills which will be of substantial benefit to the economy. One will authorise the construction of the Nelson-Blenheim railway. The other will validate and make provision for carrying out an agreement with Consolidated Zinc Proprietary Ltd. of Australia for the use of the water resources of Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau and of the Waiau and Mararoa Rivers to generate power for the development of industry.

The programme for the supply of electricity is under constant review. Works in hand are being pursued vigorously, planning has been put on to a definite basis, and every effort is being made to discover new sources of power. You will be asked to consider legislation to amend the State Supply of Electrical Energy Act.

My Government has set up a Committee of the National Parks Authority to work with the Ministry of Works and the Electricity Department in the overall planning of essential works. You will be asked to consider legislation to place a substantial area of scenic reserves under the control of the National Parks Authority.

The tenders for the Cook Strait rail-sea ferry are being examined and it is expected that construction will start before the end of the present year.

The report of the Committee of Inquiry set up last year to study the future development of the West Coast will receive the earnest attention of my Ministers. Measures have been taken to expand the market for coal. My Government has welcomed the active search for oil in New Zealand.

In the great majority of New Zealand's industries relations between employers and employees have continued to be good. The high incidence of industrial accidents, on the other hand, is still giving cause for concern and my Ministers are intensifying measures to promote safety at work. Prompt action last winter held unemployment in check and avoided the substantial problems met in other countries. You will be asked to consider legislation to amend the Apprentices Act, the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, the Workers' Compensation Act, the Police Offences Act, and also legislation concerning the removal of political disabilities.

The re-equipment and reorganisation of the Armed Services is proceeding. One new Whitby class frigate for the Royal New Zealand Navy will arrive in New Zealand early next year and a second vessel later in 1961. No. 14 Squadron of the Royal New Zealand Air Force will this year become operational as a light bomber squadron, equipped with Canberra aircraft.

The enlistment of the voluntary Territorial Force has proceeded at an encouraging rate and the development of the Regular Force, with particular emphasis on operational units, has been continued. The 2nd Battalion of the New Zealand Regiment moved to Malaya last year to relieve the 1st Battalion after its two-year tour of duty. Consideration is being given to the reorganisation of the Field Force of the New Zealand Army to increase its mobility and operational effectiveness.