

1916.
NEW ZEALAND.

DESPATCHES

FROM THE GOVERNOR OF NEW ZEALAND TO THE SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

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No. 1.

New Zealand, No. 65.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 1st April, 1915.

With reference to your despatch, No. 12, of the 8th January, in which you express a desire, on behalf of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that no sale or chartering of prize ships of over 1,000 tons should take place in New Zealand without prior reference to His Majesty's Government, I have the honour to inform you that my Ministers have taken note of the request, and that they will act in accordance therewith.

I have &c.,
LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. Lewis V. Harcourt, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

No. 2.

New Zealand, No. 73.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 24th April, 1915.

In reply to your despatch, No. 51, of the 5th February, I have the honour to inform you that the Government of New Zealand concur in the proposal of His Majesty's Government to renew the existing arbitration treaty between Great Britain and the Netherlands.

I have, &c.,
LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. Lewis V. Harcourt, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

No. 3.

New Zealand, No. 75.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 24th April, 1915.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 5th February, No. 45, inquiring on behalf of the Board of Trade whether any action has been or is likely to be taken on the report of the Shipping Companies' Freights and Charges Committee, which was laid before the New Zealand Parliament in October, 1914.

2. The Prime Minister, to whom I referred your despatch, has sent me the following information on the subject:—

(a.) *Increase of Freights*.—No action has been taken on this subject up to the present, the Government being of the same opinion as the Committee—namely, that the increased charge is to some extent justified, but that the increment should be withdrawn as soon as the conditions again become normal.

(b.) *Hemp Industry*.—Fortunately the prices obtained for New Zealand hemp have advanced so largely during the last few months that they are now considerably higher than before the war. There is consequently no pressing necessity for governmental action in the direction of assisting this industry. The New Zealand Trade Representative in Canada was, however, asked some time ago to look carefully into the question of whether the issue of a circular to possible users of New Zealand hemp in Canada would be likely to produce good results, and a reply on this point is expected at any time.

(c.) *Ships for Export Trade*.—The Government has conducted extensive negotiations with the Imperial Government, and also with the Governments of Australia and Canada, with a view to obtaining as many ships as possible—especially those with refrigerated cargo-space—for carrying the export trade from this Dominion. Arrangements were made for the discharge of certain steamers in Egypt in order that they might return thence direct to New Zealand. This Government has also borne part of the cost of bringing some steamers to this Dominion in ballast instead of waiting for return freight.

The Imperial Government was asked to detain New Zealand ships for as short a period as possible, and to in every way facilitate their return to this Dominion. The Australian Government was requested to abstain from requisitioning ships that would otherwise be available for New Zealand traffic; and in many other directions efforts have been put forth to enable our export trade to be carried on with the least possible interruption. The result of these endeavours has been that, although there is at the present time a considerable shortage of steamers, there has never at any time been a really serious interruption to the trade, and it is expected that within two or three months normal conditions in respect of freight space will have been resumed.

(d.) *Export of Cheese.* The action indicated in the previous paragraph has applied to some extent to the cheese industry, with the result that at no time has there been a serious interruption of the export of this commodity.

(e.) The question of establishing a permanent Board of Inquiry regarding the industries and commerce of New Zealand will, it is expected, be submitted to Parliament during the coming session.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

Governor.

The Right Hon. Lewis V. Harcourt, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 4.

New Zealand, No. 86.

SIR,

Government House, Wellington, 14th May, 1915.

With reference to your despatches, Nos. 46, of the 4th February, and 72, of the 18th February, on the subject of copyright, I have the honour to state that the Prime Minister desires that you should be informed that, as on the issue of the further Proclamation by the President of the United States of America British subjects in this country appear to be entitled to the full benefits of the United States' Copyright Acts, it is proposed to make a similar Order in Council (in the form enclosed) to the Imperial Order in this matter, providing protection within New Zealand for the unpublished works of citizens of the United States of America.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

Governor.

The Right Hon. Lewis V. Harcourt, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 5.

New Zealand, No. 89.

SIR,

Government House, Wellington, 14th May, 1915.

With reference to your despatch, No. 300, of the 25th August, 1911, on the subject of the uniformity of the law throughout the Empire with regard to patents, trade-marks, &c., I have the honour to inform you, at the request of my Prime Minister, that the New Zealand Government are giving consideration to the question of the provision of means for securing protection for new varieties of plants and similar productions.

2. The Prime Minister states that it will be readily understood that the improvement or development of plants, &c., is of great importance to this Dominion, and that the Government are anxious to do everything they can to promote efforts being made in that direction.

3. The matter does not appear to my Government to come within the present scope of the patent law, as the crossing of plants and similar operations hardly amount to invention according to the recognized meaning of that word. It does not seem to be advisable to alter or modify in any way the interpretation of the word by legislation, but possibly some extension of the law is feasible, such, for instance, as in the direction of the provision for the grant of what

are known in some countries as “petty patents” for matter which, while involving skill and ingenuity leading to a useful result, hardly come within the definition of “invention.”

4. The Prime Minister would be glad to learn whether any question of the kind referred to has been considered by His Majesty's Government, and would appreciate an expression of your views on the subject.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

Governor.

The Right Hon. Lewis V. Harcourt, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 6.

New Zealand, No. 99.

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 8th June, 1915.

With reference to my telegram of the 4th May and to previous telegraphic correspondence relative to contributions made by the people of this Dominion to the various war funds, I have the honour to inform you that the undermentioned amounts have been contributed in New Zealand during the month of May, and have been remitted by cablegram through the High Commissioner for New Zealand:—

To His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales's Fund	£	s.	d.
697	8	8	
New Zealand's monthly contribution for the relief of the poor in Belgium	15,000	0	0
To the National Committee for Relief in Belgium	4,226	4	4
To St. John Ambulance Brigade, London—			
For immediate use in assisting wounded New-Zealanders	500	0	0
For providing tobacco and cigarettes for the New-Zealanders in the various hospitals	100	0	0
To fund for relief of wounded New-Zealanders at Malta	450	0	0
To fund for comforts of wounded New-Zealanders in England	250	0	0
To fund for comfort of New Zealand wounded in Egypt, Malta, or elsewhere	25	0	0
For Miss Maunder's Hospital at Rouen	57	18	6
To the respective Ministers of Montenegro and Serbia in such proportion as the relative necessity of each nation demands	500	0	0
To the Minister of Serbia	100	0	0
To the Belgian Legation—Belgian Refugee Food Fund	500	0	0
For British relief purposes	35	18	7
For relief of Belgians in England	150	0	0
The following contributions, made in February and March, of which notification has not previously been sent to you, will be remitted to the High Commissioner within the next week, namely—			
To Belgian Relief Fund	3,373	0	8
To British Relief Fund	727	1	11

£26,692 12 8

2. These amounts represent cash contributions only, and do not include the values of gifts in kind.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

No. 7.

New Zealand, No. 100.

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 8th June, 1915.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your predecessor's despatch, No. 168, of the 7th April, on the subject of the regulations made on the 27th January, 1914, under the Immigration Restriction Acts.

2. In reply to the inquiry contained in the despatch referred to, I beg to state that my Ministers inform me as follows:—

The regulations under the Immigration Restriction Act, dated 23rd March, 1911, were repealed on the 27th January, 1914, for the following reasons:—

(1.) It was found that claims were being made to have children of primary-school age admitted as students, with the object of having them educated at the expense of the State for the purpose of finally passing the education test and remaining permanently in New Zealand.

(2.) The concession granted by the regulations of the 23rd March, 1911, was not taken advantage of by any genuine students accredited by the Chinese Government, or by any Chinese who wished to enter New Zealand for the purpose of studying political or social conditions.

Persons duly accredited by the Chinese Government who are genuine students and who wish to visit New Zealand for the purpose of studying social, political, or other questions will still be admitted under the powers conferred by section 13 of the Immigration Restriction Act, 1908, as amended by section 3 of the amending Act of 1910.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

No. 8.

New Zealand, No. 106.

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 11th June, 1915.

With reference to your predecessor's despatch, No. 574, of the 17th December last, with regard to the adoption in the constituent parts of the Empire of reciprocal legal provisions in the interests of deserted wives and children, my Ministers desire me to inform you that the Government of New Zealand concur in the principle of the Bill, a copy of which accompanied the despatch under reply, and that they will be prepared to introduce reciprocal legislation in this Dominion.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

No. 9.

New Zealand, No. 108.

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 11th June, 1915.

With reference to the request made in the concluding paragraph of your predecessor's despatch, No. 123, of the 12th March, on the subject of the system and form of passports, I have the honour to inform you, at the request

of my Prime Minister, that the Government of New Zealand will adopt the form of passport issued by the Foreign Office, a specimen of which accompanied the despatch under reference.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor

No. 10.

New Zealand, No. 114.

SIR, — Government House, Wellington, 23rd June, 1915.

At the instance of my Prime Minister, I have the honour to inform you that Mr. Robert Gall, of the firm of Messrs. Landale and Clark (Limited), Calcutta, has consented to act as Honorary New Zealand Representative in India, and that he has been appointed accordingly.

2. The Prime Minister would be obliged if a notification of this appointment could be conveyed to the Government of India.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

No. 11.

New Zealand, No. 121.

SIR, — Government House, Wellington, 26th June, 1915.

I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copies of the *New Zealand Gazette* containing a copy of the Speech with which, on the 25th June, 1915, I opened the First Session of the Nineteenth Parliament of New Zealand.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

No. 12.

New Zealand, No. 122.

SIR, — Government House, Wellington, 7th July, 1915.

With reference to my despatch, No. 121, of the 26th June, forwarding copies of the Governor's Speech at the opening of Parliament, I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copies of the Address in Reply from the House of Representatives and the Legislative Council respectively.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

No. 13.

New Zealand, No. 149.

SIR, — Government House, Wellington, 6th August, 1915.

I have the honour to transmit to you four copies of each of the following Acts recently passed by the Parliament of New Zealand:—

War Regulations Amendment Act, 1915.

Suspension of Disqualification during War Act, 1915.

Regulation of Trade and Commerce Amendment Act, 1915.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

No. 14.

New Zealand, No. 150.

SIR, — Government House, Wellington, 14th August, 1915.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your predecessor's ^{A.—2, 1915,} ^{No. 10.} despatch, No. 199, of the 20th April, forwarding a copy of a letter from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries relative to the restrictions imposed by the various Governments of the Empire, and by the Government of New Zealand in particular, in connection with the importation of live-stock from the United Kingdom.

2. My Ministers desire me to state that the points raised in the Board's letter have received their careful attention.

3. The Government of New Zealand recognize the desirability of some common line of action, but they do not at present feel justified in concurring entirely in the course proposed by the Board, though they fully appreciate the completeness and effectiveness of the steps taken in Great Britain to stamp out the outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease. The freedom of New Zealand from most of the serious infections and contagious diseases affecting live-stock provides, in the opinion of my Ministers, a very strong incentive for ensuring its maintenance.

4. The proposal put forward by the Board, that the subject might with advantage be discussed at the next Imperial Conference, is considered a good one, and the Government of New Zealand accordingly concur in the suggestion.

5. The criticism offered by the Board as to the severity of New Zealand's present restrictions has been noted, and consideration is being given to the question of immediately modifying them in certain directions. The decision of the Government, when arrived at, will be notified by the High Commissioner for New Zealand to shippers of live-stock and other interested persons in the United Kingdom.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

Governor.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 15.

New Zealand, No. 151.

SIR, — Government House, Wellington, 14th August, 1915.

With reference to the Marquis of Ripon's despatch, "General," of the 2nd August, 1894, relative to the conditions under which members of the Executive Councils of His Majesty's Dominions may be permitted to retain the title "Honourable," I have the honour to recommend, at the instance of my Prime Minister, that the name of Mr. Robert Heaton Rhodes may be submitted to His Majesty the King for the retention of the above-mentioned title.

2. On the formation of the National Government on the 6th August last Mr. Rhodes resigned the portfolios with which he was entrusted in July, 1912, and he has consequently ceased to be a member of the Executive Council of this Dominion.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

Governor.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 16.

New Zealand, No. 154.

SIR, — Government House, Wellington, 18th August, 1915.

With reference to my despatch, No. 99, dated the 8th June, I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying statement of contributions by the Government and people of New Zealand to various war funds during June of this year, the total amount having been cabled to the High Commissioner for this Dominion in London in July for distribution.

2. The amounts shown on the statement do not include many other cash contributions which have been distributed other than through the High Commissioner, nor do they include the value of gifts in kind.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

Enclosure.

LIST OF NEW ZEALAND CONTRIBUTIONS TO WAR FUNDS FOR JUNE, 1915.

	£	s.	d.
To the National Committee for Relief in Belgium—			
Monthly contribution from New Zealand Government	15,000	0	0
From Otago	4,000	0	0
From Wairarapa	400	0	0
From Westland Belgian Relief Committee	5,000	0	0
From Christchurch Branch, Poor of Great Britain, Ireland, and Belgian Relief Fund	5,000	0	0
To the Minister of Serbia and Montenegro jointly: From Wairarapa Committee...	500	0	0
To the Minister of Serbia: From various contributors throughout the Dominion...	467	11	9
To the Minister of Montenegro: From various contributors throughout the Dominion	5	8	0
For comforts for New Zealand wounded soldiers—			
From Wairarapa Committee	65	0	0
From <i>Otago Daily Times</i>	2,478	12	6
From various contributors throughout the Dominion	192	17	6
For comforts for New Zealand wounded soldiers at the Dardanelles: From Kia Toa Hockey Club, Dannevirke	120	10	0
For comforts for New Zealand wounded soldiers in Egypt: From A. W. Fullerton-Smith, Marton	20	0	0
For comforts for New Zealand wounded soldiers in Egypt and Malta: From Lawrence Patriotic Committee	14	10	6
For cigarettes and tobacco for New Zealand wounded: From Wanganui Citizens' Committee	60	0	0
For relief of our Allies, at discretion of High Commissioner: From Southland Farmers' Union	200	0	0
To Widows and Orphans in England Fund: From Te Kuiti Patriotic League	21	8	0
For relief of Belgians in England: From <i>Evening Star</i> , Dunedin	147	0	0
For Belgian orphaned children in England: From <i>Evening Star</i> , Dunedin	3	0	0
For British and Belgian relief: From various contributors throughout the Dominion	32	17	0
For the Prince of Wales's Fund—			
From Patea Patriotic League	643	6	3
From various contributors throughout the Dominion	205	1	0
For British Wounded Fund: From Wanganui British Food Fund	6	10	0
For British Food Fund: From Wanganui British Food Fund	103	2	8
For Polish Relief Fund: From Lawrence Patriotic Committee	2	6	6
For British Trawlers Relief Fund: From Wanganui British Food Fund	3	0	0
For Queen Mary's Fund: From Wanganui British Food Fund	2	2	6
For payment to Headquarters, Red Cross Society, London—			
From Fairlie-Mackenzie County	220	0	0
From Ashburton Borough Council	25	0	0
For payment to British Red Cross Fund for Wounded Soldiers and Sailors: From Tariki Horticultural Society	73	12	10
For King Albert's Orphan Fund: From Auckland Belgian Relief Association	5,000	0	0
Total	£40,312	17	0

No. 17.

New Zealand, No. 155.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 18th August, 1915.

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the importation into the United States of America of meat and meat products from this Dominion, I have the honour to state that I am informed by my Prime Minister

that under the regulations relating thereto it is necessary to forward to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, the names of officers authorized to sign inspection certificates covering meat intended for export from this Dominion to the United States. The regulations referred to require, in addition, that specimens of the signatures of officers authorized to sign such certificates shall also be submitted.

2. The Prime Minister has accordingly forwarded to me the names of Messrs. W. C. Barry and H. W. Carbury, Ms.R.C.V.S., officers of the New Zealand Department of Agriculture, and desires that you will be so good as to cause these names to be submitted to the United States Government, and that you will transmit at the same time the attached autographs and rubber-stamp impressions of their signatures, in triplicate, in order that the officers mentioned may be able to sign the certificates required by the United States Department of Agriculture.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL

Governor.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 18.

New Zealand, No. 157.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 18th August, 1915.

With reference to my despatch, No. 149, of the 6th August, I have the honour to transmit to you four copies of each of the undermentioned Acts of the Parliament of New Zealand:—

War Pensions Act, 1915.

Trading with the Enemy Amendment Act, 1915.

Enemy Contracts Act, 1915.

Expiring Laws Continuance Act, 1915.

Crimes Amendment Act, 1915.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

Governor.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 19.

New Zealand, No. 159.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 18th August, 1915.

I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copies of the Civil List Amendment Act, 1915, recently passed by the Parliament of New Zealand.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

Governor.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 20.

New Zealand, No. 160.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 18th August, 1915.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 314, of the 16th June, transmitting a copy of a letter, dated 10th June, from the National Health Insurance Commission (England).

A.-2, 1915,
No. 28.

2. My Ministers note that the Commissioners desire that the sale of National Health Insurance stamps, for the payment of contributions to seamen who are required to be insured, should be continued in New Zealand; and the officers who are in charge of the stamps in this Dominion have been instructed accordingly.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

Governor.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 21.

New Zealand, No. 164.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 21st August, 1915.

A.—2, 1915,
No. 31.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 340, dated 26th June, intimating that the Government of the United States of America had extended to British self-governing Dominions an invitation to send representatives to the International Congress of Education at Oakland, California, in connection with the Panama Pacific International Exposition.

2. As it is stated that the Congress is being held during the period from the 16th August to the 27th August, 1915, and as your despatch did not reach me until the 9th August, it is, of course, too late to consider the question of sending a representative from New Zealand.

3. My Ministers would, however, be much obliged if they could be furnished later with a copy of the volume of proceedings of the Congress, which will no doubt be published later on.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

Governor.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 22.

New Zealand, No. 165.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 30th August, 1915.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 320, of the 17th June, relative to facilities to be afforded to prisoners of war for the execution of legal documents.

2. My Ministers ask me to inform you that, in accordance with the suggestion made in the concluding paragraph of your despatch, instructions have now been issued by the New Zealand Government similar to those issued by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

Governor.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 23.

New Zealand, No. 168.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 31st August, 1915.

A.—2, 1915,
No. 35.

With reference to your despatch, No. 377, of the 8th July, forwarding, for the information of my Ministers, a copy of the revised draft stipulation which will in future be added to lascar agreements, I have the honour to inform you that, in compliance with your request, the necessary instructions are being issued by my Government to the Superintendents of Mercantile Marine in New Zealand in regard to the endorsement of any alterations in lascar crews in lascar articles of agreement.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

Governor.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 24.

New Zealand, No. 170.

SIR, — Government House, Wellington, 31st August, 1915.

With reference to Mr. Harcourt's despatch, No. 158, of the 31st March last, I have the honour to inform you that my Government submit the name of the Chief Justice of New Zealand as the representative of this Dominion, under Article III of the Peace Commission Treaty with the United States of America.

A.—2, 1915,
No. 5.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

No. 25.

New Zealand, No. 173.

SIR, — Government House, Wellington, 2nd September, 1915.

I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copies of a resolution passed by the House of Representatives and the Legislative Council respectively on the occasion of the anniversary of the declaration of war.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

Enclosure.

NEW ZEALAND.

Extract from the Journals of the Legislative Council.

Wednesday, the 4th Day of August, 1915.

Resolved unanimously, "That on this anniversary of the declaration of a righteous war, the Legislative Council of New Zealand in Parliament assembled records its inflexible determination to continue to a victorious end the struggle in maintenance of those ideals of liberty and justice which are the common and sacred cause of the Allies."

G. J. JOHNSTON,

Speaker of the Legislative Council.

A true extract.—L. STOWE, Clerk of the Legislative Council.

NEW ZEALAND.

Extract from the Journals of the House of Representatives.

Wednesday, the 4th Day of August, 1915.

Resolved, "That on this anniversary of the declaration of a righteous war, the House of Representatives of New Zealand in Parliament assembled records its inflexible determination to continue to a victorious end the struggle in maintenance of those ideals of liberty and justice which are the common and sacred cause of the Allies."

A true extract.

F. W. LANG,

Speaker, House of Representatives.

No. 26.

New Zealand, No. 175.

SIR, — Government House, Wellington, 2nd September, 1915.

With reference to your despatch, No. 383, of the 14th July, forwarding a copy of a letter from the Postmaster-General with regard to the arrangements for reimbursing the unexpended balance of the charges for telegrams stopped by the Censors, I have the honour to inform you, by request of my Prime Minister, that similar procedure to that outlined in the letter referred to will be adopted by the Government of New Zealand.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

No. 27.

New Zealand, No. 178.

SIR,—

Government House, Wellington, 3rd September, 1915.

I have the honour to forward to you the accompanying copy of a memorandum which has been sent to me for my information by the Attorney-General relative to the new Department, called the "Discharged Soldiers' Information Department," which has been created by the Government of New Zealand for the purpose of providing employment for, and safeguarding the interests of, New Zealand soldiers returning to this Dominion.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

Enclosure.

MEMORANDUM RE THE RETURNED SOLDIERS INQUIRY OFFICE.

Discharged Soldiers' Information Department, Head Office,

Aitken Street, Wellington, N.Z., 1st September, 1915.

To begin with, it should be distinctly understood that the new Department has nothing whatever to do with the soldier who comes back to New Zealand until he has been discharged by the Defence Department. There must be no misapprehension about this.

The Defence authorities and the Public Health Department are the custodians of the returned soldier until he gets his formal official release from the Army.

At this point, when the man has ceased to be a soldier and has become a civilian, the new Department will come in, and it will then become the duty of its officers to take charge of every soldier who may require help to get employment, or who may want information which may be of assistance to him. The Department will endeavour to make certain that no discharged soldier suffers through want of attention. The instructions are that no man is to be missed.

Thanks to the valuable help we are receiving from some of the older officers of the Government Insurance Department, who have volunteered to devote a portion of their spare time to the requirements of the Government outside their own Department, our preliminary plans are rapidly developing. An office, called the Discharged Soldiers Inquiry Office, has been opened in Aitken Street, and Mr. Samson, of the Government Life Insurance Department, has been appointed to manage it. He will be assisted in the preliminary stages by a record clerk and typiste. Returned soldiers in need of advice or help should communicate with the office, and persons who are able to offer employment of any kind to soldiers who have returned to New Zealand will render an immense service to the office if they will send particulars of any work available to Mr. Samson.

Having established a base in Aitken Street, we are now attempting to prepare a complete register of the men who have returned from service abroad. As the Defence authorities do not appear to have a record of all the men who have returned up to date by various boats, we will have some difficulty in preparing an accurate register of returned soldiers now in New Zealand. But the Returned Soldiers Department will take steps to ensure that a full and accurate list of all men who return in the future will be compiled. We propose to visit the returning ships and to complete our records before the soldier lands. The register will contain the particulars shown on the card annexed and marked "A."

In the course of time we hope to have the following card registers in the office :—

- (1.) A register of all men who left New Zealand with the Expeditionary Forces since the outbreak of war.
- (2.) A register of soldiers who have returned.
- (3.) A register of returned men who have been assisted and with whom the Department has finished.

It will be seen that when these registers are completed the office machinery will go through the following evolutions when a soldier arrives in New Zealand. His card will be looked up in Register No. 1, it will be transferred to Register No. 2, and it will remain there until employment is found for him or until he receives appropriate assistance. Then, our duty to the man having ended, the card will be transferred to Register No. 3.

In addition to the registers mentioned above we will, of course, be in possession of a proper record of all offers of employment or assistance that are made by persons who desire to help the returned soldier.

Although our duty to the man does not commence until his career as a soldier is ended by his discharge, the Department will endeavour to keep in touch with him after his arrival, but without in any way trenching upon the provinces of the Defence Department or the Public Health Department. We propose to hand to each soldier upon his return a printed card

apprising him of the existence of the Returned Soldiers Department, and informing that if he wants help he should apply to Mr. Samson, and that he should keep the Department informed of his movements.

It is also settled that each man shall, prior to or immediately after his discharge from the Army, be interviewed by a public officer, who will be instructed to make a report in the annexed form marked "C," and who will hand to each man the card marked "B."

It will be noticed that if the soldier does not require the Department's assistance he will be asked to sign a statement to that effect, and then we will know where we stand with him.

It will be readily recognized that the Returned Soldiers Department will never be able to attain to a high degree of usefulness unless it enlists help from outside. We have already made arrangements with the Registrar of War Pensions to obtain from his office particulars of all cases dealt with by the Pensions Board. From this source we should be able to get accurate evidence as to a man's means and the nature of his disability.

Then again, legislation has been introduced which, if passed into law, will make it incumbent upon persons controlling war funds to notify the Department of the nature of any assistance given to men who have returned. It is obviously very necessary that this information should be supplied to the new Department.

Further, the Labour Department has been approached for help, and the permanent head, Mr. Rowley, has expressed himself as being more than anxious to place the whole strength of his organization at the service of our Department. It appears to me to be certain that the main part of the burden of actually finding suitable work for returned men will in course of time devolve upon the Labour Department.

If as the work of the Department develops it is found advisable, a central committee in Wellington may be established to assist the Department to solve any difficult problems which may arise. Upon this committee I should like to have gentlemen closely connected with State employment—for instance, the Public Service Commissioner, the head of the Labour Department, representatives of the Railway Department and the Public Works Department, the Mayor of the city, the Chairman of the Harbour Board, and some gentlemen outside of the Government service who have already taken an active interest in movements which are intended to ameliorate the conditions of the returned soldier. Even now one can see that many interesting and difficult questions will come up for solution.

The extract from a report by a committee set up by the Imperial Government (annexed to this memorandum) sufficiently indicates the nature of the cases which the Returned Soldiers Department will be required to deal with as time goes on. It is certain that many men will require surgical appliances, and the best available orthopaedic assistance and advice will have to be obtained. It is certain, too, that it will be necessary, in the case of men prevented by injury from following their former calling, to teach them some new industry. Here we would invoke the help of the head of the Technical Education Branch and the principals of technical schools, and I have no doubt but that we shall be able to secure their assistance.

We propose to ask the Mayors of towns, Chairmen of local bodies, trustees of patriotic organizations, the Board of Agriculture, presidents of Chambers of Commerce, and the general public to help the Department with its work, and the assistance asked for will be given gladly I am sure.

No doubt as the scheme materializes we will find it expedient to appoint local committees in different centres to directly look after the men residing in these centres, and through the Labour Department, or directly, these committees can be supplied from time to time with statements containing the names of men requiring employment, and describing the nature of the employment which each man desires to obtain.

A proposal has been made that returned soldiers should be settled on the land. I hope that a practicable scheme can be devised, but I must confess that the proposal appears to me to be beset with difficulties. If a soldier has been trained as a farmer and has capital of his own, arrangements can easily be made to provide for him. But if a soldier knows nothing about farming and has no capital to expend on fencing, clearing, and stocking his land, what is to be done in his case? Is the State to teach him the rudiments of farming, and is it to supply him with the wherewithal to make a start? These are questions which will have to be settled. Fruit-farming and poultry-farming have been suggested as occupations likely to suit disabled men. It is true that the disabled men will be receiving pensions, and may be able to exist upon their pensions income until the fruit-trees and poultry have reached a revenue-producing point, but the scheme is by no means an easy one to carry out. It means securing suitable areas of land; it means finding money for fencing, planting trees, and stocking poultry-farms; and it means instructing the men in their new occupations.

I hope that the Board of Agriculture will focus its attention upon this phase of the returned-soldier problem and give the Department the benefit of its experience and advice.

The Department will not have much difficulty in finding employment for soldiers who return to this country sound and well. Many of these men will not require any help from the office. Our principal work will centre round the men who return to New Zealand maimed and permanently broken down in health. It will be the duty of the Department to make a special study of these last-mentioned cases, and with the advice and assistance which it will be in a position to command it hopes to make certain that every man who has suffered through serving his country will live for the rest of his days in comfort, and that he will be made as useful a member of society as his disability will allow.

A. L. HERDMAN,

Attorney-General.

[Extract from Report by Committee set up by Imperial Local Government Board.]

Estimated Number of Non-commissioned Officers and Men discharged from the British Army as disabled through the War between the 4th August, 1914, and the 15th April, 1915, inclusive.

General Nature of Disablement.	Total Number.	Percentage.
Eyesight cases	245	8·5
Wounds and injuries to leg necessitating amputation	205	7·1
Wounds and injuries to arm necessitating amputation	170	5·9
Wounds and injuries to hand necessitating amputation	15	0·5
Wounds and injuries to leg not necessitating amputation	277	9·6
Wounds and injuries to arm not necessitating amputation	272	9·5
Wounds and injuries to hand not necessitating amputation of complete hand	224	7·8
Wounds and injuries to head	123	4·3
Hernia	96	3·4
Miscellaneous wounds and injuries not included in above	129	4·5
Chest complaints (including 200 cases of tubercle of the lungs)	298	10·4
Rheumatism	116	4·0
Heart-disease	284	9·9
Epilepsy	47	1·6
Nervous diseases	54	1·9
Insanity	29	1·0
Deafness	134	4·7
Frostbite	6	0·2
Miscellaneous disabilities	150	5·2
Total	<u>2,874</u>	<u>100·0</u>

No. 28.

New Zealand, No. 180.

SIR, — Government House, Wellington, 6th September, 1915.

With reference to my telegram of the 6th August, the following is the constitution of the National Ministry, the Ministers being shown in their order of precedence:—

The Right Honourable W. F. MASSEY: Prime Minister, Minister of Lands, Minister of Labour, Minister of Industries and Commerce, Commissioner of State Forests, and Minister in Charge of Land for Settlements, Valuation, and Scenery Preservation Departments.

The Right Hon. Sir JOSEPH G. WARD: Minister of Finance, Postmaster-General and Minister of Telegraphs, Minister in Charge of Land and Income Tax, State-guaranteed Advances, Public Trust, and Government Life Insurance Departments.

The Hon. JAMES ALLEN: Minister of Defence.

The Hon. W. H. HERRIES: Minister of Railways and Native Minister.

The Hon. A. L. HERDMAN: Attorney-General, and Minister in Charge of Police, Crown Law (including Drafting), and Returned Soldiers Departments.

The Hon. Dr. R. McNAB: Minister of Justice, Minister of Marine, Minister of Stamps, and Minister in Charge of Tourist and Health Resorts Departments.

The Hon. W. FRASER: Minister of Public Works, and Minister in Charge of Roads Department.

The Hon. G. W. RUSSELL: Minister of Internal Affairs, Minister of Public Health, and Minister in Charge of Hospitals and Charitable Aid, Printing and Stationery, High Commissioner, Audit, Museum, Registrar-General, and Laboratory Departments.

The Hon. Mr. A. M. MYERS: Minister of Customs, and Minister in Charge of Munitions and Supplies, Pensions, Advertising, and National Provident Fund Departments.

The Hon. Sir FRANCIS H. D. BELL: Minister of Immigration, and Leader of the Legislative Council.

The Hon. W. D. S. MACDONALD: Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Mines, and Minister in Charge of Legislative, Public Buildings, Inspection of Machinery, State Fire, and Accident Insurance Departments.

The Hon. J. A. HANAN: Minister of Education, and Minister in Charge of Friendly Societies.

The Hon. Dr. POMARE: Member of the Executive Council representing the Native Race, and in Charge of Maori Councils, Cook and other Islands Administration.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

Governor.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 29.

New Zealand, No. 185.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 14th September, 1915.

I have the honour to transmit to you four copies of each of the following Acts passed by the Parliament of New Zealand:—

Regulation of Trade and Commerce Amendment Act, 1915 (No. 2).

Public Revenues Amendment Act, 1915 (No. 2).

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

Governor.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 30.

New Zealand, No. 188.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 16th September, 1915.

With reference to my despatch, No. 154, of the 18th August, I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying statement, showing contributions by the Government and people of New Zealand to various war funds during July of this year, which have been remitted by telegraph to the High Commissioner for New Zealand in London for distribution.

2. The amounts shown on the statement do not include many other cash contributions which have been distributed other than through the High Commissioner, nor do they include the value of gifts in kind.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

Governor.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Enclosure.

LIST OF NEW ZEALAND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR WAR FUNDS FOR JULY, 1915.

	£	s.	d.
To the National Committee for Relief in Belgium—			
Monthly contribution from Government of New Zealand	15,000	0	0
From Otago	10,000	0	0
From Sounds District Committee	150	0	0
From Marlborough	750	0	0
From Te Kiri Sports Association	5	1	9
From Acting Belgian Consul, Christchurch	573	6	7
For payment to Mr. F. W. Assirati, Secretary, Belgian Postal Relief Committee, London, for relief of refugees in United Kingdom of the Belgian Post and Telegraph Service: From New Zealand Post and Telegraph Association ...	269	13	2
For Serbian relief			
From boys and staff, Weraeroa Boys' Training-farm	43	15	11
From Manawatu Patriotic Society	107	2	0
From various contributors throughout Dominion	238	8	3
For Montenegrin relief: From various contributors	10	12	2
For Montenegrin and Serbian relief (jointly): From various contributors ...	11	0	0
For payment to Headquarters, Order of St. John, London			
From Hastings Red Cross workers	100	0	0
From various contributors	62	18	1
For relief of Belgian orphan and children in Belgium			
From Okaiawa children	15	3	9
From various contributors	1	15	9
For Polish relief: From various contributors	29	13	0
For British Soldiers' Fund: From <i>Evening Star</i> , Dunedin	10	0	0
For relief of Belgians in England: From <i>Evening Star</i> , Dunedin	89	10	0
For H.R.H. the Prince of Wales's Fund—			
From Westport Coal Company	151	10	0
From various contributors	60	10	3
For British Food Fund: From Wanganui Citizens' Committee	48	6	10
For relief of widows and children in England: From Utiki Card Club	2	10	3
For relief of orphans in Great Britain: From Wanganui Citizens' Committee ...	7	15	6
For comforts for New Zealand wounded at Walton-on-Thames: From Hastings Red Cross Workers	100	0	0
For aid to sick and wounded of armies of England and her Allies: From subscribers at Samoa	98	19	5
Towards purchase of a water-cart for the Ambulance Brigade: From Wanganui British Food Fund	16	5	0
For Mount Felix Hospital for New-Zealanders in London—			
From His Excellency the Governor's Hospital Ship Fund	5,000	0	0
From His Excellency the Governor's Hospital Ship Fund (for tobacco for troops and papers for wounded soldiers)	150	0	0
	<u>£33,104</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>

No. 31.

New Zealand, No. 190.

SIR, - Government House, Wellington, 27th September, 1915.

In answer to your despatch, No. 362, of the 5th July, I have the honour to inform you that my Ministers are taking steps to submit to Parliament amending legislation in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Foreign Marriages Order in Council, 1913, for the purpose of enabling notices of marriage and certificates of such notices to be given and issued for the purposes of the Foreign Marriages Act.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

No. 32.

New Zealand, No. 196.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 1st October, 1915.

I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copies of an Act of the Parliament of New Zealand, entitled New Zealand Loans Amendment Act, 1915.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

No. 33.

New Zealand, No. 200.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 8th October, 1915.

I have the honour to inform you that, in accordance with the request of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, contained in your despatch, "Miscellaneous," dated the 24th July, 1915, I have to-day presented to Senior Engineer Alfred D. Varian, R.N.R., the Royal Naval Reserve Officers' Decoration, which His Majesty the King has been pleased to confer upon him.

A-2, 1915,
No. 40.

2. I enclose herewith a receipt signed by Mr. Varian for transmission to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

No. 34.

New Zealand, No. 204.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 12th October, 1915.

I have the honour to inform you that the New Zealand Government, after carefully considering your despatch, No. 411, dated the 29th July, 1915, and the enclosures thereto, do not at present see any necessity for holding an inquiry similar to that proposed by the Canadian Government.

2. Legislation has already been passed to provide facilities for wounded New Zealand soldiers desirous of settling on the land in this Dominion, and the same legislation enables my Government to provide in other ways very liberal assistance to those who have served in the Forces during the war.

3. For the information of the Imperial authorities a copy of the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Bill is enclosed herewith.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

No. 35.

New Zealand, No. 209.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 16th October, 1915.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 311, dated the 11th June, on the subject of the Marriage of British Subjects (Facilities) Act, 1915.

2. In reply to the concluding paragraph of your despatch, my Ministers desire me to inform you that it is not considered advisable at present to introduce legislation in the Parliament of New Zealand of the character contemplated by section 1 of the Marriage of British Subjects (Facilities) Act, 1915. The existing marriage law puts no difficulty in the way of the immediate marriage of any person arriving in New Zealand to any person resident there.

A-2, 1915,
No. 27.

The requisite notice of marriage can be given by the latter person and a certificate obtained authorizing a marriage forthwith. It is not thought advisable to complicate the procedure by making a provision for marriages in pursuance of notices and certificates given and issued in England. It is considered that all the preliminary requisites of a New Zealand marriage should take place in New Zealand and be of record there.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

Governor.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 36.

New Zealand, No. 201.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 16th October, 1915.

I have the honour to inform you that my Ministers have expressed a desire to be furnished with particulars of the inspection of goods and of other steps taken to detect offences under the English Merchandise Marks Act.

2. While most of the provisions of that Act are contained in the Patents, Designs, and Trade-marks Act, 1908, in force in New Zealand, no systematic steps have been taken up to now to ascertain and punish offences thereunder. My Government are therefore desirous of obtaining any information which is likely to be useful to enable an efficient system of inspection to be instituted without incurring undue expense in the matter.

3. My Ministers add that the usual Customs inspection is at present made, as well as that prescribed by the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1908, but the inspection referred to is with regard to other goods on sale or stored for that purpose.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

Governor.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 37.

New Zealand, No. 215.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 20th October, 1915.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 461, of the 20th August, enclosing a copy of a letter from the War Office relative to the decision of His Majesty's Government to provide return passages for all discharged soldiers who came from abroad after the declaration of war and enlisted in the Army on arrival in the United Kingdom.

2. My Ministers desire that I should inform you, in reply to the inquiry made in the concluding paragraph of your despatch, that there would be no difficulty in the landing of such men in New Zealand, provided they were free from contagious disease, but that any men suffering from a disease of a contagious nature would be placed in quarantine until they had recovered.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

Governor.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 38.

New Zealand, No. 218.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 21st October, 1915.

With reference to my despatch, No. 188, of the 16th September, I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying statement showing contributions by the Government and people of New Zealand to various war funds, which were remitted by telegraph during September to the High Commissioner for New Zealand in London for distribution.

2. The amounts shown on the statement do not include many other cash contributions which have been distributed other than through the High Commissioner, nor do they include the value of gifts in kind.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

Enclosure.

LIST OF NEW ZEALAND CONTRIBUTIONS TO WAR FUND RECEIVED IN SEPTEMBER.

	£	s.	d.
To the National Committee for Relief in Belgium—			
Monthly contribution from Government of New Zealand ...	15,000	0	0
Kiwitea County Council ...	40	0	0
<i>Evening Star</i> , Dunedin ...	45	0	0
Sounds District Committee ...	75	0	0
Chatham Islands collections ...	165	10	7
Samoan collections ...	472	6	1
Havelock ladies ...	14	6	0
Otago Patriotic Association ...	4,000	0	0
For Belgian Refugee Food Fund: From Masterton Belgian Refugees' Food Fund	100	0	0
For Prince of Wales's Fund—			
From Kiwitea County Council ...	40	0	0
Patea and District Patriotic League ...	27	2	6
Post and Telegraph Department, Wanganui ...	0	12	0
J. C. Lewis, Wellington ...	1	0	0
T. G. Taylor, Hunterville (collections) ...	16	2	0
For relief of Belgian orphan children in England: From <i>Evening Star</i> , Dunedin	8	15	0
For payment to Headquarters, Red Cross Society, London: From Woodville Patriotic Committee ...	5	10	6
For Serbian relief—			
From "Presbyterian," Kopuaranga ...	1	0	0
From female staff, Weraeroa Boys' Training-farm ...	8	15	6
From Takaka Patriotic League ...	6	0	0
From L.M.R., Wellington ...	3	0	0
From J. C. Lewis, Wellington ...	0	10	0
From Foxton Borough Council ...	2	10	0
From Mauriceville County Council ...	2	10	0
From Moray Place Congregational Church Women's Club, Dunedin ...	6	5	0
From F. W. Rowley, Wellington ...	3	0	0
From Rockville Belgian Relief Committee ...	0	10	0
From Post and Telegraph Department, Blenheim ...	0	7	6
From Peilding Citizens' and Farmers' Union Relief Fund Committee ...	5	0	0
From the <i>Dominion</i> collections ...	18	3	0
For Polish relief—			
From L.M.R., Wellington ...	3	0	0
From Poor of Britain and Belgium Relief Fund, Blenheim ...	3	3	0
From F. W. Rowley, Wellington ...	3	0	0
From Post and Telegraph Department, Blenheim ...	0	5	0
For Montenegrin and Serbian (jointly) relief, in proportion to the needs of the respective countries: From Wairarapa Branch, Poor of Great Britain and Allies Relief Fund ...	100	0	0
	<u>£20,178</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>

No. 39.

New Zealand, No. 219.

SIR,

Government House, Wellington, 27th October, 1915.

With reference to your despatch, No. 500, of the 8th September, stating that an arrangement has been made for the redirection without charge by the General Post Office of parcels for His Majesty's ships and for the troops, and suggesting that the Government of New Zealand should consider the question of adopting similar arrangements, I have the honour to inform you, at the request of my Ministers, that similar privileges of free redirection will be accorded by the New Zealand Post Office.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

No. 40.

New Zealand, No. 228.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 2nd November, 1915.

At the request of my Prime Minister I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying synopsis, prepared by the Attorney-General of this Dominion, of the Acts passed during the first session of the Nineteenth Parliament of New Zealand, together with the Acts duly authenticated, with the seal of the Dominion.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

Enclosure.

REPORT ON LEGISLATION PASSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NEW ZEALAND DURING THE SESSION ENDED ON THE 12TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1915.

For the information of His Excellency the Governor I beg to report as follows:—

I. The synopsis attached hereto relates to the Acts passed by the General Assembly of New Zealand during the session which ended on the 12th day of October, 1915.

II. In my opinion none of the said Acts is repugnant to the law of England.

Dated at Wellington, this 30th day of October, 1915.

A. L. HERDMAN, Attorney-General.

SYNOPSIS OF ACTS PASSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NEW ZEALAND DURING THE SESSION ENDED ON THE 12TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1915.

Public Acts.

1915, No. 1. The Imprest Supply Act, 1915.—This Act applies the sum of £1,269,000 out of the Public Account, and the sum of £16,000 out of other specified accounts, for the services of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1916.

1915, No. 2. The Suspension of Disqualification during War Act, 1915.—This Act modifies the provisions of the Legislature Act, 1908, relating to the disqualification of members of the Legislative Council and House of Representatives. It permits the appointment or election and continuance in office of members of either House notwithstanding that such members may be members of His Majesty's Military or Naval Forces.

1915, No. 3. The Public Expenditure Validation Act, 1915.—This Act validates certain expenditure out of the Public Account incurred without statutory authority in connection with the present war.

1915, No. 4. The Public Revenues Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act authorizes the Minister of Finance to raise a loan of £10,000,000, to be paid into the War Expenses Account and to be expended for purposes of the present war. The Act makes several minor amendments of the Public Revenues Act, 1910.

1915, No. 5. The War Regulations Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act validates all regulations made before the passing thereof under the authority of the War Regulations Act, 1914. It extends the operation of the last-mentioned Act until the conclusion of the present war with Germany.

1915, No. 6. The Statutes Compilation Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act amends the Statutes Compilation Act, 1908, to allow a compilation of any enactments to which a resolution under the principal Act may relate to be proceeded with in the session in which the resolution directing the compilation may be passed instead of in the next succeeding session.

1915, No. 7. The Education Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act makes certain necessary provisions with respect to the election or appointment of the governing bodies of certain secondary schools.

1915, No. 8. The Regulation of Trade and Commerce Amendment Act, 1915.—Section 2 empowers the Governor in Council during the continuance of the war to prohibit the importation into New Zealand of any goods if in his opinion their importation would be prejudicial to the public interest.

Section 3 applies to the provisions of the Customs Act, 1913, to importations and exportations that are prohibited either under the present Act or the principal Act.

Section 5 brings ships within the classes of goods to which the principal Act applies.

Section 6 continues the principal Act in operation until the 1st August, 1916.

1915, No. 9. The Enemy Contracts Act, 1915.—This Act provides for the cancellation of enemy contracts made by persons or corporations resident or carrying on business in New Zealand.

Section 3 enables the Attorney-General to declare to be an enemy contract any contract to which an enemy or any person or corporation claiming through an enemy is or has been a party, or in which any such person or corporation is or has been interested, or any contract that, if continued, would enure, directly or indirectly, for the profit or benefit of an enemy or of any person or corporation claiming through an enemy. On the taking effect of any such declaration by the Attorney-General the contract in respect of which the declaration is made becomes void in so far as it remains executory.

1915, No. 10. The Local Authorities Empowering Act, 1915.—Section 3 enables local authorities to grant leave of absence on pay or part-pay to their employees who may become members of any Expeditionary Force, or who may be engaged on military service in New Zealand.

Section 4 gives power to remit rates or to postpone the due date of payment of rates payable by persons engaged on military service beyond New Zealand.

1915, No. 11.—The Trading with the Enemy Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act amends in several particulars the Trading with the Enemy Act, 1914.

Sections 2 and 3 relate to the offences of attempting to trade with the enemy and inciting other persons to trade with the enemy.

Section 5 relates to offences by corporations.

Section 6 provides that offences against the principal Act may, with the leave of the Attorney-General, be tried summarily instead of by way of indictment.

Section 9 continues the principal Act in operation until the 1st August, 1916.

1915, No. 12. The Imprest Supply Act, 1915 (No. 2).—This Act applies the sum of £887,000 out of the Public Account, and the sum of £16,000 out of other specified accounts, for the service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1916.

1915, No. 13. The Arbitration Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act remedies an omission from the Arbitration Act, 1908, with reference to third arbitrators.

1915, No. 14. The Expiring Laws Continuance Act, 1915.—This Act continues until the 31st August, 1916, the operation of the enactments specified in the schedule. These enactments relate to matters arising out of the present war.

1915, No. 15. The Civil List Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act temporarily amends the Civil List Act, 1908, by providing for ten paid members of the Executive Council in lieu of eight such members.

1915, No. 16. The War Pensions Act, 1915.—This Act provides a pension scheme for members of the New Zealand Naval Forces and the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces in respect of their disablement arising out of their employment in connection with the present war, and also provides for the dependants of members in the event of their death or disablement. For the purpose of administering the Act a War Pensions Board of three members is established, one of whom is required to be a registered medical practitioner. The Act specifies the maximum amount that may be granted to any person by way of pension, and the maximum amount that may be granted in respect of the death or disablement of any member of the Forces. Within these limits the amount of any pension is within the discretion of the Board, subject in the case of dependants to considerations as to (1) the extent of dependency, and (2) the amount of property or income of the dependant.

1915, No. 17. The Crimes Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act is a temporary measure, and relates to the offence of endangering ships or cargo. Any person convicted of such an offence, or of inciting other persons to commit such an offence, or of conspiring with any other person or persons to commit such an offence is liable on conviction to suffer the death penalty. The Act continues in force until 1st August, 1916.

1915, No. 18. The Imprest Supply Act, 1915 (No. 3).—This Act applies the sum of £937,500 out of the Public Account, and the sum of £16,000 out of other specified accounts, for the service of the year ending the 31st March, 1916.

1915, No. 19. The Tramways Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act provides for the modification of authorizing orders under the principal Act, to allow of the construction of double tramway-lines in lieu of single lines if required.

1915, No. 20. The New Zealand Loans Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act modifies the provisions of the New Zealand Loans Act, 1908, in the case of debentures issued for the purpose of loans raised in New Zealand.

1915, No. 21. The Public Revenues Amendment Act, 1915.—Section 5 provides a special sinking fund, to be called the War Loans Sinking Fund, for the repayment of moneys raised for war purposes. The other sections make various machinery amendments of the Public Revenues Act, 1910.

1915, No. 22. The Regulation of Trade and Commerce Amendment Act, 1915 (No. 2).—This Act was passed to prevent a possible unjustifiable increase in the price of kerosene and other mineral oils consequent on the imposition of an import duty thereon.

1915, No. 23. The Settled Land Amendment Act, 1915.—The amendments made by this Act are for the purpose of bringing the principal Act into line with the provisions of the Imperial Act relating to the powers of the Court with respect to settled land.

1915, No. 24. The Imprest Supply Act, 1915 (No. 4).—This Act applies the sum of £937,500 out of the Public Account, and the sum of £16,000 out of other specified accounts, for the service of the year ending the 31st March, 1916.

1915, No. 25. The Marriage Amendment Act, 1915.—Section 6 makes provision for the giving of notices in the case of marriages proposed to be solemnized out of New Zealand under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1892 (Imperial).

The remaining sections make various amendments of the Marriage Act, 1908.

1915, No. 26. The Savings-bank Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act increases from £20 to £100 the amount that may be paid by the trustees of a savings-bank to the representatives of a deceased depositor without requiring the production of probate or letters of administration.

1915, No. 27. The Fruit-preserving Industry Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act amends the Fruit-preserving Industry Act, 1913, by enabling the Minister of Agriculture to make advances under that Act on the security of approved leasehold property.

1915, No. 28. The Scenery Preservation Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act makes various amendments of minor importance in the Scenery Preservation Act, 1908.

1915, No. 29. The National Provident Fund Amendment Act, 1915.—The object of this Act is to enable the Amendment Act of 1914 to be brought into operation.

- 1915, No. 30. The Hutt Road Act, 1915.—This Act makes provision for the allocation of the cost of the construction and maintenance of the Hutt Road between the several local authorities mentioned in the schedules in the proportions specified in those schedules.
- 1915, No. 31. The Local Railways Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act amends the Act of 1914 by providing that an authorizing order under the last-mentioned Act may authorize the construction of a railway outside the limits of a railway district.
- 1915, No. 32. The Sale of Food and Drugs Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act enables the Governor in Council to make regulations prescribing that any specified articles of food or the packages containing any articles of food imported into New Zealand shall be stamped, so as to indicate the fact of importation and the country of origin.
- 1915, No. 33. The National Registration Act, 1915.—This Act provides for the compilation of a register of men between the ages of seventeen and sixty-five years. In the case of men between the ages of seventeen and forty-five years, every man is to be required to express his willingness or otherwise to become a member of an Expeditionary Force for military service beyond New Zealand, or to render any other service in connection with the war. Any person who fails to register when required so to do is liable to a fine of not less than £5 and not exceeding £100, or to imprisonment for not more than six months.
- 1915, No. 34. The Swamp Drainage Act, 1915.—This Act provides for the establishment of drainage areas within which the Minister of Lands is authorized to construct and carry on drainage, reclamation, and roading works. For the purposes of the Act the Minister of Finance is empowered to borrow up to £75,000 per annum, and the Minister of Lands is authorized to make and levy rates to be charged on the unimproved value of lands within the drainage area.
- 1915, No. 35. The Land Transfer Acts Compilation Act, 1915.—This Act is a compilation of the Land Transfer Act, 1908, and the Land Transfer Amendment Act, 1913, prepared pursuant to a resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament under the Statutes Compilation Act, 1908.
- 1915, No. 36. The Census and Statistics Act, 1915.—The main purpose of this Act is to allow of the collection of statistics as to industrial, social, commercial, and other prescribed matters, whenever such statistics may be required. Under the principal Act the statistics referred to are to be collected annually. This Act is complementary to the National Registration Act, and the two Acts will together enable a computation to be made of the resources of the Dominion both in men and in material wealth.
- 1915, No. 37. The Factories Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act repeals section 20 of the Factories Act, 1908 (relating to extended hours of employment of women and boys in woollen-factories).
- 1915, No. 38. The State Advances Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act provides for a report to Parliament as to temporary transfers of funds from one branch to another of the State Advances Office.
- 1915, No. 39. The Finance Act, 1915.—This Act includes all the provisions for increased taxation rendered necessary by the war. It is divided into Parts, as follows:—
- Part I: This Part includes the rates for the taxation of land and income for the current year, and also amends in various particulars the permanent provisions of the Land and Income Assessment Act, 1908.
- Part II: This Part increases the Customs duties on imports. *Inter alia*, it makes provision for a surtax of 50 per cent. *ad valorem* on goods that may hereafter be imported into New Zealand from any country now at war with His Majesty.
- Part III: This Part repeals the Beer Duty Act, 1908, and substitutes other provisions thereof, with a view (1) to the increase of the excise duty, and (2) to the alteration of the mode of collecting the duty. Under the repealed Act duty was paid on the finished product, by means of adhesive stamps attached to the casks or other vessels; the new Act provides for the assessment of the duty on the worts, or beer before fermentation.
- Part IV: This Part increases the rates of stamp duties payable on documents. It also imposes a duty on stakes won in horse-racing and on totalizer dividends.
- Part V: This Part increases the rates of succession and estate duties; it also exempts wholly or in part from the payment of duty the estates of deceased soldiers.
- Part VI: This Part enables the Minister of Finance to raise a loan of £2,000,000 for the construction of railways and other public works.
- Part VII: This Part permits of the variation of certain contracts of carriage where the railway charges have been increased.
- 1915, No. 40. The Cook Islands Act, 1915.—This Act repeals the Cook Islands Act, 1908, and other enactments of the New Zealand Legislature with reference to the Cook Islands, and also repeals (so far as the New Zealand Parliament has authority so to do) all the Acts, Ordinances, regulations, and other laws (including Native usages and customs so far as they have the effect of law) now in force in the Cook Islands.
- In lieu of the repealed provisions the new Act (containing 660 sections) provides a code of law for the government of the islands. The Act is divided into Parts, as follows:—
- Part I: Executive Government of the Cook Islands.
- Part II: Island Councils.
- Part III: The High Court of the Cook Islands.
- Part IV: The Supreme Court of New Zealand.
- Part V: Criminal Offences.
- Part VI: Criminal Procedure.
- Part VII: Law of Evidence.
- Part VIII: Extradition.
- Part IX: Crown Suits.
- Part X: Crown Lands.

- Part XI: The Native Land Court.
- Part XII: Customary Land.
- Part XIII: Partition and Exchange of Native Land.
- Part XIV: Native Succession.
- Part XV: Adoption of Children by Natives.
- Part XVI: Alienation of Native Land.
- Part XVII: Trustees for Natives.
- Part XVIII: Marriage.
- Part XIX: Divorce.
- Part XX: Maintenance and Affiliation.
- Part XXI: Persons of Unsound Mind.
- Part XXII: Intoxicating Liquor.
- Part XXIII: Roads.
- Part XXIV: The Laws of the Cook Islands: General Provisions.

1915, No. 41. The War Funds Act, 1915.—The object of this Act is to provide a scheme for the effective control and administration, with due economy, of the various patriotic funds that have been raised throughout the Dominion. The Act provides for the establishment of a National War Funds Council, to be appointed by the Governor, with power to receive and administer war funds, and also empowers private trustees to transfer the funds under their control to the Council. It also permits the trustees of any fund to take over the administration of any other fund.

Section 22 makes it unlawful for unauthorized persons to solicit contributions on behalf of a fund.

1915, No. 42. The Military Manœuvres Act, 1915.—This Act authorizes the Governor by Proclamation to declare any lands, to be specified in the Proclamation, to be available for military manœuvres. Full compensation is to be paid to owners or occupiers of property for loss sustained by reason of the conduct of any such manœuvres.

1915, No. 43. The Lights on Vehicles Act, 1915.—This Act renders compulsory the carrying of lights on vehicles at night.

1915, No. 44. The Expeditionary Forces Act, 1915.—This Act is for the purpose of making proper provision for the raising of Expeditionary Forces for service abroad during the present war, and for the discipline of such Forces.

1915, No. 45. The Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1915.—This Act provides for the setting-aside of areas of suitable land to be disposed of to discharged soldiers, either under the provisions of the Land Act or Land for Settlements Act, or under the special provisions referred to in sections 4 *et seq.* of the Act. In cases where financial assistance is required there is authority to advance moneys for (a) the improvement of the land, (b) the erection of necessary buildings, and (c) the purchase of stock, &c. Except with the consent of the Land Board and the Minister of Lands, a lessee or purchaser of land disposed of under the Act is unable to transfer his interest in the land before the expiry of ten years from the commencement of the lease or the date of his purchase.

1915, No. 46. The Railways Authorization Act, 1915.—This Act authorizes the construction of certain lines of railway specified in the schedule.

1915, No. 47. The Auctioneers Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act modifies the provisions of the Auctioneers Act, 1908, to the extent of permitting unlicensed persons to conduct auction sales of articles in cases where the proceeds are to be devoted to a patriotic fund.

1915, No. 48. The Dairy Industry Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act amends in various particulars the provisions of the Dairy Industry Act, 1908.

1915, No. 49. This Act amends in various particulars the provisions of the Footwear Regulation Act, 1913.

1915, No. 50. The Miners' Phthisis Act, 1915.—This Act provides a scheme for the payment of pensions to miners who are incapacitated for work by reason of miners' phthisis. In the case of married men or widowers with dependent children the rate is fixed at £1 a week, and in the case of unmarried men at 15s. a week.

1915, No. 51. The Mining Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act provides as follows:—

(1.) For the renewal of licenses for mining privileges, after the expiry of the original license:

(2.) For the issue to or on behalf of His Majesty of licenses for mining privileges, in the same manner as such licenses may be issued to a private person:

(3.) For the increase of the duty on gold exported from New Zealand.

1915, No. 52. The Prisoners Detention Act, 1915.—This Act provides for the establishment of prison hospitals for the treatment of prisoners who may be suffering from contagious disease. Any such prisoner may be detained in hospital until cured, notwithstanding that his term of imprisonment may have expired.

1915, No. 53. The Local Elections (Proportional Representation) Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act amends the Act of 1914 in various respects. In particular it provides for the adoption of the Act in divided boroughs, and also for its adoption by local authorities other than boroughs.

1915, No. 54. The New Zealand Society of Accountants Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act makes provision for the reinstatement as members of the New Zealand Society of Accountants of persons whose names have been removed from the register.

1915, No. 55. The Coal-mines Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act amends in various particulars the Coal-mines Act, 1908.

1915, No. 56.—The Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act, 1915.—Section 8 of this Act makes special provisions as to the registration or re-registration of the births of adopted children.

Section 9 makes provision for the registration, within twelve months after the passing of the Act, of births that have not been registered within the prescribed time.

The other sections make minor amendments of the principal Act.

1915, No. 57. The Gaming Amendment Act, 1915.—Section 2 of this Act permits the owners of property, subject to certain conditions, to dispose of the same by way of chance or lottery in cases where the proceeds are to be devoted to a patriotic fund.

Sections 3 and 4 amend the provisions of the principal Act.

1915, No. 58. The Destitute Persons Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act provides for the appointment of an officer of the Court whose duty it shall be to take the necessary proceedings in cases where maintenance orders made by the Court are not duly complied with.

1915, No. 59. The Mortgages Extension Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act repeals certain sections of the Mortgages Extension Act, 1914, thereby conferring on the Court extended powers in dealing with applications by mortgagees for leave to exercise their powers in cases of default by their mortgagors. Under the amending Act the Court, on any such application, is directed to take into consideration all relevant considerations, and to grant leave to the mortgagee to exercise his powers under the mortgage if in his opinion it is just and equitable that leave should be so granted.

Section 7 provides for an effective agreement being made between the parties to a mortgage to exclude the provisions of the principal Act, and section 6 simplifies the procedure for bringing applications before the Court.

1915, No. 60. The Kauri-gum Industry Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act amends in various particulars the provisions of the principal Act, and in particular it extends the powers of the Minister of Lands with respect to the purchase and sale of kauri-gum and the working of kauri-gum areas.

1915, No. 61. The Education Reserves Amendment Act, 1915.—The object of this Act is to bring under the Land Transfer Act, 1915, the lands comprised in any education reserve or endowment.

1915, No. 62. The West Coast Settlement Reserves Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act amends in various particulars the law relating to the West Coast settlement reserves.

1915, No. 63. The Native Land Amendment and Native Land Claims Adjustment Act, 1915.—This Act amends in several particulars the provisions of the Native Land Act, 1909, and its amendments, and also makes provision for the settlement of certain claims by Natives in respect of Native lands.

1915, No. 64. The Friendly Societies Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act makes various amendments of the Friendly Societies Act, 1909. In particular, it validates certain rules heretofore made for the amalgamation of certain benefit funds of societies and their branches.

1915, No. 65. The Lake Coleridge Water-power Act, 1915.—This Act extends the powers of certain local authorities with respect to the supply of electricity derived from the Lake Coleridge Water-power Works.

1915, No. 66. The War Regulations Amendment Act, 1915 (No. 2).—Section 2 empowers the Minister of Defence to make requisitions on the owners or occupiers of suitable factories for the manufacture or production of military supplies. The price to be paid by the Crown for all supplies so requisitioned is, in default of agreement, to be determined by a Judge of the Supreme Court. If the owner or occupier of any factory fails to fulfil his obligations under a requisition, the Minister of Defence may take possession of the factory for the production of war supplies. A requisition under the Act may be pleaded by the owner or occupier in any action for breach of any existing contract with a third person.

Section 13 validates all regulations made under the War Regulations Act, 1914.

1915, No. 67. The Alien Enemy Teachers Act, 1915.—The object of this Act is to prohibit during the continuance of the war the employment as a teacher in any educational institution, supported wholly or in part out of the public revenues, of any person (not being a British subject) who is or at any time has been a subject of any State with which His Majesty is now at war. Compensation, not exceeding one year's salary, may be paid to any person whose contract of service is terminated by the Act.

1915, No. 68. The Reserves and Other Lands Disposal and Public Bodies' Empowering Act, 1915.—This Act makes provision for the exchange, sale, reservation, and other disposition of certain reserves, Crown lands, endowments, and other lands. It also validates certain transactions, confers powers on certain public bodies, and makes provision for certain other matters.

1915, No. 69. The Cost of Living Act, 1915.—This Act establishes a Board of Trade, to consist of the Minister of Industries and Commerce, and three other persons to be appointed by the Governor. The Board has power—

(a.) To investigate any alleged infringement of the Commercial Trusts Act, 1910 :

(b.) To make inquiry as to the supply, demand, or price of commodities :

(c.) To make inquiry as to any complaint that the price of any class of goods is unreasonably high :

(d.) To make inquiry as to any matters affecting the trade, commerce, or business of New Zealand :

(e.) To institute inquiries as to markets for goods produced or manufactured in New Zealand.

For the purposes of any such inquiry the Act confers on the Board all the powers possessed by a Commission of Inquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1908.

Section 12 extends the scope of the Commercial Trusts Act, 1910, by applying that Act to all articles of food for human consumption and ingredients used in the manufacture of any such article.

Section 13 extends the powers of Borough Councils with reference to the control of food-supplies.

- 1915, No. 70. The Post and Telegraph Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act makes provision for the acceptance of fixed deposits in the Post Office Savings-bank.
- 1915, No. 71. The Law Practitioners Act, 1915.—This Act amends in various particulars the provision of the Law Practitioners Act, 1908.
- 1915, No. 72. The Public Health Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act enables the Governor by regulation to prohibit the use for human habitation of any class of buildings or of rooms that are, in the opinion of a District Health Officer, unfit for such habitation.
- 1915, No. 73. The Education Amendment Act, 1915 (No. 2).—This Act provides for the determination by the General Council of Education of the boundaries of nine education districts. It also makes necessary provision for the purpose of bringing the Act of 1914 into effective operation.
- 1915, No. 74. The Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act makes provision for the payment to members of Hospital and Charitable Aid Boards of travelling-expenses incurred in connection with the business of the Board.
- 1915, No. 75.—The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act makes several amendments, principally of an administrative character, of the Land Act, 1908, and of other Acts relating to the tenure of Crown lands.

Sections 23 and 24 relate specially to members of Expeditionary Forces on military service beyond New Zealand. Section 23 enables the Minister of Lands to remit, in whole or in part, the rent payable by any such member who is a Crown tenant, and section 24 enables agents to apply, on behalf of members of any such Force, for any Crown land that may be opened for selection at any time while such member is absent from New Zealand on military service.

- 1915, No. 76. The Counties Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act amends in several particulars the provisions of the Counties Act, 1908, and its amendments.
- 1915, No. 77. The New Zealand University Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act makes special provision to allow the Senate of the New Zealand University to confer diplomas and other distinctions on students who, by reason of their having joined an Expeditionary Force, may have been unable to comply with all the formalities prescribed by the principal Act and the regulations and University statutes thereunder.
- 1915, No. 78. The Municipal Corporations Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act amends in various particulars the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1908.
- 1915, No. 79. The Railways Improvement Authorization Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act vests certain lands in the Corporation of the City of Auckland, and also amends the provisions of the corresponding Act of 1914.
- 1915, No. 80. The Rating Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act repeals certain provisions of the Rating Amendment Act, 1913.
- 1915, No. 81. The Public Service Classification and Superannuation Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act makes new provisions as from the 1st day of January, 1916, with respect to the investment of the Public Service Superannuation Fund. At the present time the fund is paid to the Public Trustee, and becomes part of the common fund of the Public Trust Office. Under the amending Act the fund will be separately invested by the Board.
- 1915, No. 82. The Legislative Council Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act extends the duration of office of persons appointed as members of the Legislative Council.
- 1915, No. 83. The Defence Amendment Act, 1915.—Section 2 of this Act extends the provisions of the War Pensions Act, 1915, to the following persons:—

- (1.) To members of Expeditionary Forces who may be disabled in New Zealand as the result of their employment, and to their dependants; and
- (2.) To the dependants of deceased members of an Expeditionary Force whose death in New Zealand has resulted from their employment.

Section 3 provides for the recognition by the Governor of the voluntary organization known as the National Reserve. The remaining sections make minor amendments of the Defence Act, 1909.

- 1915, No. 84. The Shops and Offices Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act makes various amendments of the Shops and Offices Act, 1908.
- 1915, No. 85. The Appropriation Act, 1915.—This Act appropriates and applies certain moneys out of the Public Account and other accounts to the service of the year ending the 31st March, 1916. In addition to the usual provisions contained in the annual Appropriation Act provision is made—
- (a.) With respect to the expenditure of certain moneys subscribed for the purpose of equipping a hospital ship; and
 - (b.) Restricting the borrowing-powers of local authorities during the continuance of the present war, except with the consent of the Governor in Council.

Local and Personal Acts.

- 1915, No. 1 (Local). The Tauranga Borough Council and Tauranga Harbour Board Empowering Act, 1915.—This Act validates an agreement made between the Tauranga Borough Council and the Tauranga Harbour Board as to the acquisition by the Harbour Board of the wharves at Tauranga.
- 1915, No. 2 (Local). The Whakatane Harbour Amendment and Empowering Act, 1915.—This Act empowers the Whakatane Harbour Board to acquire certain lands to facilitate reclamation-works, and for the said purposes authorizes the Board to borrow moneys not exceeding £10,000.

- 1915, No. 3 (Local). The Wellington City Empowering Act 1908 Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act authorizes the Wellington City Council to borrow moneys not exceeding £30,000 for drainage-works in outlying portions of the city.
- 1915, No. 4 (Local). The Auckland City Markets and Empowering Act, 1915.—This Act empowers the Auckland City Council to undertake the purchase and sale of fish, and to control the sale and disposal of fish within the City of Auckland. It also extends the powers of the Auckland City Council with respect to the Auckland Domain.
- 1915, No. 5 (Local). The Papakura Beach Vesting Act, 1915.—This Act vests portion of the foreshore of the Manukau Harbour in the Papakura Town Board.
- 1915, No. 6 (Local). The Wyndham Recreation Reserve Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act vests the control of the Wyndham Recreation Reserve in the Wyndham Town Board.
- 1915, No. 7 (Local). The Wellington and Karori Sanitation and Water-supply Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act amends in various particulars the provisions of the Wellington and Karori Sanitation and Water-supply Act, 1912.
- 1915, No. 8 (Local). The Tokomaru Bay Harbour Act, 1915.—This Act vests the foreshore of Tokomaru Bay in the Waipoua County Council for harbour purposes.
- 1915, No. 9 (Local). The Christchurch Electrical Supply Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act amends the provisions of the Christchurch Electrical Supply Empowering Act, 1913, and extends the powers conferred by that Act on the Christchurch City Council.
- 1915, No. 10 (Local). The Bluff Harbour Improvements Act, 1915.—This Act authorizes the Bluff Harbour Board to raise a loan not exceeding £100,000 for harbour-work purposes.
- 1915, No. 11 (Local). The Devonport Borough Vesting Act, 1915.—This Act vests certain lands in the Corporation of the Borough of Devonport to be held as a public domain.
- 1915, No. 12 (Local). The Dunedin District Drainage and Sewerage Acts Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act authorizes the Dunedin District Drainage Board to raise a sum of £35,000 for the purposes of the Dunedin District Drainage and Sewerage Acts. It also amends in various particulars the provisions of the said Acts.
- 1915, No. 13 (Local).—The Inglewood Borough Endowment Disposal Act, 1915.—This Act authorizes the Inglewood Borough Council to sell certain borough endowments, and to invest the proceeds in the purchase of other lands.
- 1915, No. 14 (Local). The Lyttelton Borough Extension Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act extends the powers of the Lyttelton Borough Council in connection with Diamond Harbour.
- 1915, No. 15 (Local). The Springs County Council Reclamation and Empowering Act, 1915.—This Act empowers the Springs County Council to reclaim parts of a lagoon (known as Yarr's Lagoon) for the purpose of improving the flow of a certain river, and generally for drainage purposes.
- 1915, No. 16 (Local). The Tauranga Foreshore Vesting and Endowment Act, 1915.—This Act vests the foreshore of the Tauranga Harbour in the Tauranga Harbour Board.
- 1915, No. 17 (Local). The Otago Harbour Board Empowering Act, 1915.—This Act authorizes the Otago Harbour Board to raise a loan not exceeding £100,000 for the improvement of the Otago Harbour.

Private Acts.

- 1915, No. 1 (Private). The Church Property Trust (Canterbury) Act 1879 Amendment Act, 1915.—This Act extends the trusts and purposes upon which the Dean and Chapter Estate is held by the Church Property Trustees within the Diocese of Christchurch.
- 1915, No. 2 (Private). The Georgetti Trust Estate Act, 1915.—This Act authorizes the trustees appointed under the will of Augustin Georgetti (deceased) to sell the trust property, and declares the trusts for which the proceeds of such sale are to be applied.

No. 41.

New Zealand—Honours.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 3rd November, 1915.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, "Honours," dated the 11th August, together with the enclosures mentioned therein.

2. In accordance with your request, I beg to report that at 8.30 p.m. on Monday, 1st November, at Government House, Wellington, I held an investiture, at which, in the presence of certain of my Ministers, and a number of gentlemen holding the distinctions of K.C.M.G. and C.M.G., and their friends—in all about sixty persons—I duly invested the Honourable Francis Henry Dillon Bell, K.C., with the insignia of Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, and presented to James Mackenzie, Esquire, the badge of the Imperial Service Order.

3. I also presented¹ to Sir Francis Bell the Warrant passed under the Royal Sign-manual and Seal of the Order, a copy of the Statutes of the Order, and the Warrant conferring upon him the dignity of Knight Commander.

4. To Mr. James Mackenzie I handed, in addition to his badge, the letter forwarded with your despatch containing his Warrant of appointment and a copy of the Statutes of the Order.

5. In obedience to the King's command, as contained in His Majesty's Warrant, the investiture was carried out with all the dignity and ceremony appropriate to the occasion.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor

No. 42.

New Zealand, No. 241.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 19th November, 1915.

With reference to my despatch, No. 218, of the 21st October, I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying statement showing contributions by the Government and people of New Zealand to various war funds, which were remitted by telegraph on the 2nd instant to the High Commissioner for New Zealand in London for distribution.

2. The amounts shown on the statement do not include many other cash contributions which have been distributed other than through the High Commissioner, nor do they include the value of gifts in kind.

I have, &c.,

LIVERPOOL,

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Governor.

Enclosure.

LIST OF NEW ZEALAND CONTRIBUTIONS TO WAR FUNDS RECEIVED IN OCTOBER, 1915.

To the National Committee for Relief in Belgium—		£	s.	d.
Monthly contribution from Government of New Zealand	...	15,000	0	0
Southland Patriotic Committee	...	2,000	0	0
Otago Patriotic Association	...	3,000	0	0
Marlborough Provincial District	...	10	0	0
Sounds Patriotic Committee	...	75	0	0
Relief of Belgians in England: <i>Evening Star</i> , Dunedin	...	90	0	0
Relief of Belgian children in England: <i>Evening Star</i> Beehive Fund, Dunedin	...	10	0	0
Mount Felix Hospital Fund: From the New Zealand Hospital Ship Fund	...	5,000	0	0
Fund for providing comforts for our soldiers in hospitals—				
Middleton, H., Waverley	...	5	5	0
Williamson, D., East Taieri	...	0	10	0
Waverley Patriotic Fund	...	60	0	0
Fisher, Hon. J., Cambridge	...	21	0	0
Te Awamutu Defence Committee	...	650	0	0
Wanganui Patriotic Committee	...	50	0	0
Queenstown Patriotic Committee	...	1	10	0
Stamp Department staff, Wellington	...	1	0	0
Patea and District Patriotic League	...	33	0	0
Mander, M. B., Gisborne	...	200	0	0
Rosenoski, G., Aponga	...	0	10	0
King, G. A., Aponga	...	1	5	0
Kershaw, J., Aponga	...	5	0	0
Finlayson, J. A., Aponga	...	5	0	0
Serbian Relief Fund—				
Foxton Borough Council	...	2	10	0
Mauriceville County Council	...	2	10	0
Rowley, F. W., Wellington	...	3	0	0
Eketahuna Branch, Belgian Relief Fund	...	104	0	0
Post and Telegraph officers, Blenheim	...	0	9	2
Polish Relief Fund—				
Rowley, F. W., Wellington	...	3	0	0
Eketahuna Branch, Belgian Relief Fund	...	5	0	0
Post and Telegraph officers, Blenheim	...	0	6	8
Prince of Wales's Fund: Eyre County Council	...	10	3	0
Irish Relief Fund: Eyre County Council	...	10	3	0
Overseas Club Aircraft Fund: <i>Taranaki Herald and Budget</i> , New Plymouth	...	136	10	6
Allies' Relief Fund (for distribution at discretion of High Commissioner): Southland Branch, New Zealand Farmers' Union	...	100	0	0
		£26,896	12	4

No. 43.

New Zealand, No. 265.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 22nd December, 1915.

With reference to your despatch, No. 553, of the 11th October, enclosing copies of a notice issued by the Board of Trade regarding the examination in signalling of candidates for certificates of competency as master or mate, I have the honour to inform you, by request of my Ministers, that the necessary instructions have been given to the Examiners of Masters and Mates to test candidates, in accordance with the Board of Trade's notice, as from the 1st April next.

2. With regard to the third paragraph of the notice, my Ministers state that as soon as the Board of Trade definitely decides the date upon which a specified speed is to be regarded as compulsory the New Zealand regulations will be formally amended accordingly.

I have, &c.,
LIVERPOOL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 44.

New Zealand, No. 268.

SIR,— Government House, Wellington, 24th December, 1915.

With reference to your despatch, No. 581, of the 26th October, forwarding copies of a notice regarding nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize for 1916, I have the honour to inform you that in compliance with your request that the conditions of the prize be made known to those qualified to nominate candidates, my Ministers have arranged for the notice to be published in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

I have, &c.,
LIVERPOOL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, P.C., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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