

# New Zealand.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE LATE PROROGATION.

THE Committee, appointed by the House of Representatives to consider and report upon the validity of the late Prorogation of the General Assembly, having referred to such works upon the usage and law of Parliament as are accessible to them, have agreed to the following Report.

Following the usage of the Imperial Parliament which abstains from ascertaining the precise boundaries of Prerogative and Privilege, they deem it undesirable to seek to define the exact limits of the power of Her Majesty's Representative in the Colony in relation to this subject. They have, therefore, confined their attention and limited this Report to a statement of the practice of the Imperial Parliament relative to Prorogation, and their approval of its adoption in this Colony.

During the time when the Parliament is not actually sitting, whenever Her Majesty the Queen is pleased by and with the advice and consent of the Privy Council of Her Majesty to issue her Royal Proclamation giving notice of her Royal intention that Parliament shall be prorogued, and shall meet and be holden for dispatch of business on any day not being less than fourteen days from the date of such Proclamation, the Parliament is thereby prorogued to the day and place therein declared (37 Geo. III., c. 126, sec. 1); and a like power exists when both Houses stand adjourned for a period exceeding fourteen days (39 & 40 Geo. III., c. 14.)

But when the Parliament is sitting, prorogation is effected by the Sovereign in person attending the House of Lords, or by commission under the Great Seal, both Houses of the Legislature being in attendance. To secure this attendance, previous notice of the royal intention is usually given in the Government Gazette, whereby the several Houses of the Legislature are enabled to complete such Bills in progress as are in a position to become within the time limited sufficiently advanced to receive the royal assent.

This seems to your Committee a convenient mode of procedure, and one which provides against the great inconvenience arising from a sudden prorogation without notice, whereby the labour of the two Houses bestowed upon Bills which may have passed through all their stages, and may be upon the eve of receiving the assent of the Crown, is rendered nugatory, and must be commenced anew in a subsequent Session.

HENRY SEWELL, CHAIRMAN.

