

* C o p y.

20989

T a u p o,

NEW ZEALAND,

March 17th, 1914.

Dear Bond,

I hope before I leave New Zealand on the 23rd inst. to be able to submit to the N. Z. Prime Minister Massey, and to the Victorian Premier Watt, the heads of a scheme, the principle of which they may be able to accept.

According to W. and Green's Report a gross ~~of~~ rental of £124,000 will be sufficient to meet charges of administration, and 4% on £1,300,000 the cost of site purchased and 5% on £1,255,000 the estimated cost of construction.

If we could obtain a guarantee of 2d. per head on the 15,000,000 white population of the self-governing Dominions (I have not verified the actual number), we should have a firm guarantee of £120,000 per annum, a figure which suggests the possibility of a much larger expenditure than we have hitherto contemplated, enough to enable us to put up the finest building in London, or at any rate something of which the whole Empire could be proud, and the rest of the world envious.

If we could obtain a 2d. per head guarantee from only half of the Dominions, viz., £60,000 per annum, my impression is the thing is done. I think we should be able with such a guarantee to raise all the money we shall require - and once the building is erected and some of the self-governing provinces and States

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Volume 23