SUMMARY FOR EUROPE.

INTRODUCTION.

In the political history of the colony nothing may have been more absorbing during the month than the question of the federalisation of New South Wales. The session of the legislature has been passing with little of the usual disquietude. Those who impeded any startling development of government business have recently undertaken the task of framing a scheme of federation. The Chief Secretary's statement was received with great interest and the speakers, in their speeches, endeavoured to present the proposition as one of national importance. The present Ministry has been opposed from often not because of mismanagement but by reason of the principle of state independence, and the opposition has been carried on with a view to bring about a federation according to the dictates of the moral and material exigences of the colony. The propositions were therefore received with much approbation and assent, and there was a strong desire to have the matter settled as soon as possible.

The position of New South Wales in the federal scheme was by no means the most prominent. It was a question of the nature of the constitution, the nature of the government, and the question of the possible secession of the colony. The Speaker, in his motion, did not mention the nature of the government but referred to the possibility of its secession. The Speaker then referred to the nature of the composition of the legislature and the nature of the government of the colony.

The Speaker then went on to say that the colony was in a very critical position and that the future of the colony was in doubt. He referred to the possibility of the colony seceding and the nature of the constitution, and the necessity of the colony being able to bear its share of the burden of the federal scheme.

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