

SECTION III.

THE OPENING CEREMONY.

VERY seldom has this young Dominion seen a State ceremony which equalled in brilliance and dignity the official opening of the New Zealand Exhibition on Thursday, the 1st November, 1906. The beauty of the site and the buildings, the glittering naval and military parade, the immense gathering in the Exhibition Hall, and the magnificence of the musical portion of the pageant unitedly gave colonists good cause for satisfaction and pride, and impressed overseas visitors very pleasantly with New Zea-



ON OPENING DAY.

land's sense of fitness in things ceremonial. It was something more than a mere inauguration of an Exhibition show season. It gave definite expression to a deep-felt sense of nationhood achieved, of national independence and self-reliance, of a patriotism and a love of country that at the same time were compatible with a high loyalty to the Old Land. The addresses of the Governor and the Premier, and the finely phrased Exhibition Ode, gave eloquent voice to these sentiments. The music, a triumph of

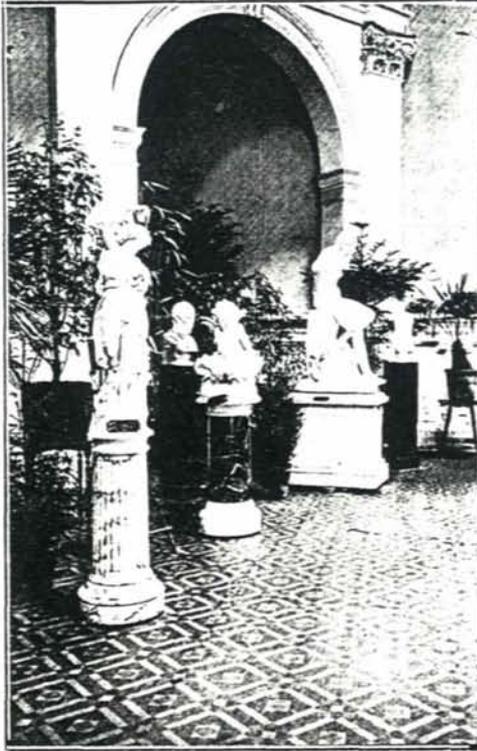
the composer's genius and of orchestral and choral art, breathed a dramatic spirit of difficulties overcome, of joyous optimism, of thanksgiving, and of pride in the consummation of a cherished ideal. To a visiting New Zealand writer the ceremonial was "one long crashing pæan of peace—the war-song of victorious industry." And there was no untoward happening, even of the smallest—no *tohu aitua*, as the omen-respecting Maori would say—to augur ill for the big Fair.

The hour fixed for the official opening was 11.30 a.m. Long before that time thousands of people were gathered in the Exhibition grounds and on the long tree-bordered roadway outside, with one collective eye on the capricious weather and the other on the way by which the vice-regal procession was to arrive—for His Excellency the Governor, Lord Plunket, had come down from Wellington to open the Exhibition. The northern steamers arriving at Port Lyttelton and the trains from the south had poured their thousands of visitors into the city, and Christchurch kept close holiday. The city was bright with flags, and the many flagpoles on the big white Exhibition palace carried their banners mast-headed in a ball, presently to be broken out when the gunfire announced the formal opening. The morning threatened rain, but long before noon it was a day of beautiful sunshine, with a fresh breeze that kept the city flags flapping and cracking, and the poplars rustling and the willows swishing by Avon-side. At 10 o'clock the Exhibition gates were opened, and soon thereafter the citizens and visitors invited to the inaugural gathering began to take their seats. The long main corridor had been arranged as a concert-hall; at the far end (western) a large stage, sloping up and backwards, was erected for the great orchestra and choir, numbering nearly three hundred, that were to take a very important part in the ceremonial. Police and Permanent Artillery-men guarded the precincts, and presently bodies of scarlet-uniformed volunteers and straw-hatted bluejackets from the British warships "Pioneer" and "Challenger"—lying in Lyttelton Harbour—marched in and lined either side of the corridor and the entrance vestibule and hall. Nearly an hour before the time appointed for the Governor's arrival the meeting-hall was filled with a well-dressed gathering of two thousand guests, the more distinguished occupying seats near the break of the stage, where pot-plants and ferns beautified the platform-front. Aloft sat the makers of music—Mr. Alfred Hill's grand orchestra of over fifty performers, the pick of Australasia, and the members of the Christchurch Musical Union, with the Woolston Brass Band. The arrangement of the choir added to the fine colour-effect; the men occupied the centre block and the ladies were on either flank—blue sashes on one side and red sashes on the other. About 11 o'clock some of the notable visitors took their seats near the stage-front—Sir Joseph Ward, Premier, and President of the Exhibition, who was to deliver the second speech of the day; Lady Ward; Ministers of the Crown (the Hon. A. Pitt, Hon. J. McGowan, Hon. George Fowlds, and Hon. J. A. Millar) and the Hon. T. Y. Duncan, Vice-Presidents; Sir John Gorst, Special Commissioner for Great Britain; Captain Percy Atkin, British Commissioner; and other visiting Government representatives. A number of the Executive Commissioners assembled at the main entrance at 11.20 to receive His Excellency the Governor.

The military display contributed largely to the brightness and picturesqueness of the inaugural ceremony. The city and country Volunteer corps were called out for the parade at the Exhibition-opening, and this force was augmented by a contingent of bluejackets from the British war-ships in Port Lyttelton. Altogether there were between eight and nine hundred officers and men of all branches of the service on parade, horse, foot, and artillery. The officers present at the opening ceremony as guests included Lieut.-Colonel Robin, C. B. (now Inspector-General of the New Zealand Forces); Lieut.-Colonel Bauchop, C.M.G.; Lieut.-Colonel Moore, V.D.; Major Andrew, Indian Army; Major Wolfe, V.D.; Major Hobday, who was chief Staff Officer; Major Cooper, Commander of the Artillery (First Division). The infantry units on parade

included the First and Second North Canterbury Infantry Battalions, and the South Canterbury Infantry Battalion. The Artillery Volunteers of the city mustered in full strength under Lieut.-Colonel Smith, and took up a position along the banks of the Avon, while the infantry lined the bridge and the approaches to the main entrance of the building. The Highland Rifles lined the entrance itself as a guard of honour to the Governor, and the North Canterbury Mounted Rifles under Captain Uru provided the escort for His Excellency.

The Governor on arrival at 11.30 a.m. was received with the Royal salute, and then entered the building to conduct the opening ceremony. The first notes of the



IN THE ENTRANCE HALL.

National Anthem brought the great audience to its feet, as the Governor's party walked up the long aisle to the stage-front and took seats just below the platform, facing the orchestra and choir. His Excellency Lord Plunket, wearing his official uniform and orders, was accompanied by Lady Plunket and by Captain Braithwaite, A.D.C., and escorted by Mr. C. M. Gray, M.H.R., Chairman of the General Committee, and by the following Exhibition Commissioners: Messrs. T. E. Donne (Vice-President), G. T. Booth, W. Reece, G. S. Munro (Chairman of Commissioners), George J. Roberts, H. J. Scott (South Australia), and H. C. L. Anderson (New South Wales); and Mr. E. J. Righton, Secretary of the Exhibition. Other Exhibition Commissioners present were Messrs. Arthur M. Myers (Mayor of Auckland), Hon. T. W. Hislop (Mayor of Wellington), George Lawrence (Mayor of Dunedin), John Roberts (Dunedin), A. B. Robinson, J. W. Joshua, and Dr. L. L. Smith (Victoria). Other invited guests included members of both Houses of the New Zealand Parliament, members of the Judicial Bench, officers of the army and navy, clergymen, representatives of educational bodies, chairmen and

members of the Exhibition Committees, visiting journalists, and a large number of prominent New Zealand citizens.

When the Governor and his party were seated, Mr. Hill and his orchestra and chorus burst into the grand music of the Exhibition Ode. The ode was a prize composition written by Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, of Christchurch. It was set to music by Mr. Hill, R.C.M.L., who conducted his own fine composition

THE EXHIBITION ODE.

1.

Hail! hail! from isles of the uttermost sea!
 Coming from continents hoary,
 Grey with the passing of years,
 History giving a glory,
 A glamour made tender with tears.—
 Hail! hail! the land with its future to be,
 New Zealand, cries "Welcome!"

Ah! 'mid our joy, the Pilgrims are passing away,
 We from their labour find leisure,
 We from their hands have our home;
 Mingled is sorrow and pleasure.
 See! 'mid the perilous foam
 A bountiful wilderness lay
 Where Pilgrims found welcome.

Hail! hail! from isles of the uttermost sea!
 The land with its future to be,
 New Zealand, cries "Welcome!"

2.

Long, long she lay, in isolated splendour,
 Seas her defences, distances her shield;
 Morn glorious rose, and eve closed peaceful, tender;
 Lorn lay this Eden fair, once lost, again revealed.

See! timorous ships, the white-winged ships of ocean,
 Venture from northward, through unfurrowed seas;
 Eyes eager gaze, hearts thrill with deep emotion,
 As the vast sea lays bare, gives up, its mysteries.

Now, wonder now! the life of one man passing
 Might see the changes, gold, grain, snowy fleece;
 See wealth on wealth within her, shores amassing,
 Health, wealth, prosperity, and glad unthreatened peace!

Lands hoar with eid, once half a world asunder,
 Once girt by oceans, dark to human ken,
 Near now have drawn these Isles of endless wonder.
 Hail! fruitful Fortunate Isles! Peace! bold seafaring men!

3.

Not unsought the Isles were found,
 Not unfought the Isles were won;
 Ere the head with peace is crowned
 Strife must end and war be done.
 In their southern solitude,
 Nature's children dwelt in feud.

Pioneers found the land,
 Torn by battle-loving band;
 Pioneers have but done
 What by Nature was begun,
 Brothers, less by this our shame:
 Ye were dying when we came!

4.

Tillage and shepherding gave us their guerdon,
 Bridged is the distance of severing sea;
 Past is the heat of the day with its burden,
 Fruitful with purpose our leisure shall be.
 Haven of beauty! from arduous duty
 Gladly we turn for our solace to thee.

Ere a short century lies on man's labour,
 See what his hands have accomplished and done ;
 Welcome the leisure for viol and tabor ;
 Welcome the leisure that labour has won ;
 Now may we nourish the arts till they flourish—
 Something of beauty shall gladden the sun !

5.

The lakes ! the trees ! the everlasting hills !
 The fiery regions of the earthquake god !
 The fastnesses, where no man shears or tills !
 The virgin depths of age-unriven sod !
 A young land, new land ! virgin from whose eyes
 Are caught fleet glimpses of a Paradise !
 A Land whose loveliness renews the breath,
 And stays the hand, the ruthless hand of death !

The pastured hills ! the broad and fertile plains,
 Whose produce in the world finds welcome sure !
 The Land that in the world's wide market gains
 A place that older lands cannot secure !
 The mines ! the meads ! they rival England's own !
 Behold ! behold ! to all the world is shewn
 Utility and beauty may be one ;
 That here the gold is gathered from the sun !

6.

Open stands New Zealand's gate,
 Hither through the Nations ;
 In these halls they joyous wait
 With a world's creations.
 Far the clarion notes are blown,
 She is famed who was unknown.

Here is shewn what she has done,
 Needs of men supplying ;
 Here is shewn what may be won,
 Dearth and death defying ;
 Through colonial rigour bred,
 They shall lead who once were led.

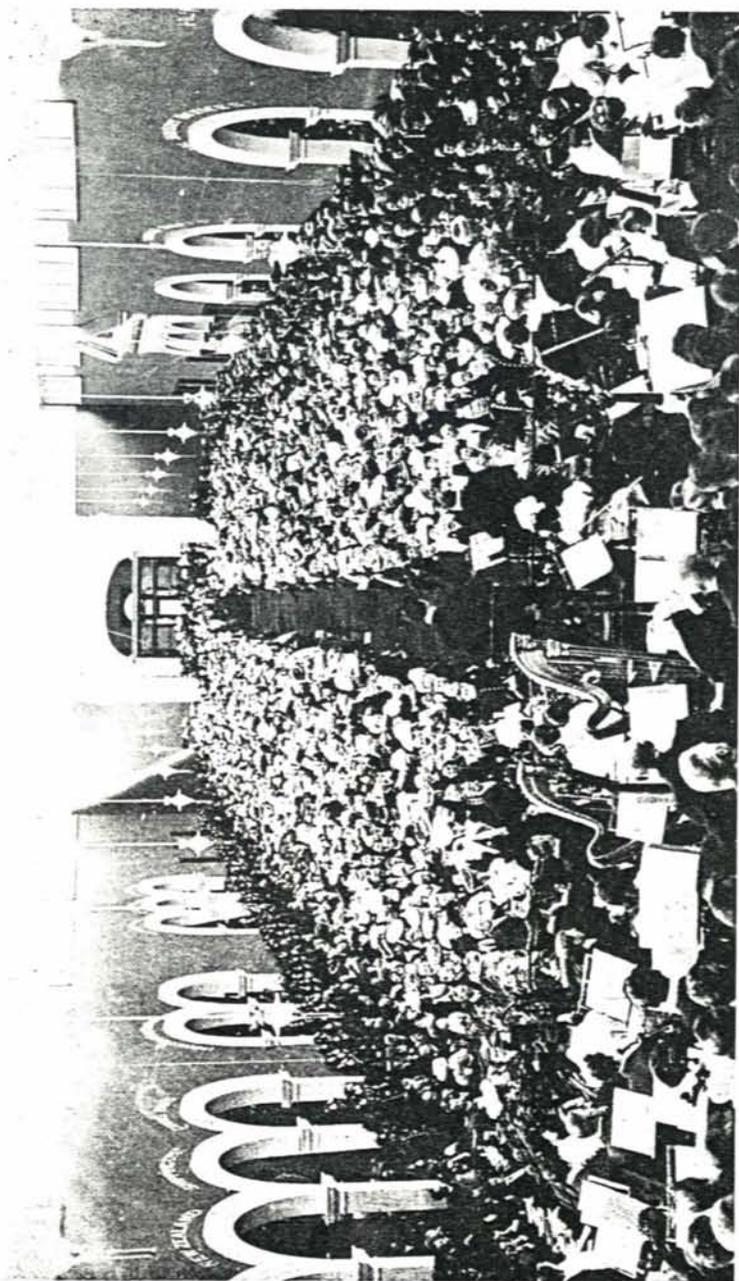
Wide and wider fling the gate,
 Who will aid may enter ;
 Teacher, artist, man of state,
 Artisan, inventor ;
 Here a sturdy people heeds
 Social laws and labour's needs.

Wider fling the gate, more wide,
 See ! the nations olden,
 Breasting through a silver tide
 Seek our borders golden !
 Hither comes the fleet that plies
 With a wide world's merchandise.

7.

Joyously, joyously, sing triumphal strains of toil victorious ;
 Joyously—a colony begun is waxed to Nation glorious.
 World-renowned, world-renowned, she serene shall sit in her security ;
 Praise to God for aid in younger days, and pray for aid through glad maturity.

The Ode was a magnificent piece of orchestral and choral work, and the vast audience, at first silent and closely critical, gave expression to loud and delighted approval at the end of each of the principal phrases, approval which became more and more



THE AUDIENCE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

enthusiastic as the work went on, and culminated in a storm of applause at the close of the performance. From the opening chorus, "Hail! hail! from Isles of the Uttermost Sea," to the final grand crash of harmony from orchestra, chorus, pipe organ, and brass band, the work was a masterpiece of the composer's art. Mr. Hill has written a great deal of fine music, but this was his best, and it stamped him as a composer of genius. First there was the trumpet-fanfare and the rich full chorus from nearly two hundred voices, and the last broad chord "New Zealand cries 'Welcome!'" cut off short with a brazen clash of cymbals; then a sweet, soft recitative opening the delightful tranquil descriptive passage "Long, long She lay in Isolated Splendour"; the welcome to the Pilgrim ships; the pæan of safe arrival in the desired haven; the bold, barbaric Maori rhythmic movement of the number in which the battle-loving brown men of old New Zealand were described, a number characteristic of the savage spirit of the *haka*; then in high contrast the pleasant peaceful pastoral melody of the passage, "Tillage and Shepherding gave Us their Guerdon"; the thrill and dramatic fire of the passage descriptive of the grand, often terribly grand, scenery of the Dominion; and finally the grand chorale, with its pæan of joy-bells, its indescribably fine organ harmonies, and its mighty combination of the whole great vocal and instrumental force in the splendid closing hymn of praise. The solos were taken in a manner befitting the work. Miss Amy Murphy sang the dainty, sweet, half-plaintive number, "Long, long She lay"; Mr. A. Ballance, baritone, took the third number, "Not unsought the Isles were found," with the fine vigour and force that the solo required; Mr. E. Crabtree sang the tenor solo beginning "Tillage and Shepherding," and there was a vocal quartette of much beauty by Miss Murphy, Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Crabtree, and Mr. A. Millar (bass).

When the music ceased the great hall rang with applause for several minutes. Probably no musical composition ever had such a reception of delighted enthusiasm before in New Zealand. Mr. Hill bowed his thanks, and the Governor rose and shook him by the hand, and congratulated him on his splendid achievement. Mr. Andersen, the author of the ode, was introduced to His Excellency, who congratulated him also.

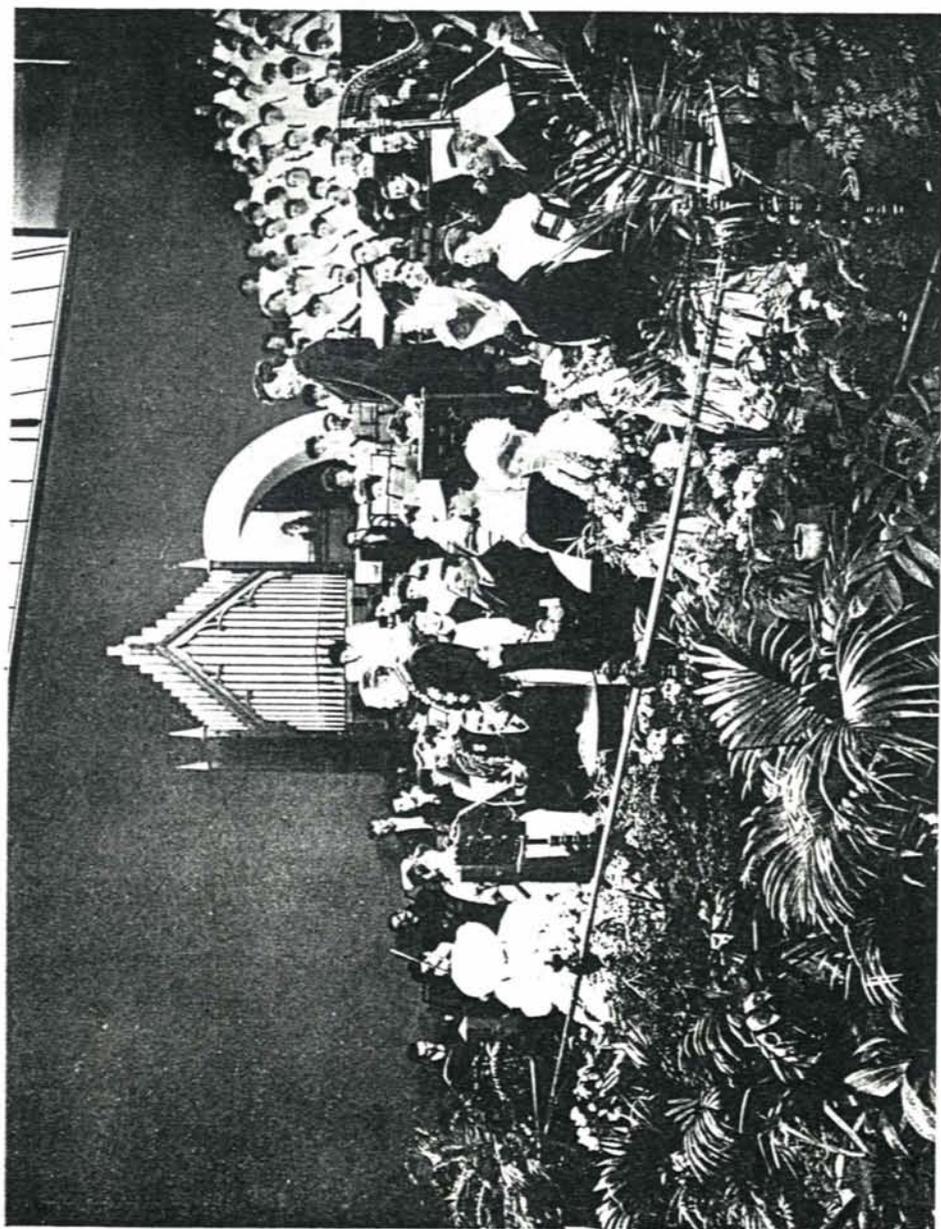
The musical portion of the ceremonial ended, the Governor, and the Premier and party, took their seats on the dais, and the speeches began.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

NEW ZEALAND'S FUTURE.

His Excellency Lord Plunket delivered the following opening address:—

Sir Joseph Ward, ladies, and gentlemen.—It is, I can assure you, with feelings of the deepest pride and satisfaction that I rise to carry out the honourable duty which has been conferred upon me. That satisfaction is, however, tempered with sorrow that the New Zealand statesman and British Imperialist who laid the foundation-stone figuratively and actually of this undertaking is not here to see completed the largest Exhibition ever held beneath the Southern Cross, and to witness the response which the Mother-country and her children have made to New Zealand's invitation.—(Applause.)—We call this the "New Zealand International Exhibition," and the number of foreign firms which are exhibiting entitles us to use that name. But when you have viewed the Canadian section—an object-lesson in the art of national advertisement—the representative exhibits which the Australian States and Fiji have placed before us, the list of private exhibitors from nearly all our colonies, and last, but not least, the carefully prepared English section, and the magnificent gallery of British art, I venture to say that an equally honourable and possibly more appropriate title would be "New Zealand's Empire Exhibition." Proud as I am to be associated with so important an undertaking, I am even more interested in the object underlying its conception. That object, if I



HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, LORD PLUNKET, DELIVERING THE OPENING SPEECH.

interpret it rightly, was to show to their fellow-citizens of the Empire what New Zealand, with a history of but a man's lifetime, has accomplished. It was also to demonstrate to the world that there is rising here a young nation which, though furthest from the Mother-country and nine hundred miles from her nearest neighbour, is British in thought and blood, happy and prosperous, standing only on the threshold of her splendid future. It may be thought by some that it is presumptuous, if not ridiculous, for less than a million of people, living on a mere speck on the Pacific Ocean, to anticipate becoming the New Zealand of the Southern Seas, or for a land of but yesterday to expect to compare with the greatest manufacturing and seafaring nation in the Old World. But it is in no such doubting spirit that the New-Zealander regards the future. He points to the thirty-seven millions of Great Britain, and proudly tells you that his own country is as large, as healthy, and as fertile. Indeed, nothing has impressed me more during my visits to different parts of the colony than the fact that, beneath the surface of their general content, the pioneer and the farmer, the merchant and the artisan, are looking forward confidently to their children's splendid heritage.—(Applause.)—"There's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough-hew them how we will." Mutton, wool, and flax are not to be our "Ultima Thule," for Providence has not merely blessed New Zealand with those fertile valleys and fruitful plains which are at present her main asset. Not only is she yielding us gold in ever-increasing quantities, and hinting that in the oil-fields of the North we have another valuable product, but, as a promise of our future greatness upon the seas, Nature has given us splendid harbours, inexhaustible beds of coal, and iron in a condition which needs but the magician's wand of the modern chemist to become the finest steel. And if this country has the material to build her ships, she has also the sailors to man them, for the New-Zealander has eminently the seafaring nature of the Englishman. Small as the colony is, the house-flag of the Union Company flies in the principal ports of Australia, waves throughout the islands of the Pacific, and salutes the great Dominion at Vancouver. Leaving her maritime future, New Zealand, with her enormous and constant water-power waiting only to be harnessed, has hopeful prospects as a manufacturing country. Is it difficult to believe that, with humanitarian legislation for the workers and wise treatment of capital, there will arise before long manufacturing towns differing only from those at Home in that grinding poverty, overcrowding, and dirt, smoke, and fog will be absent? I do not think, ladies and gentlemen, that the people of New Zealand will consider that I have overestimated the probable future of this land in which they take so much pride; and it seemed to me that, at an epoch of her history such as this Exhibition I am sure will prove, it was a fitting occasion to dwell upon her future—upon the coming day when this beautiful country will not only be happy and prosperous, but happy, prosperous, and great. Ladies and gentlemen, I have finished. I have but to welcome our visitors in the name of His Majesty the King, and to repeat to the people of New Zealand how fully I appreciate the respect and honour they invariably pay to the representative of their Sovereign, and how deeply sensible I am of their generous goodwill towards myself.—(Loud applause.)

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.—SPEECH BY SIR JOSEPH WARD.

A SKETCH OF THE EXHIBITION.

Sir Joseph Ward, Premier of New Zealand and President of the Exhibition, in his address welcomed the distinguished visitors and gave a running general sketch of the chief attractions of the Exhibition. He said,—

Your Excellency, ladies, and gentlemen,—I desire in the first place to express the deep regret I feel upon this occasion at the absence of the man who started the International Exhibition of New Zealand. In December last, when he laid the foundation-stone of this great building, he was full of hope, and he gave all the force and weight

of his powerful influence both in and beyond New Zealand. He looked forward to the time when he would have performed the ceremony that I am now endeavouring to undertake, and which he would have done so much better than it is possible for me to do. He was one who had reigned for fifteen years in New Zealand, was the author of the International Exhibition, and up to the last did all in his power to insure its success. There is to-day no man or woman in New Zealand who would not rejoice had he been here to assist us in this important ceremony, ornamented by the presence of His Excellency the Governor. May I be permitted to read the following telegram which I received an hour ago from Mrs. Seddon: "To-day our thoughts turn towards Christchurch, and we sincerely hope everything will pass off satisfactorily, and that the Exhibition will be the success that Mr. Seddon would have wished it.—JANIE SEDDON."—(Applause.)—May I also say how sorry we are that the distinguished gentleman at present Mayor of Christchurch—Sir John Hall—is unable to be here to take part in this ceremony. We regret the cause, but we know that though he is absent in person he is with us in spirit, and I sincerely hope—and I am expressing the feeling of this great assemblage—that he will be as well as ever in the course of a short time. I have to welcome the visitors to New Zealand, and among them I name first the distinguished gentleman who represents the British Government, Sir John Gorst.—(Applause.)—His character is well known; his name is known all over the British Empire. The fact that he has been sent out here is a considerable compliment from the British Government, and will make the people at Home, I trust, think more seriously of New Zealand, and, at all events, of its Exhibition. He, with the late Lord Randolph Churchill, Mr. Arthur Balfour, and Sir Drummond Wolfe, formed the party known for all time in the history of politics in England as the "Fourth Party," a party that, for a time, attracted so much attention in the British Parliament. The British Government has also shown its practical interest by placing on the estimates a sum of £10,000 for representation in the British Court. I have also to welcome the Canadian Commissioners, Messrs. Race and Burns.—(Applause.)—The Canadians, ladies and gentlemen, have shown us how well they know how to do things by sending a political representative and a commercial representative to New Zealand. I desire to welcome the representative of the Commonwealth, Sir Richard Baker, Speaker of the Senate.—(Applause.)—I welcome also the delegates from the States of Australia. You join with me, I know, in extending to them a very hearty welcome.—(Applause.)—Later I will read you a few apologies. In the meantime let me say a word or two in connection with the Exhibition. In 1904 the Parliament of the country authorised the commencement of an International Exhibition. The late Premier intimated in Christchurch that this great undertaking was to be gone on with, and later on Mr. Munro, the Chairman of the Exhibition Commissioners, was appointed by the Government to initiate the work, and on him the organization at its inception was cast. It is due to him to say that he has carried out the enormous mass of work done—work which reflects the highest credit upon him.—(Applause.)—I desire to say, ladies and gentlemen, that it is known only to those who are actively engaged in connection with this Exhibition the mass of work that has been done by the Chairman of Commissioners, Mr. Munro, and I take this opportunity—the first time since the Exhibition has been inaugurated—of saying that the Government recognise that he had a most difficult task to discharge—put between the people and the Government as a buffer, and he has carried out the work, so far, exceedingly well. I also wish to thank Mr. Allan—(loud applause and cheers)—who also did his work well, and I sincerely hope he may soon be restored to that health which you all are anxious to see.—(Applause.)—I have also to thank the Executive Commissioners, who have co-operated and given the benefit of their advice and assistance to help the work forward. I cannot do more in referring to the local committees than to say that they have done really hard and practical work, for which they are entitled to warm acknowledgment.—(Ap-



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plause.)—In such a great undertaking as this Exhibition, naturally there must be difficulties. Difficulties are made to be overcome, and all that have so far presented themselves have been overcome by those who are responsible for assisting to bring about success, and I desire to acknowledge what good work the various committees have done in this respect.

Now it is my duty to refer for a moment or two to the architects and the builders, and I want to say that Mr. Maddison, the designer of the Main Building, the Fernery, and the Concert Hall, has carried out his work to the entire satisfaction of the Government of the country, and his work must speak for itself; and I invite those who are here to critically examine it during their stay in Christchurch. I also wish to thank Mr. Barlow, the designer of the Machinery Hall and the Art Gallery, both of which have been excellently done, and to thank Messrs. Jamieson Bros., the builders of the Main Building, who had very great difficulties to contend with at the inception, owing to a small tornado for a change visiting Christchurch and blowing down a building and tower. With indomitable courage they went on, and no one can tell that there has been even as much as a breeze of wind around this territory. Mr. Smith, the builder of the Machinery Hall, and Messrs. Hall Bros., the contractors for the Art Gallery, and the Inspector of Works—on behalf of the colony I thank them. The first contract for the Main Building was £28,000, the second and third amounted to £23,000—a total of £51,000. In consequence of Victoria applying a little later than was anticipated there has been a necessary addition of £4,000 incurred in that respect, and the architects and Messrs. Jamieson Bros. have done excellent work here. And I would not like, ladies and gentlemen, to go away from the acknowledgments I am now making without thanking Mr. Pearson, the gardener from the Government grounds at Rotorua—(applause)—for the excellent way in which he has carried out the work in connection with the Fernery.

There are seven hundred exhibitors already within the walls of the Exhibition. The floor space is about 500,000 square feet, of which about five-twelfths is taken up by corridors and avenues. The value of the exhibits, independently of the pictures, is in round figures half a million sterling—(loud applause)—and the pictures are valued at at least a quarter of a million. I wish to thank the British Government and friends of the colony in England for having sent out pictures to the gallery.—(Applause.)—It will do an immense amount of good not only to the people of New Zealand, but to those who came here to visit the Exhibition, because I am informed that there has never been within the walls of any picture-gallery such a magnificent display of art as is to be found within the walls of that gallery. There are here already people who have come for the special purpose of making a selection of these pictures with a view to purchasing. New Zealanders ought to toe the mark and not allow these pictures to be sold and leave our shores.—(Hear, hear, and applause.)—I also desire to thank the exhibitors and concessionaries for their faith in the undertaking.

This is the largest Exhibition that has been held south of the Line, and I am informed by those who were qualified to judge by having been present at the opening of the St. Louis Exposition, the Paris Exhibition, and the Victorian Exhibition at Melbourne, that there has never been an Exhibition which was so far advanced on the day of opening as the International Exhibition of New Zealand is.—(Loud applause.)—I desire to thank particularly Canada and Australia for what they have done. The Canadians set a good example. They were the first in the field, and to their credit be it said that the flag was hoisted over the Canadian Court, finally finished, this morning at 6 o'clock. It was the first flag to fly in token that the Exhibition was completed.—(Loud applause.)—New South Wales and Victoria have also done well, and I have to thank them on behalf of the colony for the splendid way in which they have exhibited, and for the energy they have put into their work. The Cook-Islanders and the Fijians, and the representatives of the original Maoris also deserve to be mentioned on this occasion,

and I wish to say how much we are indebted to Mr. Hamilton, of the Colonial Museum, for the work he has taken in hand and has carried out.—(Applause.)

It is possible now, in the course of a few weeks' peregrinations in these buildings, to find what it might, in all probability, take three or four years to find in journeying round the world—such a magnificent and varied collection is presented to the people of this country. From both an educational and an economic point of view, the Exhibition will pay New Zealand handsomely. There are thousands of people who would never be able to go to distant parts and see what is now brought here within their reach; and I sincerely hope that the splendid facilities which are being offered to the children of New Zealand to be brought to the Exhibition, and kept, at the sum of 2s. a day, in a building that will accommodate five hundred of them, will not be lost sight of by their teachers and parents, to enable them to have the benefits of the magnificent education this Exhibition will present.—(Applause.)—It is also my business to refer to the transparent insulated chambers, representing the frozen meat and dairy industry, which have been erected by agreement with the Canterbury Frozen Meat Company and Messrs. J. J. Niven and Co., of Napier. This is a good opportunity for visitors to our shores and others to show what this colony is able to produce in connection with frozen supplies, and the benefits of this from a commercial point of view must be of considerable advantage to our colony. Then, again, there is every opportunity in the shape of sports. There will be military sports, international games, axemen's carnival, Scottish sports, and there will be an exhibition of fire-walking by Fijians; and, ladies and gentlemen, let me say that this is the first opportunity outside of the Fijian Islands that this has been possible; and those who have travelled at a very great expense to Fiji have had to go on to the Island of Benga before they were able to see this unique fire-walking, which will be one of the attractions in connection with this Exhibition. Then there are amusements of all kinds provided for the public, and I want here to say this lest there should be any misconception in the minds of people who are not here: There has been an effort made to have everything of a new character in this respect, not to have the old kinds of amusement, so that those who visit the side-shows, which must of necessity be a great attraction to this Exhibition, will find that they can travel on the helter-skelter and on the Rocky Road to Dublin. They will find they can get upon a toboggan slide, and they can have a water-chute, or they can shoot rapids if they wish. And to the mothers who are anxious to come here, and who may by this adventure lose their little ones, let me say they have been thought about. We have provided an emporium for the babies, and that emporium is under the charge of a lady, Mrs. Cole. There will be attendants there, all of whom are paid for by the Government. These babies will be numbered most carefully, so that there will be no chance whatever of mixing the babies up.—(Laughter.)—But it is just possible, ladies and gentlemen, that one or two of them may be lost. Well, if they are, the Exhibition authorities will take the greatest care of them, and they will be exhibited to ensure that they will be known by their mothers when they come along to find them later on. Now I want to say a word in connection with the Besses-o'-th'-Barn Band. This is a band that has been honoured by various countries and idolised in France, and it has just had a triumphant tour of America and Canada. Under an arrangement, and on the suggestion of the late Premier, the Besses-o'-th'-Barn Band was engaged. It stands out as one of the finest in the world. A postage-stamp is now ready to commemorate the Exhibition. Nobody will be allowed to buy more than five shillings' worth, so as to prevent large quantities getting into the hands of collectors. It will now give you some idea of what has been done when I tell you that three million "stickers" have been issued, and have been sent forth to all parts of the world. They have been a splendid advertisement for the colony. They contain representations of the kiwi, huia, Maori art, and so on. The last "stickers" will have a representation of the late Mr. Seddon, in honour of his connec-

tion with the Exhibition.—(Applause.)—Let me say also that, in order to mark the inception of this undertaking, to-day for the first time you can send a letter to America for one penny.—(Cheers.)—To-day for the first time you can send a letter four ounces in weight throughout New Zealand for one penny.—(Applause.)—To-day for the first time you can send telegrams from end to end of the colony without any restriction for one halfpenny a word.—(Applause.)—I am sorry to say that there are two provinces in New Zealand that have not made a distinctive representation at the Exhibition. These provinces are Otago and Wellington. There are many people in those provinces who are represented individually, but there are no provincial exhibits from those parts of the colony. I am sorry for this, and I sincerely hope that it is not too late for them to have special exhibits erected.—(Hear, hear.)

I want to say a word by way of contrast. When the previous International Exhibition was held in Dunedin, the exports from this colony amounted to £9,400,000. Last year they were £15,500,000. The imports on the previous occasion were £6,200,000; last year they were £12,800,000. In short, they have more than doubled. I may add that the people of this little New Zealand have £30,316,954 of their own in the shape of deposits in the Savings-Bank and other banks.

As to the Exhibition, the position of the colony is that it has paid £73,000, and it should be reassuring to my fellow members of Parliament who voted £64,000 last session when I state, on the authority of the Chairman of the Executive Commissioners, that not nearly all that amount will be required. There is every prospect of this great undertaking turning out more favourably than was originally anticipated. I am sure that all sincerely hope it will be so. If the Pilgrim Fathers of Canterbury could see what we are seeing to-day, what would they think of the progress of this colony during the past twenty-five years! This Exhibition is situated in one of the most beautiful spots in the colony. We are a happy people in a happy country, and, although we may have complaints to make about different matters affecting the well-being of our own country, upon the whole, if we scan across the oceans to other lands, we are bound to conclude that, after all, we are living under happy auspices, under a free flag, under the sovereign grace. I can only say that it affords me the greatest possible pleasure to ask His Excellency the Governor to accept this beautiful key as a memento of an event which in future years, I am sure, will be remembered by him with pleasure and with happiness in connection with the distinguished position he occupies. I can only now wish the International Exhibition of New Zealand every possible success, and I hope at the end that instead of a deficit we shall find a profit, as a result of the people patronising it to the fullest possible extent.—(Loud applause.)

THE EXHIBITION DECLARED OPEN.

At the conclusion of Sir Joseph Ward's speech the "Old Hundredth" Psalm was sung: such a splendid volume of stately song had probably never before been heard in New Zealand. Sir Joseph handed His Excellency a gold key with the request that he should declare the Exhibition open. At the same time he presented Lady Plunket with a gold Exhibition pass, and the Hon. Kathleen Plunket with a gold pass.

His Excellency said he thanked those in charge for the beautiful key, which would be a souvenir to him for the rest of his life of the most important undertaking with which he had been directly connected. He read the following telegram that he had just despatched to His Majesty the King:—

"The Secretary of State for the Colonies, London.—Am desired by my Government to convey to His Majesty the King the pleasing intelligence that the New Zealand International Exhibition was duly opened by me to-day in the presence of a large and representative gathering, including the representative of His Majesty's Government, the Right

Hon. Sir John Gorst, and other representatives from overseas dominions; that my Prime Minister has every confidence that the undertaking will be a great success, tend to further strengthen the good feeling which has always existed between the colonies and the Mother-country, afford to the people of Great Britain and other countries a broader knowledge of the resources and products of New Zealand, and be to the mutual advantage of the various countries exhibiting, and to the dominions beyond the seas in particular."

His Excellency then said, "I now declare the New Zealand International Exhibition open."

The National Anthem followed, performed by the orchestra and chorus inside and the massed bands outside.

Outside the building a very large gathering of spectators had assembled to watch the ceremonial proceedings, and waited patiently for the conclusion of the business within. Just before 1 p.m. the ringing of a bell announced that the Exhibition had been declared open. The battery of artillery on the river-bank immediately began the Royal salute of twenty one guns. At the sound of the first gun the whole front of the great building burst into a gay flutter of bunting as the British flags were run up on the tower flagstuffs, and all the national flags which had been rolled up and hoisted were broken out. Between each seven rounds of battery-fire the South Canterbury Infantry Battalion fired the *jeu de joie*, the Timaru Brass Band playing the National Anthem. Then the people streamed into the Exhibition, and soon the corridors were crowded, and the numerous shops and side-shows commenced the brisk business that was to last for nearly six months to come.

After the official ceremony, the Governor, accompanied by his party and by the Premier, made a brief general inspection of the Exhibition. At the gallery-stall devoted to souvenirs of Nelson and the "Victory," the Rev. Mr. Matthews welcomed the party, and asked the Governor to present to Sir Joseph Ward, as representing the Parliament of New Zealand, a small bust of Lord Nelson in copper, mounted upon a block of oak taken from Nelson's famous flagship, the "Victory." Sir Joseph Ward, in acknowledging the gift, said that the Parliament of New Zealand would highly appreciate the bust, and treasure it for all time. (This bust is now in the Parliament Buildings in Wellington.)

The troops remained on parade until His Excellency reappeared from the building and with his escort left the grounds, and then marched back to barracks for lunch.

In the afternoon the sports ground was the scene of that beautiful and impressively symbolical military ceremonial, "trooping the colours." The ceremony consisted in taking the King's and regimental colours under a guard through the ranks on parade so that every soldier and sailor present might do them honour. About nine hundred officers and men were on parade, and the review-ground was gay with the red full-dress uniforms of the infantry. His Excellency the Governor with his staff took up a position at the saluting-base. Besides the Volunteers on the ground, several companies of blue-jackets from H.M. ships "Challenger," "Pioneer," and "Pyramus" paraded, and took part in the march past with one of their field-guns, the "Challenger's" band playing. The regimental colours that were the central object of interest were forty-six years old; they had been presented by the ladies of the Canterbury Province to the Christchurch Volunteers. The flags were handed over by a small armed escort to a guard of eighty men selected from the North Canterbury Battalion under the command of Captain Mathias. This colour-escort, accompanied by a band, marched

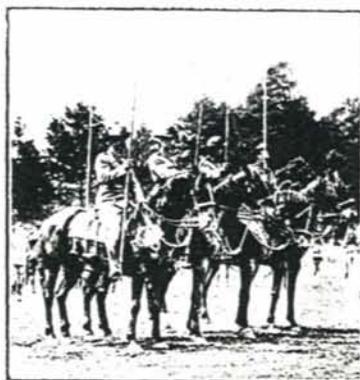




HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR INSPECTING THE TROOPS, OPENING DAY.

at the regulation "slow" pace through the ranks on parade, each corps saluting as the colours passed. The compliments to the colours over, the various corps marched past the saluting-base in review order, the colour-escort marching at the head. The last battalion consisted of six companies of school cadets. After the march past, the whole parade advanced in line in review order and gave the Royal salute, which ended the review.

His Excellency took the opportunity of presenting medals to the following: Lieut.-Co'onel Chaffey and Major Cosgrove, Volunteer Decoration; Captain McNab and Corporal Page, the New Zealand Volunteer Long-and-efficient-service Medal; and Sergeant Cox, the Colonial Auxiliary Forces Long-service Medal.



A MESSAGE FROM THE KING.

In reply to the cable message sent by His Excellency the Governor at the request of the Premier to His Majesty the King, the Governor received the following from the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

"Your telegram of November 1. His Majesty commands me to thank your Government for their information, and to express his satisfaction that the Exhibition has opened under such favourable auspices, his cordial wishes for its success, and his belief that it will conduce to the good relations and the prosperity of the whole Empire. —(Signed) ELGIN."

THE GOVERNOR'S BANQUET.

In the evening an inaugural banquet in honour of the opening of the Exhibition was given by His Excellency the Governor. Among the guests were the Premier, Sir Joseph Ward; the Hon. J. McGowan, Hon. A. Pitt, Hon. J. A. Millar, and the Hon. G. Fowlds, members of the Ministry; the Right Hon. Sir John Gorst, Special Com-

missioner from Great Britain; Captain Percy Atkin, British Government Commissioner; Sir Richard Baker, representative of the Australian Commonwealth; Messrs. T. H. Race and W. A. Burns, representatives of the Dominion of Canada; H. C. Anderson, New South Wales; E. Nicholls, Victoria; H. J. Scott, South Australia; L. E. Brown, Fiji; the Exhibition Executive Vice-Presidents, Commissioners, and other guests.

Sir Joseph Ward, in proposing "Success to the New Zealand International Exhibition," said that, if they might judge by the day's proceedings, the inauguration of the Exhibition augured well for its success.—(Applause.)—They could feel that also when they realised that the Governments of two or three countries had sent exhibits, exporters of other countries had spent a great deal in placing on view the products that they desired to send into New Zealand, and New Zealand had endeavoured to show what it was desirous of sending elsewhere. It was an especial pleasure to welcome to the Exhibition the representatives of Canada.—(Applause.)—He had been exceedingly sorry, on returning to his rooms after the opening ceremony, to find that a cable message from the distinguished Prime Minister of Canada had not been sent on to him in time to be read at the ceremony. It had given expression to the goodwill of the Canadians towards the Exhibition, and he had replied, conveying the thanks of the colony to Canada. He had also received a cablegram from the Acting Prime Minister of Cape Colony, expressing his regret at his inability to be present at the opening, and stating that he would visit the Exhibition later on. People in New Zealand were very anxious that the Exhibition should lead to trade with Canada, South Australia, and the Commonwealth, and if they could induce their Australian friends to give them something in the shape of an equitable reciprocity treaty, New-Zealanders would be glad to trade. He hoped that Sir Richard Baker and his colleagues would be able to impress on the Commonwealth Government that New Zealand was most willing to reciprocate with them, if they would give a reasonable tariff. He believed that the Exhibition would serve to show the visitors what New Zealand could produce in the way of live-stock, grain, and minerals; and also that it produced first-class boys and girls, who were no inconsiderable portion of the asset it possessed. He hoped that Sir John Gorst would be able to tell his Government that the people of New Zealand were chips of the old block, and to induce some of the best of English people to come to the colony. The success of the Exhibition would be a means of inducing them to leave their homes for a new country, and in view of the splendid way in which His Excellency had put his *imprimatur* upon it, it should be a success.—(Applause.)

Sir John Gorst, referring to the British Government's contribution to the Exhibition, said that the motives which had actuated the British Government in sending its contribution had been strong sympathy with the aspirations of New Zealand, and a sincere desire to promote the success of the undertaking upon which the colony had embarked. In the first place, the British Government had sent illustrations of the progress of art in the Mother-country, and of the application that was now being made of that art to the processes of manufacture. He did not know of anything that could be more useful to study in a young country like New Zealand, because the progress of art and the promotion of beauty were not a specialty of nations that were very numerous and had acquired a great deal of wealth. The examples of the world showed that some of the greatest art nations of antiquity had been agricultural countries, and comparatively small countries. Egypt was one example of that. She was the first art country in the world; and in her early days, when she had a pastoral and peaceful people, her art was much greater than in later days, when she became the great conqueror and subdued many nations of the world. Another country of antiquity which illustrated the point was Greece. The people of New Zealand might aspire to set an example to other nations in the production of art and beauty in manufactures and industrial works.

He confessed that he was astonished at the opening ceremony that day to note the wonderful ability with which, apparently, the science of music had been cultivated in the Antipodes. The opening ode, which was rendered by an Antipodean choir and an Antipodean band, and which was composed, he understood, by a native of New Zealand, would have been received with admiration and applause in any of the old cities of Europe. The British Government had given New Zealand an illustration of what the Mother-country was doing in regard to the education of the children of the poor not only in book-learning, but also in technical instruction and in the application of learning to industrial pursuits. They might depend upon it that in the days to come that nation would be the greatest, and would lead the other nations of the world, which succeeded in producing the healthiest and most intelligent population.—(Hear, hear.)—Those who were behindhand in the arts would have to take the humble position of hewers of wood and drawers of water. The people of New Zealand had rare advantages. He had been in the colony for three days on his present visit, and he had seen many things that astonished him, but nothing astonished him more than the fact, referred to by the Premier, of the extraordinarily healthy race of boys and girls which the colony was bringing up. He had been accustomed to visit great schools not only in the United Kingdom, but also in many parts of Europe, and he had never seen a more healthy set of boys and girls than those in New Zealand. They were far in advance of any children produced in London or in any of the great cities of the United Kingdom. If those children were trained not only to be healthy, but also to be wise, they would produce a future race of New-Zealanders which might challenge comparison with any race in the world. There was another point to which he would like to call attention. He could not give a lecture on the British Court, but he could call the attention of those who visited the Exhibition to a series of photographs contributed by Sir Benjamin Stone. They illustrated the customs—the quaint, original customs—of every part of the old Mother-country, and they would give the people of New Zealand some idea of the variety of qualifications which went to form the nation of the United Kingdom. New-Zealanders inherited all those qualifications. They had the enterprise and the versatility of the Englishman; they had the dogged perseverance of the Scotchman; they had the generous and genial humour of the Irishman; they had the poetry and the song of Wales; and, with those qualifications amongst them, they might develop a New Zealand with an originality of its own, not a slavish imitation of anything in the Mother-country, but a race that would contribute to the greatness of the world, and would have qualifications of value to mankind. The British Government had furnished a catalogue which explained the photographs contributed by Sir Benjamin Stone, and without that explanation they would be comparatively unintelligible to many people, but with it in their hands the people could read the history of the places from which they had come. There was one more point in regard to the British Court which he would refer to. It was rather a sad one. It dealt with the tables furnished by the Board of Trade. They showed the present social conditions of the British people. They contained warnings of what New-Zealanders must avoid, in regard to the diseases and disadvantages which were imposed upon the population of the Old Country, but which it would be their business to prevent in New Zealand. Although it was not an attractive part of the Exhibition, it was one which New-Zealanders ought to study. During his visit to this country he had been greatly pleased with the progress and happiness which its people enjoyed. Very few people had the pleasure of seeing in their old age the progress of a country with which many of the ambitions and desires of their youth were associated. He had at one time almost become a New Zealand colonist. Circumstances, however, had taken the speaker back to the Old Country, and he had spent a long life in an almost fruitless struggle against those social evils with which the Old Country abounded. He sometimes thought that if it had been his lot to remain in

New Zealand he might have had the pleasure of having his name connected with this young and vigorous nation, for which he predicted a successful and glorious future.—(Applause.)

His Excellency the Governor proposed "Our Guests from Overseas," saying that he was very happy to think that so many had come from other colonies to visit New Zealand on a great occasion. The object of the Exhibition was not only to educate the people of the colony, but also to attract and interest fellow-members of the Empire and well-wishers of New Zealand.—(Applause.)—He coupled with the toast the names of Sir Richard Baker and Mr. T. H. Race.

Sir Richard Baker said that many of the visitors to the Exhibition had travelled long distances, but they had travelled to see a great Exhibition. In the name of the visitors he thanked the Ministers and people of New Zealand for the hospitality they had given. A wise man had once said that the more things changed the more they remained the same, and that was true of exhibitions. When the first British Exhibition was held the principles of free-trade were thought to be unanswerable, and Great Britain invited the nations to show one another what they possessed. Now, however, the practice was to put a fiscal wall round each particular State, and all nations except Great Britain had taken up that position. There were signs of it, indeed, even in Great Britain. So exhibitions had changed, but their essence would remain ever the same. They would always be the means of giving fresh experience, and visitors to an exhibition in a strange land might always obtain knowledge that would be beneficial to their own countries. He was much afraid that no treaty between the Commonwealth and New Zealand could have any great effect. He found that New Zealand and Australia were almost identical in wealth per head of population, and almost equal in the distribution of that wealth, and very similar in their exports, and he could not see that a treaty could help them much. A treaty had recently been arranged, but it had been repudiated by the Parliament of New Zealand, and his opinion was that the Parliament of New Zealand had done rightly.—(Applause.)—Though they could not arrange for an extension of commerce, New Zealand and Australia should be twin stars in the great British constellation to which they were proud to belong. He believed that Australia was as loyal as New Zealand, and he hoped that they would continue in loyalty. He wished the Exhibition the success that was already assured to it, and he hoped for the continued prosperity of the colony.

Mr. Race said that he had been pleased to hear a reference to New Zealand's loyalty. There were some loyalists in the great country that he represented, and his people was a people that never wished to see Canada separated from the Empire. They knew that New Zealand and Australia were loyal, but Canada yielded to none in loyalty. He and his colleague Mr. Burns had known that they would get a cordial reception in New Zealand, for they had met New-Zealanders before. Canadians were sometimes taunted with the statement that their loyalty was commercial, and New Zealand, no doubt, was similarly taunted. But when a test of loyalty was required, Canada entered into her homes, took the flower of her manhood, and sent it in regiments to South Africa, as New Zealand did.—(Applause.)—Did they not prove themselves worthy, as New-Zealanders did, of the traditions of a common stock? He and his colleague would bear back with them the manifestation of the kind feeling that was expressed to them. There were five thousand miles of ocean between their countries, but they could be brothers "for a' that." Their mission was not to induce any of the people of New Zealand to leave their beautiful country, they could not be so heartless. They congratulated New Zealand on their splendid country, on their prosperity, and especially on the magnitude of their Exhibition. The Canadian visitors were rather out of order in New Zealand, for their Exhibition Department was in connection with their great scheme of immigration; but they were come to tighten the bond of Empire, to meet New-Zea-

landers, to let them feel the brotherhood of their two countries, and, if possible, to capture the trade that was held by the very enterprising people south of Canada. The Canadians loved their neighbours, and loved to beat them at their own game, and were trying to induce the people of that great neighbouring country to come to their own greater country. In all America he had seen no district to compare with New Zealand for its dairying and sheep-raising, yet they did not envy New-Zealanders their frozen mutton, but rather gloried in their enterprise. A great deal of credit was due to the Exhibition. The opening ceremonies had impressed his colleague and himself more than any they had been at in many years. Their own wishes and those of Canada were for the success of the Exhibition and the colony. They hoped that the Exhibition would be the means of gaining something for the Empire in the Pacific Ocean. Why should not the British flag be mistress of the Southern as well as the Northern Pacific? He hoped the Exhibition would be a great success, and would help to strengthen the bond between his country and New Zealand.—(Applause.)

INAUGURAL MAYORAL BANQUET.

The inaugural Mayoral banquet in connection with the Exhibition, mainly intended to entertain the distinguished visitors from other exhibiting countries, was held in Christchurch on the evening of the 6th November. The Mayor, Sir John Hall, was unable to be present owing to his continued ill health, and in his absence the Deputy-Mayor, Councillor G. Payling, presided. Amongst the guests were His Excellency the Governor, Lord Plunket; the Right Hon. Sir John Gorst, Special Representative of Great Britain; Sir Richard Baker, Representative of the Commonwealth of Australia; Mr. T. H. Race, Commissioner for Canada; Sir Joseph Ward, Premier; and the Hon. Colonel Pitt, New Zealand Minister of Defence. A letter was read from Sir John Hall, expressing his great disappointment at being unable to personally attend the welcome to the visitors, and remarking that it might have been interesting for him, had he been present, to make some comparison between this New Zealand enterprise and the first English Exhibition in 1851, at the opening of which he was present. Of course that was a more worldwide gathering, but, considering that the present Exhibition represented colonial and British enterprise only, it did not suffer by comparison.

The speakers at the banquet included the Governor, the Hon. C. Louisson, Captain Bridson (Royal Navy), the Hon. Colonel Pitt, Bishop Julius, Sir Joseph Ward, Sir John Gorst, Mr. John Roberts, C.M.G., Mr. G. T. Booth, and Mr. T. H. Race.

The principal speech of the evening was that delivered by Sir John Gorst, who proposed "The Exhibition." He had been, he said, a whole week in the colony, and was now recovering from the stupefying sight of its great prosperity. He was not so foolish as to suppose that a week would suffice to form an opinion of the country's condition, but they would like to hear how the sight of the colony's greatness had impressed a sympathetic beholder like himself. To make a comparison between the colony of to-day and the colony of forty-three years ago, when he left it, was as impossible as to compare the man with the child, but the advancement could be briefly referred to. The population had increased seven times. The colony was, like most other countries, suffering from the phenomenon of a diminishing birth-rate, and the subject deserved the attention of every statesman in every country. But against this was the fact that New Zealand was singular in the extraordinary diminution of the death-rate amongst its infants, whose death-rate was unexampled in any country in the world. As for the colony's wealth, it had increased not seven but ten times since he had last been in New Zealand. At that time the trades in frozen meat, flax, kauri-gum, and timber were not thought of, and the replacement of natural forests would save the colony from a calamity that had overtaken many other countries. He was glad to see the care and attention paid to the education and welfare of the young. It was a safeguard to the

State, for nothing was more dangerous than bad education. It was economical, for the cost of education was returned a hundredfold. The most astonishing and pleasing thing was the extraordinary well-being of the Native race. When he left he thought it was "all up" with the Maori race. The wars and ill feeling of the time when he left had ceased, and now the Maoris were regarded with a brotherly feeling to which the New Zealand of those days was an entire stranger. In those days there was no certainty whether the New Zealand or the Imperial Government was responsible for Native affairs. New Zealand was entitled to claim a unique success in the world in living in harmony with a formerly uncivilised Native race. The great distance of New Zealand from the centres of the world was an advantage to the colony, giving it the opportunity for originality. Everywhere he found the faith that the colony would become a great country, and the present Exhibition was an outward and visible sign of the prosperity of the colony, and he proposed not only the Exhibition of to-day, but also that much greater Exhibition the colony would make of the advancement and virtue of the future.

Mr. John Roberts, C.M.G., in responding, said he was President of the New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition of 1889-90, which had been compared with that of to-day. He, with his experience of both, admitted that this one was far ahead of the Dunedin one. The difference was but proper, owing to the advancement and prosperous growth of the colony in the meantime. There had been every opportunity for a great Exhibition. Canada and Australia had given valuable aid, and the art gallery and musical section were a great source of popular education. The Executive Commissioners tendered to the Government their hearty thanks for its support of the undertakings. The Government had never refused any reasonable request. It was well for the ultimate success of the undertaking that no cheese-paring methods had been resorted to. If there were a small financial loss, it would not compare with the benefits resulting from the thousands of people visiting the colony.

Mr. G. T. Booth proposed the toast of "The Visitors." It was rare, he said that there were so many distinguished visitors at such a gathering as this. There were visitors from the Mother-country, from Canada, from Australia, and all these were very welcome.

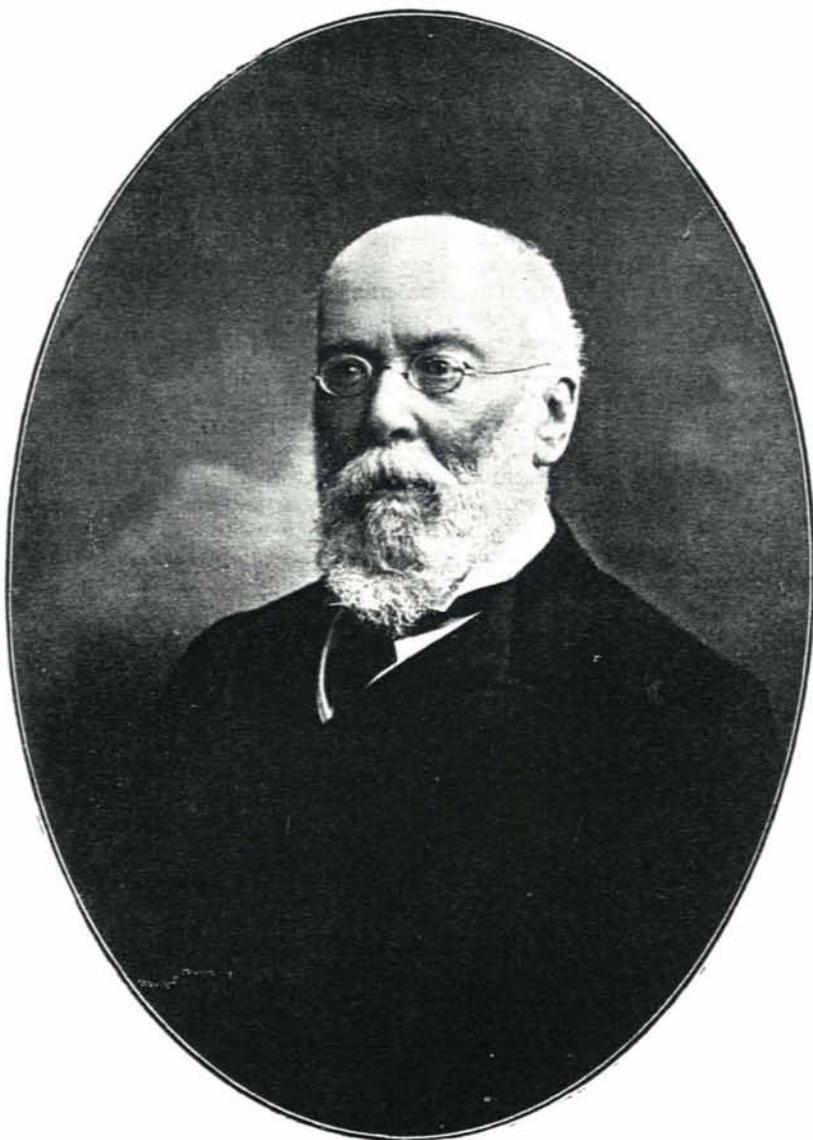
The toast was responded to by Mr. T. H. Race, Canadian Commissioner to the Exhibition.

THE BRITISH COMMISSIONERS

SIR JOHN GORST.

There was something peculiarly appropriate in the visit of the Right Hon. Sir John E. Gorst, K.C., one of England's most distinguished public men, to the Exhibition as Special Commissioner from the British Government. Sir John, landing at Auckland from an ocean liner shortly before the opening of the Exhibition, once more set foot on the soil which he had left forty-three years previously, after a short but history-making experience of life amongst the Maoris. In the interval, what changes time had wrought!

Sir John was born in the late "thirties" at Preston, and was educated in Preston Grammar School and at St. John's College, Cambridge. After graduating at Cambridge, he came out to New Zealand. During his life here, 1860-63, he made the acquaintance of Sir George Grey, Bishop Selwyn, Sir William Martin, and other men of mark of those stirring days. Sir John (then Mr.) Gorst saw much of Bishop Selwyn, and had at first some thoughts of entering upon missionary life, but Sir George Grey enlisted his services in the work of establishing civilising and educative institutions amongst the Maoris of the Upper Waikato. The young Cambridge graduate soon, therefore, found himself set down as Civil Commissioner and Magistrate at Te Awamutu, a hundred miles south of Auckland, in the midst of a purely Maori district, and there under Grey's directions he established a school in which various useful industries were taught to the Maori youths,



RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN E. GORST, P.C., SPECIAL BRITISH COMMISSIONER
TO THE NEW ZEALAND EXHIBITION.

besides instruction in the rudiments of English education. As the Kingite and anti-European agitation became strong amongst the Waikato Natives, Gorst printed and issued a little newspaper called *Te Pihoihoi Mokemoke i runga i te Tuanui* ("The Lonely Sparrow on the House-top"), in an effort to combat the arguments of the *Hokioi*, a printed sheet issued by the Kingites at Ngaruawahia from a press which had been presented to some of the Maori chiefs by the Archduke Maximilian of Austria. Mr. E

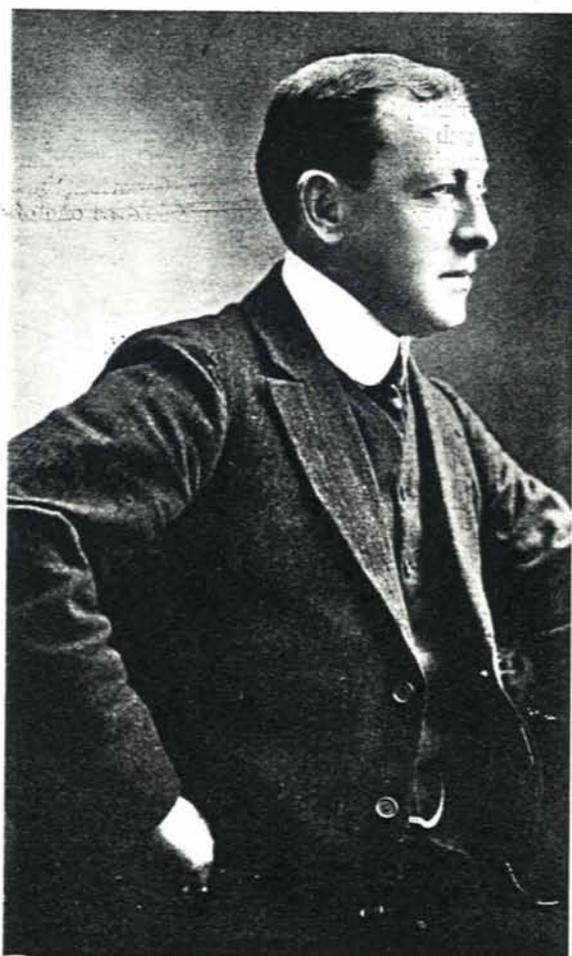
J. von Dadelszen, now Registrar-General for New Zealand, was then the printer in Mr. Gorst's establishment. The anti-Government feeling amongst the Kingites became very acute, particularly so after a speech made by Sir George Grey in the Waikato, when, as reported amongst the Maoris, he said, "I will not fight against your King with the sword, but will dig around him with spades until he falls of his own accord." The Maoris, turning over this speech in meeting after meeting, began to look around for the "spades," and speedily concluded that Gorst was one of them, sent to Waikato to endeavour to destroy the Maori "kingdom" under Tawhiao. The intelligent and benevolent Ngati-haua chief Wiremu Tamihana te Waharoa (William Thompson)—best type of his race—was a firm friend of Gorst's, and, while a patriotic upholder of Maori nationality—in fact he was the "King-maker" of Maori Land—he made earnest endeavours to prevent the races drifting into war.

However, the Maori distrust increased, accentuated by the news that Sir George Grey was sending British troops to make roads into Waikato from Auckland, an evident prelude to hostilities. In March, 1863, Rewi Maniapoto, the celebrated fighting-chief, came down from the Upper Waipa with a war-party of eighty Ngatimaniapoto men, invaded the mission-station and school at Te Awamutu, seized the obnoxious printing-press of the "Lonely Sparrow," and broke up the establishment. Rewi told Gorst that he must leave the Waikato or be put to death. Gorst refused to stir without orders from the Governor, Sir George Grey, and argued the point with Rewi, who was, however, bent on clearing every pakeha institution out of his country. Mr. Gorst, writing from Te Awamutu to Sir George Grey on the 25th March, 1863, communicated this news, concluding by saying, "Rewi allows three weeks in which to receive your answer, but he says if you leave me you leave me to death." Rewi himself wrote to Grey to the same effect. William Thompson sorrowfully informed the young Commissioner that he was no longer able to protect him, and that at any time some young Kingite warrior might shoot him. Sir George Grey wrote instructing Mr. Gorst to leave Te Awamutu, and he returned to Auckland.

Soon afterwards the unfortunate Waikato War began. Mr. Gorst left the colony and returned to England, where he was called to the Bar, and entered Parliament. It is interesting to speculate on his possible career had he remained in the colony and taken an active share in its politics. However, his destiny was cast in a much wider sphere, for he filled an important part in the political history of England during the past forty years. He was one of the famous Fourth Party, of which Lord Randolph Churchill was the leader, which in the early "eighties" played a brilliant part in the British House of Commons. It was in 1869 that he was intrusted with the reorganization of the Conservative party machinery, a work which he carried out with the greatest success. Subsequently, when his party came into power he held the offices of Solicitor-General, Under-Secretary for India, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and Vice-President of Committee of Council on Education. Sir John Gorst, ever since his romantic educational mission in the land of the Maoris, has always taken the deepest interest in matters of education, and this was particularly remarked upon when he revisited New Zealand, for, when travelling through the country, he frequently took the opportunity of visiting the public schools and addressing the children.

The Maoris received their old friend "Te Kohi" with great warmth of feeling on his return to their country, and when, in December, 1906, he revisited his old station, Te Awamutu, where he had laboured amongst the Maoris as an enthusiastic young man of twenty-four, the veteran statesman was greeted with extreme delight by the assembled Maoris of the Ngatimaniapoto Tribe from the King Country, and there was a rare and peculiar interest in the gathering of the remnant of this once powerful warrior clan to welcome back the man whom they had driven away from their country more than forty years before in the midst of his benevolent work.

Sir John Gorst left the colony for England a few days after his meeting with the Waikato Maoris in December. He was accompanied on his visit to New Zealand by his daughter, Miss Gorst. In another member of the Gorst family, also, New-Zealanders



CAPTAIN PERCY ATKIN, BRITISH COMMISSIONER
TO THE NEW ZEALAND EXHIBITION.

have a friendly concern, for Sir Eldon Gorst, Sir John's distinguished son, recently appointed to the supreme position in the Government of Egypt vice Lord Cromer, is a New-Zealander himself. He was born in Parnell, Auckland, during Sir John's first sojourn in this country.

CAPTAIN ATKIN, BRITISH COMMISSIONER. *

Captain Percy H. Atkin, the British Commissioner to the Exhibition (Sir John Gorst was the special envoy), whose marked aptitude for his important position and keen

interest displayed in colonial life gained for him high popularity during the currency of the Exhibition, is a gentleman with a varied and creditable record. Born in 1865, he was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple, and is a member of the Oxford Circuit and the Old Bailey Sessions. He held the position of secretary to various Commissions of Inquiry into educational administration in Great Britain. Then, taking up the profession of arms, he was gazetted to the 3rd Royal Irish Fusiliers and served with that regiment till 1899, when he was transferred to the Lancashire Fusiliers, and served throughout the Boer War in South Africa, 1899-1902. He was military commandant and Press censor at Zoutpansdrift, Orange Free State, and of Hope Town district, Cape Colony. He commanded a subcolumn taking part in operations to quell the rebellion in Western Cape Colony, terminating in the capture of Commandant Scheepers. He afterwards commanded British posts at Towns River, Grootfontein, and Blood River. After his return to England, Captain Atkin was despatched as one of the British staff of representatives to the St. Louis Exposition, U.S.A., 1904. He was representative for Education and Social Economy, and a British member of the Superior International Jury. In 1906 he was sent to the New Zealand International Exhibition as British Commissioner, and remained till the close of the Exhibition in April, 1907.

