

The Russian officers and sailors who were made so much of by the excitable Parisians on the occasion of their visit to Paris, must have had a rare old time, from a gustatory point of view, but of all the scores of banquets showered upon the lucky Muscovites that given in the Exhibition building on the Champ de Mars "took the cake." It is enough to drive an ordinary New Zealand *chef* off his head just to read the account of the preparations made for this gorgeous feed. There were 3660 guests, so that a goodly pile of comestibles was necessary. We give a few details for the benefit of our colonial caterers who may like to know how "the thing is done" in "Parry."

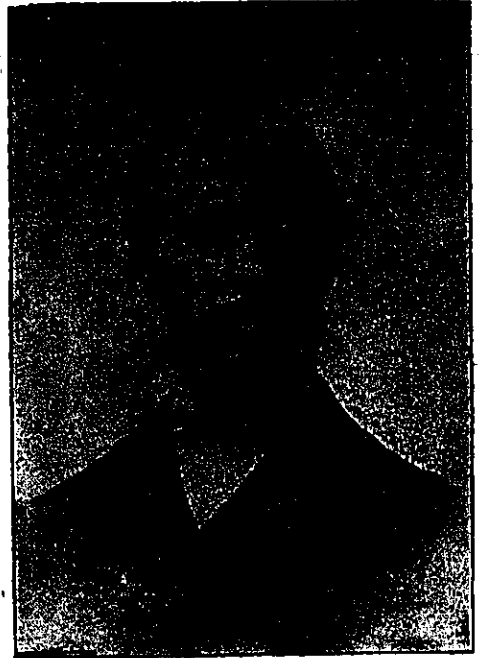
There were 1050 quarts of soup. The *hors d'oeuvre*, a sort of tickle your appetite and start you off, was Russian sardines, of which sixty-two small barrels were opened and the contents consumed. Fish came next—a little item of 1600 pounds of turbot—and turbot is the most costly of fishy luxuries. We will pass briefly over the entrees and the jam—800 pheasants were cut up, and 1000 wood pigeons—and come to the salad, and in France the salad is an important affair. This particular salad was called Salad Danicheff and was made of 175 quarts of green peas, 175 quarts of French beans, 50 cauliflowers, 200lbs. of potatoes, 40 quarts of young haricot beans, 108 bundles of green asparagus, 100lbs. of mushrooms, 100lbs. of truffles and 10000 *scrévisse* (small fresh water crayfish) tails. How is that for high?

We will pass over the sweets, as the names are too formidably Frenchy to be intelligible to a poor New Zealander, and come to the wines. How Isitt will shriek when he reads what is to follow—we commend the little list to the special attention of the godly *Prohibitionist*. There were 16 hogsheads, of 50 gallons each, of Burgundy; 800 bottles of Chateau La Rose; 800 bottles of Perganson, 1884 (don't know this stuff, but 1884 sounds good); 200 bottles of port; 200 ditto of sherry; 200 ditto of Madeira; and, "ministers of grace defend us," what heads the tallow-eaters must have had next day—1,500 bottles of fizz.

Also, there were 1,400 bottles of mineral waters, but we are afraid there was no great run on this sort of tippie. There were liqueres—800 bottles of Burgundy Marc (what's that, Mr. Jack Maginnity), 500 bottles of fine Benedictine, 200 bottles of Kummel, and 90 quarts of "fine champagne"—the very best Cognac. Of course, a French feed wasn't complete without *café noir*, and to make this, 250 pounds of the choicest Arabian coffee was used, the whole lot being prepared in one utensil and at the one time.

This truly Gargantuan spread, which would have driven old Rabelais mad with envy could he have seen it, was served at 130 tables, and no less than 50,000 plates, 800 dishes, and 40,000 glasses were in use. (How about the breakage when the Russians got full of fiz), and the toasts were given? And the toothpicks—we mustn't forget the toothpicks. There were 12,000 of them. "Prodegeous."

And the waiting—that was also a big item. There were 250 waiters, 75 butlers, 150 cellar-men, 80 cooks, and 100 under-strappers to the latter. Truly this is one of the grandest, most royal gorges on record, and if the Russians who were present don't always have a kindly remembrance of their generous French hosts they are the most ungrateful of Tartars.



Mr. J. K. Logan.

The subject of our sketch, Mr. J. K. Logan, will on the 1st of January, succeed Dr. Lemon as Superintendent of Telegraphs. Like Mr. Gray he hailed from the "Land o' Cakes," having been born in Kilbride, Ayrshire, Scotland, in 1844, and was for nearly eight years in the service of the British and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company as operator and officer in charge at various places in Scotland, including Edinburgh and Glasgow. He came to Dunedin in 1864, when the lines were about to be erected between Dunedin and Invercargill, and Dunedin and Christchurch. He was employed on a construction party to Christchurch, and afterwards erected for the Provincial Government the lines to Milton and to Queenstown. At the end of 1865 he had charge of the Otago Provincial Telegraph system which position he retained until the lines were taken over by the General Government in 1869. Since that date he has had charge of the lines from Waitiki to the Bluff and branches; having constructed or reconstructed every line in the district, during the time he has been there. Mr. Logan's entrance into the Government service was as follows: On his arrival in Dunedin in 1864 he applied to Mr. Alfred Sheath for employment on the Christchurch construction party. His application was entertained, and he worked right through to Christchurch, returning to Dunedin with a repairing party and putting the original wires into the small office which had been erected there the day before the Queen's birthday, 1865. On the day after, Mr. Logan wired to Mr. Sheath over the newly-completed lines, asking for a regular appointment. He was given a temporary position in Dunedin until he was wanted for further construction, and finally was appointed to the general office in Dunedin.