

Sir G. M. O'Rorke was a passenger to Auckland from Wellington by the Takapuna, which arrived on Saturday.

Captain Russell, M.H.R., came up from Wellington the other day and paid a short visit to Hastings.

Mr Cyril Fowse was presented by Mr H. Fountain on behalf of the members of the Auckland Harp, Guitar, and Mandolin Club, with a silver matchbox, on the occasion of his leaving Auckland.

The Count and Countess de Courte have taken Mrs Levin's residence in Wellington, recently occupied by the Hon. Mr Arkwright, M.L.C., and his family, while in Wellington.

It speaks well for Auckland that Mr C. J. A. Haselden (ex-Under-Secretary for Justice) and Mrs Haselden have elected to settle down in Auckland after having paid visits of inspection to the chief cities of the colony.

Mr Ruddock, of Auckland, has been paying a visit to Napier.

Misses Hatherley and Dampier were the guests of Mr and Mrs Kinsey, Panapani Road, Christchurch, from Saturday till Monday. They returned to Dunedin by express on Tuesday.

Archbishop Redwood has been paying a visit to Hastings, Hawke's Bay.

Dr. De Clive Lowe has started practice in Auckland, and has settled himself in one of the handsome new houses in Symonds-street, opposite St. Paul's Church.

Mr R. S. Mestayer, who has so skillfully carried out the drainage scheme of Wellington, goes to Dunedin to report on the drainage question of that city about the middle of September, and prior to leaving Wellington Mr Mestayer will take a fortnight's well-earned holiday.

Misses Celia Dampier and Constance Hatherley returned to Christchurch from Dunedin on Wednesday week, and both took part in the orchestra at the Musical Union Concert on Thursday. Miss Hatherley's harp greatly adding to the effect of the orchestration.

Mr H. D. Baker, of Wellington, has presented four Mataura lizards to the Opawa fish breeding establishment, near Christchurch, where a suitable habitation has been set apart for them, hopes being entertained of their breeding there in captivity.

The Rev. Wm. Day, of Carlisle, has accepted by cable an invitation from the Mount Eden Congregational Church, Auckland, to fill its pulpit for a year with a view to ultimately obtaining the pastorate. Mr Day for eight years had a charge in Brisbane, Queensland, but he left Brisbane some years ago for England on account of his wife's health. Mr Day, who is a very able man, is expected to preach his first sermon in the Mt. Eden Congregational Church probably on the first Sunday in the coming December.

The Hon. Mr Peacock, M.L.C., and Mrs Peacock, are amongst the Southern visitors staying in Wellington for the session, and are lodging at Miss Malcolm's, on the Terrace.

Mr R. E. Isaacs left Auckland on Saturday morning by H.M.S. Tauranga as a passenger by invitation of the Captain and officers.

Messrs Collins, Flower and Blunden, of Christchurch, went North on Tuesday night with a team of College footballers.

Mrs Dr. Collins and her sister, Mrs Arthur Pearce, had a narrow escape from a serious accident while driving out to the golf links in Wellington last week. Their pony cart collided with a cab, and both ladies were thrown out, but beyond being slightly bruised and shaken, sustained no injuries, but the pony cart was not so fortunate however, being very much damaged. No blame was attached to the driver of the cab, as the accident was purely accidental.

Mrs and Miss Riddiford, of the Hutt (Wellington) who went to Wanganui to be present at the school football match, have returned, and are entertaining the teams at a dance next week.

Miss St. Hill (Hawke's Bay) is the guest of Mrs W. Pharazyn in Wellington.

Miss Balfour (Napier) is staying with Mrs Gore, in Wellington.

Mr A. Stapp, who has been in Auckland for some months, has returned to New Plymouth.

Mrs Newman, of Wellington, is with her son, paying a visit to Mr and Mrs Pat Campbell, at 'Islam,' Christchurch.

Miss Studholm (Christchurch) is the guest of Mrs Tolhurst, in Wellington.

Mr John Fairchild, son of the late Captain Fairchild, who recently went Home to England to complete his mental course, is expected out again by the Gothic, which is due in Wellington on the 18th September next.

Mr B. Fookes, who has been paying New Plymouth a visit, returned to Auckland last week.

The Countess of Ranfurly takes a keen and kindly interest in the Alexandra Home, and the Girls' Friendly Society Lodge, in Wellington, and paid a visit to both those institutions during last week, being accompanied by the President of the Society, Mrs J. E. FitzGerald.

The Misses Nedwill (Christchurch) are now the guests of Mrs Harry Gore in Wellington.

Mr H. D. Bell has been elected President of the Star Boating Club in Wellington, having been a member of the Club since 1875, and is also one of the Club's trustees.

Miss E. Williams (Hawke's Bay) who has been staying in Wellington with her aunt, Mrs J. C. Williams, has returned to her home.

H.M.S. Torch, Commander Henry Preedy, arrived in Wellington on the 29th from Auckland, encountering very heavy weather in the Straits, and will probably remain in that port until the end of this week.

Mr Joe Ward, who has been on a visit to the Old Country, has returned to his home in New Plymouth.

The Mayor of Wellington (Mr Blair) has received an official invitation from Auckland to attend the opening of the Industrial Exhibition, which is to be held there in December.

The Bishop of Wellington and Mrs Wallis, returned to Wellington from their visit to Taranaki and Auckland on Tuesday last.

Mr J. Anderson, who resided in Picton a few years ago, has returned once more to that favoured locality. He is now staying at the Craddock Beach-champs, at 'Anikiwa,' Queen Charlotte Sound.

The Hon. Mr Reynolds, M.L.C., accompanied by Mrs and Miss Reynolds, returned from Wellington by the Rotomahana on Monday, having received leave of absence for the rest of the session, owing to indisposition.

The Misses Harding, of Wellington, have gone to stay with friends in the Wairarapa.

Miss Seymour and the Misses Fell (2), of Picton, cycled up to Meadowbank to spend a few days with Mrs G. B. Richardson, last week.

The many friends of Vicomte Joffroy D'Albans, formerly French Consul in Wellington, will be interested to hear that he has been appointed French Consul in Singapore.

Miss Moran, Tun Marla, is visiting Mrs Western at 'The Lindens,' Mount Pleasant, Picton.

Miss Hordern (Canterbury) has been the guest of Mrs Medley, in Wellington, leaving for Christchurch last week.

Mr A. D. Riley, the Director of the Wellington Technical School, returned from a five months' visit to England by the S.S. Maori, on Tuesday last, having benefited greatly in health owing to the trip, and bringing back a very large store of knowledge of the

English technical system, which will prove of great help and value in his New Zealand work. While away Mr Riley visited the technical institutions of London, Glasgow, Manchester, Edinburgh and Birmingham, and is now engaged upon an exhaustive report for submission to the Wellington Education Board and the Government, which should prove of great interest to all lovers of art.

Mr A. W. McKellar, who is a son of the Wellington Collector of Customs, and who formerly belonged to Auckland, is mentioned as one of the sub-lieutenants appointed to the R.N. Reserve. Mr McKellar is at present chief officer of the S.S. Otarama, which is now making the voyage from the Bluff to London.

Mrs Gregg, Mahakipawa, Picton, has returned from Wellington after a visit of a few weeks.

Mrs Charles Johnston (Wellington) paid a short visit to Wanganui last week, being present at the football match there between the Collegiate School of Wanganui and the Wellington College Boys.

Lieutenant Colonel Gudgeon, the new British Resident for the Cook Group, left Auckland on Saturday morning by H.M.S. Tauranga. The warship, after making a short stay at Rarotonga, will return to Auckland, calling in at Tonga on her way back.

Mr Alfred Brandon (Wellington) is visiting her sister, Mrs Tilly, in Wanganui, for a few weeks.

Mr H. Clarke, who has been staying in New Plymouth for some time, has now gone to Wellington.

Mr M. Maher, who has for the past five years performed the duties of stationmaster at the Upper Hutt, was, on his retirement last week, presented by the employees on the Wellington-Woodville section, with whom he has always been immensely popular, with a very handsome tea and coffee service, as a mark of their friendship and esteem. The relieving officer (Mr Day) made the presentation on behalf of the employees, who were present in large numbers, and in the course of a very happy speech, referred to Mr Maher's very long connection with the Railway Department, and on behalf of all present wished him every happiness in the future. Mr Maher joined the Railway Service as long ago as 1874, being the first goods clerk at Pipitea Point, and after 15 years service in Wellington, was transferred to Ekatahuna, where he remained 5 years, when he was again transferred to the Lower Hutt, where he remained until his retirement last week. Throughout his long connection with the Railway Service Mr Maher has carried out his duties with unflinching efficiency and courtesy, and his retirement will be a subject of regret to his superiors and the travelling public. Mr Maher intends spending his retirement in the Manawatu district, probably near Palmerston North.

It will be news to most people that England has a lady who is a University Fellow. Nevertheless, such is the case. The lady in question is Miss Philipps, a daughter of the Rev. Sir James Philipps, Bart., and sister of Mr Wynford Philipps, M.P.

The Emperor and Empress of Russia (says 'Truth') are to spend a fortnight in Denmark in August, after which they will go to Germany for several weeks, most of the time being passed at or near Darmstadt. It is probable that the Empress will go to England for short time in September, in the very strictest incognito, in order that she may pay an entirely private visit to the Queen at Balmoral. The Empress of Russia was greatly benefited some years ago by a course of waters at Harrogate, and there has been some talk of her paying another visit to that place, as she has been very much out of health for the last six months.

It is not generally known that Queen Victoria has a Jewish niece. The lady is the daughter of a musician who lived at Vienna, and was well-known as a singer and a pianist in that city, when prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, nephew to the Prince Consort, married her.

SOCIETY ON DITS.

That Mr Seddon thinks it would be wise for Parliament to give the Government power to purchase and the means of purchasing specimens that were of scientific interest and rare value to the colony—such as the *Notornis Mantelli* (takaha), that rare bird of which a specimen was lately found in the South Island.

That an interesting little ceremony was witnessed in the yards of Messrs C. and W. Bailey, Auckland, on Saturday morning, when the new oil engine launch, built by these gentlemen for the Auckland Naval Artillery Volunteers, was launched. A great number of spectators, many of them ladies, were present, and the little vessel was christened the 'Alert' by the Countess of Seafield, whose young son, the Hon. Trevor Grant, is one of the lieutenants of the Naval Company. The Countess then delivered a short speech. Captain Commandant Le Roy and Mr Malcolm Niccol, Chairman of the Harbour Board, also spoke, and cheers were given for the builders, engineers, and the Countess of Seafield. The 'Alert,' which is a very smart looking little vessel, can hold 80 men, and, at her preliminary trial on Saturday afternoon, registered a speed of 10 knots an hour.

That Waikato farmers favour the introduction of bats and toads to combat the insect pests which so handicap agricultural pursuits.

That the northern districts are going to combine with the view of getting themselves worthily represented at the Auckland Exhibition. Several of the local bodies have already voted sums of money for the purpose.

That Mr Tom Taylor seems to have a very poor opinion of the body to which he belongs, since he declares that the New Zealand Parliament is the most effete organisation in the colony, and that the struggle going on in Parliament is merely for party supremacy, not for the interests of the country.

That Auckland volunteers thoroughly appreciate the prompt generosity of the Auckland Gas Company, who have lost no time in fulfilling their promise to gratuitously erect lamps on the allotment at the rear of the Drill Hall.

That the Engineers of New Zealand, both men and employers, are highly indignant with Mr A. Morrison, M.H.R., for stating that not twenty-five of New Zealand trained engineers could hold their own in English shops, and they have called upon Mr Morrison to withdraw his statement, which he refuses to do.

That it is not improbable that Devonport may rejoice as soon as Auckland, or sooner, in a system of electric trams within the borough and extending to Lake Takapuna. An application for permission to supply Devonport with electric trams and also with electric light has been received by the Council and referred to a committee.

That floating coral is so very seldom encountered that it is interesting to learn that a monster block, floating like pumice, has drifted on to the quarantine island, Fiji, and has been promptly secured.

That the heated discussion between the Nelson Education Board and its town schools committee on the ever disputable point of giving religious instruction in schools, seems no nearer a conclusion now than it was when it first started.

That the collection of extinct birds of the Chatham Islands in the gallery of the New Zealand room of the Christchurch Museum has now been almost completed by the recent addition of a skeleton of the extinct crow of the Chatham Islands—a bird as large as the European raven.

That at a meeting of the Women's Reform League, held in Auckland last week, a resolution 'That in view of the alarming increasing gambling spirit of the community and its attendant evils the city members be requested to support the Restraint of Wagering Bill now before Parliament' was moved by Mrs Johnston, seconded by Mrs Robb, and passed by the meeting.

That Auckland volunteers have been complaining of the long delay in commencing the work of repairs and improvements at the Mount Eden Rifle Range, and the consequent inconvenient extension of time during which the rifle range will be unavailable for shooting practice.