

Society Gossip

AUCKLAND.

Dear Bee. December 29.

Let me confess I stand appalled at the almost hopeless magnitude of the task of attempting to describe for you the scene at Ellerslie on Boxing Day, or the hundreds upon hundreds—I might say thousands—of exquisite dresses worn on the occasion of

THE FIRST DAY'S RACING.

To give anything like an adequate impression of the beauty of the lawn when thronged with its enormous crowd of brightly-frocked women and well-dressed men, I confess, beyond me. It was a spectacle not easily to be forgotten, and brilliant as have been many of the displays I have seen at Ellerslie, there has never, so far as I can remember, been anything to approach the gathering of Saturday last. The lovely course looked its very best and the many improvements have unquestionably made this the most convenient as well as the most beautiful in the colony. The attendance, favoured by the perfect weather, was a record one, and it is estimated that there were, at least, 12,000 to 13,000 persons present. The paddock was certainly far more crowded than I have ever seen it and the hill and course had vaster masses of people than have ever gathered there before. The arrangements were all good, and afternoon tea was served far better than last time. But it was the glorious weather and the boundless enthusiasm of the crowd over the result of the Cup that will ever mark Boxing Day, 1903, as a red letter day, both in the annals of colonial racing and the history of the Auckland Racing Club. Nothing approaching the cheering which greeted Wairiki has ever been heard on the course at Ellerslie and Mr Sam Bradley, the owner, must have felt a proud man indeed, at the wonderful ovation his great horse received. Those who had gone down on Treadmill, or some other trier, cheered with as much enthusiasm as those who had won, and it was a memorable exhibition of true sportsmanlike feeling. As for the dresses, what shall I say? They seem to get more elaborate every year, and smarter people appear to attend the races. Moreover, the number of visitors from the South grows yearly. Under the circumstances, I can only pretend to give you my descriptions of a few of the lovely frocks worn.

THE DRESSES.

Mrs. Morrin wore an exquisite toilette of navy blue canvas voile, with faggotted seams over glaze silk, lovely cream vest, relieved with touches of heliotrope, black hat wreathed with sprays of lilac; Miss Donald, dainty cream canvas voile costume, with Paris lace insertion, old gold ceinture, pretty blue picture hat; Miss Alice Donald, cream cologne gown, with ecru insertion, transparent yoke and modish hat to match; Miss Heather looked sweet in a lovely white embroidered muslin frock, large white picture hat with long ostrich feathers falling over the brim; Mrs. Edmonson wore an extremely handsome gown of black canvas voile, white satin vest and collar over-spread with exquisite black lace applique, black chiffon Victorian hat with ostrich plumes; Mrs. Rosenthal (Sydney) wore one of the most noticeable gowns on the lawn. It was composed of exquisite white silk chiffon, with tracery of delicate pink rosebuds, elaborately shirred and trimmed with Paris tulle insertion. A knotted white chiffon sash and a dainty French sailor hat swathed with pink poppies and ribbon, completed the costume, which was admittedly a triumph of the dress-maker's art. Miss Ching, pretty white muslin frock, with ecru ribbon sash, white hat wreathed with flowers, and finished with ecru lace of black velvet; Mrs. Edward Russell was prettily gowned in a soft white silk, tucked and frilled and finished with Paris lace, pretty coral toque of violets; Mrs. Savage wore a very dainty

white tucked silk frock, with pale blue picture hat wreathed with small black flowers; Mrs. Gordon, pale grey tucked voile over glaze silk, pretty black hat, relieved with cream; Mrs. Dufour, grey shock voile costume, cream vest, and lovely Maltese lace shoulder caps, small black hat swathed with cream lace, and pink roses; Mrs. Devore, black silk voile gown over glaze silk, with medallions of cream lace, pretty black and cream bonnet to match; Mrs. Buddie, very effective white and black silk gown, elaborately shirred, white chiffon vest, black and white French sailor hat, with black and white spotted wings; Mrs. Louison (Christchurch) wore a most superb toilette of peach pink silk voile, with medallions of Paris lace, large black picture hat swathed with chiffon and black ostrich feathers; Mrs. Hayman (Christchurch), beautiful cream silk voile inset with Paris lace medallions, lovely black hat with ostrich feathers; Mrs. Gould (Christchurch) wore a most striking costume of white satin, figured with black, and trimmed with black and white silk embroidery, an exquisite cape collar of Maltese lace fell from the yoke, and she wore a lovely black plumed hat; Mrs. P. Campbell, rich black silk voile over glaze silk, trimmed with jet, ecru lace vest, and small black hat; Mrs. Elsworthy (South) wore a very handsome black silk tucked costume, pretty black bonnet; Miss Elsworthy, beautifully fitting black voile costume, strapped with bands of same material, piped with white, lovely collar, inset with hand-painted medallions, pretty black and cream toque; Miss E. Elsworthy wore an exquisite gown of white chiffon, with a cloudy design in pale pink and heliotrope, transparent lace yoke and large black picture hat; Mrs. E. J. O'Rorke, distinguee white and black silk toilette, handsomely trimmed with black Chantilly lace, pink folded ceinture and pretty pink toque; Miss Shepherd, black-canvas voile over apple green silk, finished with cream lace applique, black toque with pink crush roses; Miss —, Shepherd, simple white muslin frock, with pretty Country Girl hat, wreathed with pink roses; Mrs. George, lovely black Louisiane silk toilette with cream lace and chiffon vest and Paris lace collar, dainty black and cream toque relieved with green leaves; Miss George wore a very effective English costume of deep champagne tinted voile, with transparent yoke of Paris lace, and collar and ceinture of chine ribbon, white chip straw hat garlanded with lilies of the valley; Miss Zoe George, looked sweet in a cream canvas voile over cream silk, large black straw hat with drooping ostrich feathers; Mrs. Wilfrid Colbeck, cream silk voile gown inset with Paris lace, pale blue folded belt, black picture hat; Mrs. Duthie, wore a charming gown of cream canvas voile tucked and inserted with Paris lace, cream lace-straw hat lined with crimson tulle, and finished with two large choux of straw and tulle; Miss Mitchellson was prettily gowned in a pale salmon pink crepe de chine elaborately shirred and trimmed with cream insertion, pretty pink hat wreathed with roses and foliage; Miss — Mitchellson wore a very dainty costume of white mousseline de soie, with pale pink sash, white chip straw hat swathed with pink; Mrs. Alison, exquisite gown of white Louisiane silk over-spread with a design in pink rosebuds, the skirt elaborately shirred and trimmed with rich lace, floral toque of violets and green leaves; Miss Alison wore a very dainty white embroidered muslin frock, with transparent yoke, large black plumed hat; and her sister also wore white with a pretty white muslin hat; Mrs. Ernest Blomfield, exquisite gown of pink silk chiffon over pink silk, deep transparent yoke of Paris lace, white chip straw hat wreathed with blue poppies and blue ribbons; Mrs. Stagg, dainty gown of cream voile tucked and inserted with lace, lovely black picture hat; Mrs. Hope Lewis, wore a most effective gown of white and black spotted silk, ceinture and stock of heliotrope silk, large burnt straw hat with black ostrich feathers; Miss Lewis, lovely skirt of cream sunray pleated voile, cream silk blouse with overall green belt, white tulle hat with tiny white roses, and green velvet ribbon; Miss Ida Thompson, pretty blue floral muslin frock with Paris lace insertion, ribbon sash, pretty white hat trimmed with leaves and wheat; Mrs. Markham, pale blue crash coat and skirt, modish green toque; Miss Birch, dainty white muslin gown with mirror green silk belt, black hat swathed with white; Miss Gorrie, pretty grey floral muslin

frilled and inserted with lace, stylish hat to match; Miss Nora Gorrie, white linen coat and skirt with collar of black and white spotted silk, black hat; Miss Owen Gorrie, pretty spotted grey and white voile with bordered frills, large black picture hat; Mrs. W. E. Bloomfield, lovely gown of azure blue silk voile tucked and inserted with Paris lace, pretty Prince Charlie hat to match; Mrs. Beaumont, handsome striped silk in two shades of champagne, large black hat; Mrs. Shannon was beautifully dressed in a pale pink voile gown with saddle yoke and wide bands of cream insertion, corset belt of pink velvet ribbon, pink chiton Victorian hat with sprays of pink roses; Mrs. Myers, rich black silk voile gown sprigged with white, Paris lace vest, black bonnet; Mrs. Leo Myers, pink glaze silk veiled in lovely white crepe de chine, chiffon yoke and sleeves, and deep flounce of sunray pleated chiffon on skirt, dainty white and black hat; Miss Riche (Sydney), pale blue shirred crepe de chine gown with Paris lace applications, pretty pale blue hat; Mrs. Coleman was attired in a pale grey blue crash coat and skirt inset with wide white insertion, the coat faced with blue and green, white vest, and black hat with ostrich feathers; Mrs. Cheeseman, pale green and white striped silk costume over pink real lace applications, pretty hat to match; Miss Kossing, brown and white spotted foulard gown, with Paris lace vest, rustic hat with sprays of pink roses; Miss E. Kossing, white voile gown with black hat; Mrs. Stewart Reid, electric blue jacket and skirt, with stitched bands of navy glaze silk, white vest, black and white hat; Mrs. Younge (Melbourne), beautifully fitting pale grey striped voile costume, with Paris lace encrustations, black plumed hat; Miss Dunnett was gowned in brown silk voile with applications of deep cream lace, relieved with pale blue, brown hat with large blue satin bows; Miss Muriel Whitson wore a very pretty frock of white lawn, inset with wide insertion of pale pink glaze silk, lovely lace collar and large white hat; Mrs. Ware, well-cut black canvas voile costume, with large black plumed hat; Miss Ware looked very well in a white muslin gown over glaze silk, black picture hat; Miss Cameron, striking costume of deep crushed strawberry crash, with lines of wide yak lace insertion on skirt and collar, large black hat; Mrs. Friend, navy blue silk muslin, with pin point white spot, handsome ecru insertion inset in bodice and skirt, rustic straw hat wreathed with cornflowers; Mrs. Hill, very dainty Persian lawn gown inset with narrow Valenciennes insertion, black plumed hat; Mrs. Harry Marsack was gowned in a stylish cream voile coatee and skirt, cream glaze silk vest with transparent lace yoke and myrtle green ceinture, white hat trimmed with pink crush roses and myrtle green ribbon; Miss Hardwick wore a navy blue canvas voile gown with cream lace vest, pretty hat en suite; Mrs. Ruck, navy blue figured voile gown, with Paris lace vest, black and cream bonnet; Mrs. Robert Dargaville, dainty grey French muslin frock, frilled and trimmed with Valenciennes lace, Country Girl hat swathed with leaves and poppies; Mrs. Goodhue, dark spotted voile costume, with cream lace vest, black and cream toque with pink roses under the brim; Mrs. Anseme, white duck skirt, with pretty pale green silk blouse inset with white insertion, hat en suite; Miss Hay, green linen Russian costume, with white pipings, black hat; Mrs. Sellars, handsome black broadened silk gown, black bonnet; Mrs. Jones, black silk voile costume, large black hat with black plumes; Miss Jones, pretty Tussock silk frock, tucked and frilled, black hat; Mrs. Scene Taranaki, smart white Liberty silk gown relieved with touches of turquoise blue, large black hat; Mrs. MacDonald, black voile gown with white vest, black tulle bonnet with cream lace and pink bankia roses; Miss MacDonald, white voile gown, with Paris lace trimmings, smart white hat adorned with blue and green; Miss Mowbray, pale grey orchid voile gown, with cream lace applique run with narrow black; Miss Daisy Mowbray, very pretty pale grey costume with Paris lace vest, peach pink hat with tulle and flowers of same shade; Miss Edith Mowbray, reseda green costume, with white vest, pretty pink hat; Mrs. A. V. MacDonald, black voile costume with white vest, black and cream toque; Mrs. Wallace Lawson, pretty green cloth cos-

tume with cream lace applications, hat en suite; Miss Nelson, dainty white embroidered muslin frock with large black picture hat; Mrs. Harry Brett, very pretty eau de nil green tucked silk blouse, black satin skirt, "Country Girl" hat wreathed with black and green daisies; Miss Ruddock, white muslin frock inserted with lace, pretty hat to match; Miss Helen Fenton wore a dainty pink faked gown with transparent pink yoke, "Country Girl" hat wreathed with roses and green leaves; Miss Winnie Lewis, pretty white frilled muslin frock with lace insertions, black French sailor hat; Miss May Dawson wore a charming costume of cream voile with Paris lace insertion, pale green ceinture, large black hat; Miss Muriel Dawson, also wore a pretty cream voile, turquoise blue waistband, black picture hat; Miss Vera Bell wore a very pretty shirred sunray pink crepe de chine with cream lace applications, black picture hat with ostrich feathers; Mrs. Masfield, stylish gown of pale grey tucked voile with deep yoke of Paris lace, pretty hat to match; Miss Dormer, Eton grey voile costume, with lace yoke, large black hat; Miss Douglas looked charming in a dainty white box muslin gown with pale lettuce green sash, white and green picture hat; Miss Thorpe, cream serge coatee and skirt, with lace vest, relieved with touches of crimson, black hat; Miss — Thorpe, cream linen costume, with transparent lace yoke, pretty hat to correspond; Miss Luak, black sunray pleated Monte Carlo coat and skirt, with cream lace vest, cherry coloured ceinture, black hat; Miss Olive Luak, black tucked voile, inserted with black lace, Paris lace vest, collar relieved with pale blue, black hat; Mrs. Bob Luak, black voile coatee and skirt outlined with black lace applique, worn over pink chiffon blouse, black plumed hat; Mrs. Roberts was wearing a very handsome black silk gown with lovely black lace trimmings, cream lace vest and pretty black and cream toque; Miss Gillian, pretty cream voile costume with Paris lace trimmings, heliotrope sash and white hat with sprays of lilac; Miss Dagmar Gilliflan, white linen coat and skirt, the collar of coat inset with lime insertion, pretty "Country Girl" hat with pink roses; Miss Rimney, stylish cream cologne costume, inserted



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