

PERSONAL NOTES FROM LONDON.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

LONDON, May 27.

Mr and Mrs Richard A. Carr, of Auckland, who arrived in London on the 21st May, after an exceptionally fine voyage in the P. and O. steamer Mongolia, are staying at Tulse Hill Park. Early in June they leave for a visit to relatives in Ireland, and on their return journey to London will probably spend a short time at the English and Scottish lakes.

Mr and Mrs J. H. Dalton, of Auckland, have arrived in London. They had a splendid voyage from Sydney and the weather continued to favour them in their trip across the Continent to England. From Auckland to London, says Mr Dalton, they did not have half a dozen hours of rain, a record which dwellers in this country at least can only contemplate with envy. Mr Dalton intends remaining about three months in the Old World, visiting Scotland and the Continent, and the return voyage to New Zealand will then be made via America, where a visit to St. Louis Exhibition will form part of the programme. Mr Dalton's trip is chiefly one of pleasure, but he is also taking the opportunity to study the latest developments in machinery in connection with his business.

Mr Joseph Evans and Mrs Evans, of Awanui, were among the passengers for London by the Ionic, which reached Tilbury last week. Mr Evans is on a pleasure trip, but he was hoping also to do some business while in London in connection with the kauri gum trade. He finds, however, that the London gum market is in "a very bad state," to use his own words, and there is no business to be done. He and his wife will visit friends in Middleborough, and on their way back to London will spend a few days in Staffordshire. They leave for New Zealand about the end of June, travelling via Suez. This visit, by the way, is the first Mr Evans has paid to the Old Country since he left here for New Zealand forty years ago.

Callers at the N.Z. Government offices were again fairly numerous this week. The following Auckland arrivals from the colony registered their names in the visitors' book:—Messrs. John A. Skinner and E. Sutherland (Onehanga), Messrs. H. E. McKeever and G. H. Bray, Mr and Mrs J. H. Dalton, Mr W. S. Dalton, Mr John Savage, and Miss Savage, Mr H. Pentland Norton, Mr Julius W. Williamson, Mr H. B. Morton, Mr G. A. Morton, Miss Florence E. Cranwell, Mr Robert Cranwell, Mr R. Martin, Mr E. V. Seun.

Among the recent arrivals in London from the colony were Mr. John Savage, of Auckland, and his daughter. They both speak highly of their experiences on the White Star liner Medic, by which steamer they travelled to the Old Country. Mr. Savage was somewhat unwell during the early part of the trip, but recovered before the white cliffs of Old England came into view, and he is now feeling very much better for the change of air and scene. He proposes to stay in Europe till the end of the year, but has made no definite plans as yet for filling in the time 'twixt now and then. For the present he is staying with his brother in Tavistock Square, but proposes next week to retire for a time to Haslemere, a pretty hamlet in Surrey much favoured as a summer residential locality by literary and professional folk.

Mr. H. Pentland Norton, of Auckland, who arrived here via New York at the beginning of the month, spent three weeks in America, and since landing at Liverpool has visited Edinburgh, Kirkcaldy, and Dundee in Scotland, and also Wolverhampton and Birmingham. He spent the Whitsuntide holidays at Dorking, in Surrey, but came up to London last Monday to see the annual water-borne parade in Regent's Park, a competition in which over a thousand horses took part this year. Mr. Norton is leaving shortly for a trip to the West Coast of Scotland, and on his return will visit relatives in Bucks and Kent. At present the date of his departure for New Zealand is uncertain.

Mr. A. F. Blakiston, of Auckland, arrived by the Ionic last week. Like a number of his fellow-passengers, Mr. Blakiston has come Home to improve his health by a sea-voyage, and to revive old memories by a visit to the scenes of his youth. He is a colonist of 52 years' standing, having arrived at Melbourne just at the time of the discovery of gold. A few weeks at the diggings sufficed for an inexperienced "new chum," and as New Zealand seemed to hold out the promise of a more congenial life and climate, Mr. Blakiston sought its shores. After a short stay in New Zealand he came Home to make final arrangements for settling down in the Canterbury settlement, then about two years old. A second visit to the Old Country was made about 20 years later, and now, after another interval of 30 years, Mr. Blakiston finds himself again in the Motherland, having travelled hither by the Ionic. His tour will take him chiefly to the Southern and Midland Counties, with a run over to Ireland. "What has impressed me so far," he says, "is the wonderful improvements which have been effected in London since my last visit. The sylvan beauty of the country, too, is very charming." Mr. Blakiston's intention is to return to New Zealand before the cold weather sets in, but by what route he has not yet decided.

LONDON, June 4.

Mr. and Mrs. Trounson, Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore, and Mrs. W. H. Smith, all of Auckland, are visiting the Old Country. They travelled by the German liner Gneisenau, leaving the vessel at Naples, and spending a month on the Continent before crossing over to England. They will stay two or three months in this country, and Mrs. Smith and her two sisters (Mrs. Trounson and Mrs. Gilmore) intend making a pilgrimage to their family's old home near Belfast.

Mr. Alexander Macintosh, the general manager of the Bank of New Zealand, travelled Home by the New Zealand Shipping Company's steamer Ruapehu, which reached Plymouth this week. On inquiry at the Bank last evening I was informed that Mr. Macintosh was spending a few days at Plymouth, and would not come up to town until next week. Mr. William Burton, the manager of the Suva branch of the bank, leaves London this week for America, having decided to travel back to Fiji via Vancouver.

Callers at the Agent-General's Offices in Victoria-street this week included the following Aucklanders: Mr John Andrews, Mr Wm. Morgan, Mr Henry E. May, Mr W. Butler, Mr T. McMaster, Mr H. C. Choyce.

Mr J. R. Martin, of Mt. Albert, Auckland, was one of the numerous New Zealanders who came Home by the Mongolia on her last voyage, reaching London on May 14th. After a spell of sight-seeing in the metropolis, and a visit to Epsom for the Derby on Wednesday last, Mr. Martin left for Ireland, where he intends to spend some time with his uncle. On his return to England he will have some shooting with a friend in Yorkshire, and he expects to leave again for New Zealand about October 14th.

Mr T. McMaster, of Auckland, has returned to London from a four weeks' tour of Ireland and Scotland. On the way back he stopped at Bradford to see the exhibition of textile fabrics now open in that city. Mr McMaster hopes to spend another couple of months here, leaving for New Zealand in August.

Amongst the New Zealanders in London just now are a party of four from Onehanga—Mr E. Sutherland (the well-known representative footballer and athlete) and Messrs G. Bray, J. Skinner and A. McKeever. They travelled Home via Suez by the Orizaba, and have had about a fortnight in the metropolis, seeing the various sights. On Wednesday they braved the thunderstorm and went to the Derby, and although they failed to back the winner, they got very near it, their selection, John o'Gaunt, running second. In about a week's time the party purpose setting out on a cycle tour through England, in order to see something of the country. They will probably go as far North as Glasgow, and then return to Liverpool to take ship for New York; but this is not

yet settled. They expect to be away from New Zealand for about nine months altogether.

Mr E. V. Seun, chief clerk of the General Post Office at Auckland, arrived at Plymouth on 22nd May by the a.s. Medic, and after a short sojourn there, at Exeter and London, is now visiting relations at Carlisle. Thence he proceeds to Paris, Switzerland and Italy, returning to the colony via the United States, where, if time permits, he will visit the St. Louis Exhibition. As his health is fully restored, the visit to his old haunts in Switzerland after an absence of over 29 years should prove specially enjoyable.

Mr H. B. Morton, of Auckland, is enjoying a pleasure trip to the Old Country with his wife and family. They came Home by the Gothic in March, and after a three weeks' stay in Cornwall came on to London, where another three weeks have been spent. Last Saturday they left for Cambridge, and later hope to visit the Continent. Mr Morton intends staying in England until towards the end of the year.

Mr Robert Cranwell, of Henderson, Auckland, whose arrival with his son and daughter I recorded last week, is re-visiting his native land after an absence of 42 years, and has, so he says, received a most genial welcome from friends old and new. After a short run on the Continent the party will visit friends in Lincolnshire, the north of England, and Edinburgh, returning to New Zealand by way of America before Christmas. Mr Cranwell, jun., has purchased a motor-car in London, which he will take back to the colony with him, and which he may use in the meantime in touring through this country.

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Mr. A. Towsey's Farewell

A CROWDED CONCERT.

The most enthusiastic complimentary concert that has been given in Auckland during recent years was that tendered to Mr Arthur Towsey in His Majesty's Theatre last week by the Auckland Liedertafel and a number of the other musicians of Auckland. It was successful in every way. The theatre was crowded to the doors in every part, and particularly in the dress-circle and stalls, and the music was provided by some of the best of the local talent. The reception accorded to Mr Towsey when he came forward to conduct the great orchestra, was very cordial, and after each of the concerted items he had to bow his acknowledgments of prolonged applause. It was gratifying to those who cherish local art to find that a man who has done so much for the musical life of the city as Mr Towsey, was not allowed to leave the town without an adequate public recognition of those services. Mr Towsey has raised his most effective monument in the Liedertafel, which ranks with the best in the colonies, and that he should have nursed that body into its present vigorous manhood is the most eloquent testimony to his ability and zeal admissible.

The concert itself was very enjoyable, and the atmosphere of warm sympathy which pervaded the audience seemed communicated to the musicians. The Liedertafel were in splendid form, and their songs were given with all the talent for which, under Mr Towsey's tuition, they have been conspicuous. Their numbers were the "Battle Prayer," "Necken's Polska," "In Vocal Combat," and "Lunge of the Rose" (in which Mr W. Aspinall sang the solo very effectively), each of which was sung so well that the audience almost insisted on an encore. The orchestra, which included at least 50 instruments, played by some of the best of our musicians, also played extremely well, the "Lohengrin" music especially being an artistic success; "Ruy Blas" and Cowan's incidental music to the "Yellow Jasmine" ("Language of Flowers") were also finely rendered. The Waiata Quartette sang Kreisler's pretty part song, "The Chapel" and were warmly encored. Madame Wieraert gave an excellent interpretation of Gounod's "O Divine Redeemer," her even voice lending itself to the rich tones of the prayer very nicely. She was recalled and presented with a bouquet of flowers, and as an encore she sang Denza's "May Morning" very prettily. Madame Chambers has not been heard to such advantage to herself for a long time past. She was in splendid voice, and every note in the difficult waltz song from Gounod's "Roméo and Juliet" was sung accurately and with a due recognition of its importance. It was a most artistic rendering, and she was deservedly encored. She substituted Wilbey's pretty "When the Birds Go North Again." Mr Frank Graham also shared the general warmth of temperament which the evening seemed to inspire, and he sang Pinault's "Queen of the Earth" with such sweetness as to be imperatively recalled, when he gave a still sweeter rendering of the fine tenor song, "I'll Sing Three Songs of Araby." Mr J. W. Ryan, who has recently returned from Europe, where he had the advantage of tuition, sang with much dramatic expression Blumenthal's humorous "Thy Foot," and being enthusiastically recalled he gave "Die Huldworte," "I Know a Lovely Garden," with distinct success. Mr Wilfrid Manning had a very good reception for his singing of "The Raft," and he also was encored. Mr Geo. Warren delighted the audience immensely with the songs, "The Irish Walking Match" and the droll "Tired," the second being an encore enthusiastically demanded. Mr C. Edward Poore played an excellent flute solo, Gariboldi's "Priere," and as an encore a very pretty "Serenade" by Tufel. The accompanists were Mrs Jackson, Miss E. Holland, and Messrs R. L. Hunt, T. E. Midgley, John Wieraert and Geo. Warren. At the end of the concert a remarkable demonstration of enthusiasm occurred. The Liedertafel led the audience in singing "Auld Lang Syne," and loud cheers for Mr Towsey shook the building before the National Anthem concluded one of the best and most enthusiastic concerts ever given in Auckland.