



THE VICTORIA SCHOOL FOR MAORI GIRLS.

It is now nearly three years since the Queen Victoria School for Maori Girls was opened. The foundation stone was laid on June 12, 1901, by H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, when on a tour in the colonies. The school was formally opened on May 22, 1903, by our late Governor, Lord Ranfurly. Thirty-seven girls are now being maintained at this institution, and the instruction in the practical arts of home making is producing excellent results among the girls. They are taught to cook, wash, clean, and sew for themselves. Many of them are quite adepts in making their own dresses, underclothing, and the scrupulous cleanliness of the house is ample proof of the domestic work done by them. When it is borne in mind that everything in the way of washing and house cleaning has to be done by 8.45 a.m. (when morning school begins), it will be seen that the training in method will be of distinct advantage to the race. A good sound general education is also given, comprising reading, writing, arithmetic, history, geography, drill, drawing, and singing. Rules of health and simple hygiene are also carefully taught. The Government provide for 20 scholars, and an association called the Victoria Association (for helping Maori women and girls) has been formed, of which Mrs. Neligan is president. They collect funds, and at present maintain 17 pupils. This association also strives to help the girls when they return to their own homes by writing to friends near where they live and asking them to take a kindly interest in them. If only more white people would strain their energies to collect the sum of £20, to maintain still one more girl for a year at the school, the improvement to the Maori people must soon begin to be noticeable.

It may interest many to know that the Maoria take a deep interest in the school, and show it in various ways, the most practical being in frequent gifts of potatoes, kumaras, fruit, and vegetables, all of which are very much appreciated.

The pictures in this issue give a good idea of the daily life in the school, so far as domestic duties are concerned. Other photographs of the school rooms, dining rooms, and dormitories, could, of course, have been given, but since in a modern and recently-built scholastic and boarding establishments these are of necessity much alike, it was thought that representations of the girls doing the house work of the school would be more interesting. In one, therefore, some of the girls are shown in the kitchen preparing dinner, in another the washing is depicted, and the ironing and mauling in a third, while a fourth gives a capital idea of the work room. Such photographs are hard to procure, but once obtained they certainly give a far better notion of the thoroughness of the training than columns of description could do. It will be generally conceded that the pictures show the usefulness of the school, and pay a tribute to Mrs. Nixon and her staff for the admirable manner in which they have discharged their heavy responsibilities.

In order to augment the funds it has been decided to hold a Maori bazaar and sale of work in the Government House paddock on similar lines to that which was held in the grounds at Bishopscourt, Parnell, last year. Very complete arrangements have been made, and an attractive programme has been prepared so that all that is wanted to make the affair a success is the support of the public, which will no doubt be liberally accorded when the worthiness of the cause is remembered. His Excellency and Lady Plunket have accepted the sale of work their patronage, and intend to be present. There are to be afternoon tea, strawberries and cream, and sweet stalls, and among other attractions there will be an exhibition of the work turned out by the pupils of the school. The pupils are also to go through physical drill and gymnastic exercises, and the Maori section of the Auckland Mounted Rifles will also contribute to the programme of events.

FLORAL FETE.

CARNIVAL OF FLOWERS AT ELLERSLIE.

A BRILLIANT SCENE.

The floral fete of 1905, held at Ellerslie on Saturday, was as brilliant a success as its humanitarian object warranted. The fete of the Auckland Ladies' Benevolent Society has come to be regarded as one of the events of the year from a popular standpoint. It is the only direct appeal that this society makes to the public, and generously the public responds to the appeal. The workers in the society, and they do another work among the poor of the city, made earnest efforts to secure the full success of the fete, and their efforts have met full reward.

The attendance is difficult of computation, but on a rough estimate it is calculated that there were between 15,000 and 20,000 people of the ground at one time during the afternoon, and there were numbers constantly coming and going. The amount taken on the course is estimated to exceed £375, and there is also a very considerable sum to come in from other sources.

A splendid display of Scottish dancing was given by the prize-takers of the St. Andrew's Society, those taking part being—Girls: M. Barber, M. Gardner, N. Mackay, Grace Sutherland, Janet Sutherland, Grace Hutton, Hazel Andrew, Mabel Andrew. Boys: J. Gardner, Neil Mackay, Chas. Simpson, Duncan Simpson, W. Geddes, Jack Hutton, John Barber, H. Johnston. Pipe-Major D. Crawford and Pipers Gardner, Evans and Neave provided the bagpipe music.

POSTERS.

The poster of Mr. W. Crosher, electrician, was Miss Heskest, who carried a staff made of the simplex conduit used by the firm in all its electrical fittings in buildings, etc. On the top of this was an electric fan, while at each corner was a coloured electric light globe, the device "Simplex" being borne below the fan, together with the name of the firm. The bearer of the standard also displayed the name on her sash, the whole forming an attractive display.

Mr. G. Mackay, seedman and florist, of Queen-street, was represented by Miss Winnie Grainger, of Ponsonby, who looked charming in a floral costume of cream silk. The skirt was trimmed with sunflowers, with a broad band of cream coloured ribbon with the words, "Mackay's seeds, plants, bulbs, and flowers," on the front, and on the back a green band with gold letters, "Florist." Her hat consisted of a large sunflower, surmounted with a golden butterfly. Miss Grainger carried a floral staff supporting a beautiful bouquet of choice yellow flowers and foliage and green streamers.

The poster of the English and Foreign Piano Agency (S. Coldicutt manager) was Miss Hazel Nairn, of Remuera, who wore a striking costume of butter glaze silk, panelled with cream silk, bearing the names of the famous English pianomakers, "Broadwood," "Cavaletti," "Allico." The whole of the front bore the words "Pharos and organs. The English and Foreign Piano Agency. S. Coldicutt manager." On the waistband, and shoulder straps were the names of the foreign piano houses, "Erard" and "Bluthner." The bottom of the skirt was decorated with bars of music beautifully worked in black velvet. Miss Nairn wore a champagne straw hat with a tanshrouse crown, adorned with a small drum and silver lyre. She carried a miniature piano, the effect being a splendid advertisement for the enterprising piano firm whom she represented.

For completeness of design, and artistic effect, it would be hard to excel the "Star" poster dress which was worn with distinction by Miss Rhodes. The skirt, of rich white satin, was formed of pleated panels printed in red and blue in the well-known front pages of the "Star," while alternate panels announced that this journal is "The People's Paper." In the front was a very beautiful hand-painted floral panel, executed by Mr. J. E. Ward, of the "Graphic" staff, the words "Ladies' Benevolent Society Floral Fete" being garlanded with exquisitely painted roses, and surrounded

by a golden star bearing the monogram of the Society. The bodice was composed of satin and rich lace, spangled with silver stars, and a large picture hat trimmed with black and white ostrich feathers bore the words "Auckland Star" in gold letters on the upturned brim. She wore black silk stockings and kid shoes, dusted with tiny silver stars, and in her hand she carried a banner bearing the "Star" Calendar for the month, and streamers with announcements of the "Graphic," "Farmer," and other well known publications of the Brett Company. The dress, which was designed and carried out by Miss McElwain, of the Victoria Arcade, was universally admired, and that it won a special prize, as well as first prize, was admitted on all sides to be no more than its due. Miss McElwain, who makes a speciality of designing fancy costumes, etc., was much congratulated on her success.

Miss McElwain, of the Massage Parlours, Victoria Arcade, was represented by Miss J. Lewis in the character of "Liberty." The gown was a beautiful one, the white skirt being trimmed with bands of red ribbon, and a border of gold stars. The bodice was also studded with gold stars, and a gold and jewelled crown, worn as a head-dress, completed an effective costume.

Skates-Bros., the well-known jewellers and clock makers, of Queen-street, sent a "striking" representative in a very pretty pink costume, traversed by a broad sash embroidered in handsome letters with the name of the firm. A banner with watches and jewellery on one side, and "Old Time" on the other, completed the poster.

The novelty and good taste shown in the exhibit made by Messrs. T. H. Hall and Co. for Fry's famous-manufactured attracted general attention. The exhibit was a mounted knight in plated armour, his steed fully caparisoned for defence and defence, himself armed at point exactly caps-a-pie, bearing on his shield the device, "Furthest and Best." His might have been any one of the "nine and twenty knights of fame" who "hung their shields in Branksome Towers." He seemed, indeed, to have stepped out of some old picture, and to have taken down his shield, assumed his armour, mounted his war horse, and repaired to the lists at Ellerslie to do his devoirs in defence of Fry's Cocoa and Chocolate.

Mr. Bartlett, who is always to the front in the photographic world, was represented by Miss Haultain, who personated his new process, the India Proof portraits, in a tasteful cream dress, draped artistically with dark brown voile, while the bodice of cream silk was draped with brown silk of a different shade, the idea being to represent the sepia tones of this beautiful new process, for which Mr. Bartlett is justly becoming noted, and which is attaining a great popularity.

Messrs McCullagh and Gower were represented by a very unique design worn by Miss Buckworth. It consisted of a ivory cleverly arranged costume in which no fewer than 20 dozen fancy white handkerchiefs, many of them lace-trimmed, were employed. A good deal of ingenuity was shown in the arrangement of these rather difficult materials, and the effect was successful and striking. The handkerchiefs were caught in the centre and tacked on to the dress foundation, the corners being loose and flussy, giving the effect of a very much frilled costume. The hat was of a gipsy or Welsh shape, of crimson satin, with a huge reel of white cotton for the crown, with the firm's name and the number of yards, 20 miles, on the top. A staff headed with a large gold sovereign completed this costume. The dress was made in the firm's well-equipped dress-making department.

Messrs Smith and Caughay's representative, Miss Winnie Lewis, was a complete epitome of the departments of that firm. The skirt and angle sleeves of the costume were of white satin. The skirt was lifted from waist to hem, having alternate panels with printed illustrations representing the different departments of the firm. The bodice was a shirred lawn with transparent lace yoke. The very picturesque Napoleon hat was made of ruffled white Valenciennes lace, and on the upturned brim were the large letters S. and C. in a deep shade of yellow, overlaid edged with black velvet, and long white satin streamers with the firm's name in gold letters were crossed on the crown, and reached to the hem of the skirt,

This costume was made under the supervision of Miss Carter, the costumier.

The Marselles Tile Company, represented in Auckland by Messrs Briscoe and Co., had a novel display in the form of a fancy costume of maroon and tile coloured silk worn by Miss Von Meyern to represent leadlights and tiles. The maroon silk skirt was short with hip papiers and berthe of the brighter shaded coloured silk cut to form pointed tiles. The hat was in a bell shape to form the cap of an oriel and spiral window.

Miss White, representing the Kapai Corn Broom Co., was dressed in pale green with voiles overskirt and bodice, a crossover blouse with late front and cuffs, skirt flounced with broom corn, a unique burst and green straw hat trimmed with tassels and sprays of broom corn; surmounting the whole was a picturesque umbrella made of corn brooms decorated with Kapai labels.

Yates and Co. were represented by two posters, Misses M. Haultain and Lewis, who were attired in yellow and purple, with strings of seeds around their necks, red hats on their heads, and staffs decorated with green stuff.

Mr. M. J. Bennett had an effective poster display, his son being encased within a huge cardboard paint pot, through the sides of which his arms projected, while he carried the tools of the trade, including a small ladder. The daughter walked by his side, carrying a bannerette bearing the name of the exhibitor of this poster.

Bycroft Biscuit Co. was represented by Miss Shepherd, attired in blue with bands of biscuits down her skirt and blouse and round her hat. She bore a staff on which were two of the smallest tins used by the firm.

Mr. Le Roy was represented by Miss Hume, who wore a miniature tent as a hat, and carried a bannerette with the name of the firm emblazoned on it.

The Pearson's Soudsoap poster was Miss A. Cowan, who was attired in a dress of material coloured similarly to the wrappers of the soudsoap, with skirt tucked up ready for scrubbing, and wearing as a hat a large wrapper displaying the name of the soap.

Mr. E. Barry, optician, was represented by Miss Laird, who wore the name of the exhibitor in large letters on her skirt, together with a number of prints of spectacles, etc.

Miss Harrowell represented the Auckland Fresh Food and Ice Company in a white dress and the company's white peaked cap, on which were balls of snow and labels of white with the company's name printed thereon.

Miss Steele, Nelson Monte's exhibit, was dressed in red, white and blue with badges and advices to drink the company's tea across, and a staff to which were attached streamers.

Messrs Wiseman and Co.'s poster (Miss Cook) was dressed in royal blue costume with white kid aprons and facings, a nurse's bonnet for hat, a whip for a staff, and a handsome cross-belt presented by the firm to the 1st Regiment, A.M.R., for shooting competition, was also worn.

The Northern S.S. Co.'s poster (Miss Reid) was a very effective display. The lady was dressed in a white sailor costume with the company's initials in red on the collar, had painted flags and ships on the front of the dress, and the name of the company along the bottom. Her belt was sunne rope and tackle and front it was suspended a gilded anchor and chain. Her staff was a small white mast from which flew the company's flag.

Postles and Palmers were represented by Miss D. Haultain in a military uniform with yellow facings, a red sash crossing the bodice with the name of the firm thereon.

The "Herald" was represented by a small boy in blue armed with a trumpet.

The Acorn butter exhibit was a butler-girl (Miss Hanna) in light yellow, with a milk pail in her hand.

Candarella Baking Powder had two posters—Misses McKenzie and Lewis—one of whom was dressed in green and wore the famous glass slipper.

The Reynolds bicycling firm showed a boy dressed as a cyclist with a staff representing the Rudge-Whitworth firm.

The Highlander Milk was represented by Miss P. Hamlin attired as a "Highland Lassie," bearing a bannerette with the name of the firm on it.

The South British Insurance Fire, Marine and Accident Co. could not have trusted its potential to more capable