

Personal Paragraphs

AUCKLAND PROVINCE.

Miss Douglas, of Ep-om, is at present staying with Mrs. J. R. S. Richardson, of "Coriela," Cambridge.

Miss Cave has returned to Papakura after paying a round of visits in Cambridge.

Miss Ethel Cave, of Papakura, is at present staying with Mrs. B. Couper, "The Anchorage," Cambridge.

Mr. and Mrs. Rawlinson, of Lake Takapua, left on Monday by the Westralia on a five months' trip to England.

Dr. W. H. Horton has been appointed public vaccinator for the district of Tekekeka.

Mr. J. W. Livesey, of Hastings, is about to take up his residence in Auckland, in which district he has considerable flax-growing interests.

Mr. Frederick Harvey was admitted as a solicitor by Mr. Justice Edwards last week upon Mr. J. R. Reed's application.

Miss Jessie Brooks, who is attending the Technical College in Auckland, has been home to Cambridge for three weeks' holiday.

Miss Eva Kinder, Remuera, Auckland, left by the Westralia on Monday for Sydney, on an extended visit to her aunt, Mrs. Pollock.

Mr. J. P. Grossman, M.A., lecturer at the Auckland University College, returned by the Zealandia on Monday from a short visit to Australia.

Mrs. T. Jones and family, of "Chyntha," Cambridge, are leaving for England at the end of June. Captain Lyons-Montgomery has taken their house for two years.

Mr. Alex. Donald was presented by the employees of Messrs. Donald and Edenborough on Saturday with several pieces of plate as a token of their esteem on the occasion of his approaching marriage.

Guests at the Okoroire Thermal Springs Hotel during the past week were:—Mr. and Mrs. Gose, Mr. W. N. Toller, Miss Toller, Miss Baines, England; Mr. J. B. Mackenzie, Melbourne; Mr. and Mrs. C. Whitney, Master C. and J. Whitney, Miss Whitney, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Wilkie, Master Wilkie, Miss Campbell, Miss F. G. Campbell, Mr. Mahoney, Mr. Bathe, Miss Preece, Auckland; Mr. O'Callaghan, Wellington; Mr. Williamson, Mr. J. Ross, Hamilton; Mr. Forsyth, Te Kuiti; Mrs. Bannerman, Dunedin.

TARANAKI PROVINCE.

Miss C. Campbell, of Auckland, is visiting Miss Calder at New Plymouth.

Miss F. Day, who has been spending a few days in New Plymouth, has returned to Hawera.

Mrs. Meek, of Hawera, is paying a short visit to Mrs. Bedford, of New Plymouth.

Mr. W. G. Harding, draughtsman in the local survey office, has received notice to proceed to Hokitika on temporary transfer, and leaves on Saturday (writes our New Plymouth correspondent).

HAWKE'S BAY PROVINCE.

Mrs. Pharazon (Napier) is in Wellington, where she is spending some weeks.

Mrs. Tylee is absent from Napier visiting friends in the Wairarapa.

Miss Hascon has returned to Wellington from Napier, where she has been visiting.

Miss McLernon has returned to Napier after having spent a few days in Wai-pukarua.

Miss Butts, who has been spending a short holiday in Napier, has returned to Wellington.

Mr. and Mrs. Donnelly (Ngatarawa) have gone to Marton on a short holiday.

Mrs. Humphries (Kereru) is on a short visit to her sister, Mrs. Lindo Levin, Napier.

Mr., Mrs., and Miss Kettle, of Napier, leave New Zealand in a few weeks for England, where they intend spending the remainder of the year.

WELLINGTON PROVINCE.

Miss Christie, of Wanganui, has returned from her trip to Wellington.

Miss H. Anderson, of Wanganui, has returned from her visit to Napier.

Mrs. Gould (Palmerston North) has been on a short visit to Wellington.

Dr. Platts-Mills has gone to Dunedin to pay a round of visits.

Mrs. Speed, of Australia, is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Speed, Wanganui.

Mrs. H. Wilson, of Cambridge, is staying in Wanganui with relations.

Miss Frankish, of Christchurch, is the guest of her sister, Mrs. D. Meldrum, in Wanganui.

Mrs. and the Misses Rutherford, of Picton, are staying in Wanganui with relations.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Beard, and Miss Reddy, of Wanganui, are on a visit to Cambridge.

Mrs. A. Izard and Mrs. Montgomery of Wanganui, have gone on a visit to Napier.

Mrs. and Mrs. Empson, of Wanganui, have returned from their visit to the South.

Miss Brabant, of Wanganui, is home again from her visit to Napier and Taihape.

The Misses O'Neill, of Napier, were in Wanganui for the winter race meeting.

Miss Butts, who has been paying visits in Napier, is back in Wellington again.

Mrs. J. Bhudell has returned from Greymouth, where she has been staying with her daughter.

Mr. A. E. Kernot, of Wellington, has been provisionally appointed Consul for Paraguay in New Zealand.

Miss Whitson and Miss I. Whitson have returned to Dunedin after a stay in Wellington.

Dr. and Mrs. Fitchett (Wellington) have taken rooms at Caulfield House, Sydney-street, for a time, as their own house in Woolcombe-street is let.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Waldegrave (Wellington) were the guests of Mrs. C. E. Waldegrave (Palmerston North) for a few days lately.

Mr. Noel Nelson spent a few days in Wellington before going to Japan. During his residence in Wellington, he made many friends, who are very pleased to hear of his good fortune.

Mrs. Duthie and Miss Horton (Auckland), who have been visiting Australia, made a stay in Wellington on the way home. They were the guests of Miss Coates, "The Lawn," Hobson-street.

Dr. and Mrs. Pendergast Knight have returned to Wellington after a trip to Australia. Most of their time was spent in Melbourne, where Dr. Knight's people are living.

The Hon. Kathleen Plunket returned to Wellington on May 29th, after a trip to Ceylon. She left New Zealand with Mrs. and Miss Braithwaite, who were out here visiting Captain Braithwaite, A.D.C. to His Excellency the Governor. After a very enjoyable stay in Colombo and the interior of Ceylon, Mrs. and Miss Braithwaite continued their journey to England. The Hon. Kathleen Plunket spent some time in Australia on her way back to New Zealand, paying visits both in Melbourne and Sydney. At present she is the guest of the Bishop of Wellington and Mrs. Wallis at Bishops-court.

SOUTH ISLAND.

Mrs. H. Elworthy (Timaru) is staying with Miss Murray-Aynsley, Christchurch.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Acland (Timaru) are spending a few weeks in Christchurch.

Mrs. Gould, of Christchurch, has gone with the Hon. and Mrs. Hannan, to England, where Mrs. Gould intends to reside near her daughter.

Mrs. Empson, of Wanganui, and her sister, Miss Acland (Mount Peel), who are in Christchurch, are the guests of Mrs. Hugh Reeves, at the Deanery.

The Misses Boyle, who have been staying with Mrs. J. D. Ormond, at "Wallingford," Hawke's Bay, have returned to Christchurch.

Miss Julius (Christchurch) is staying with her sister Mrs. Arthur Elworthy, at Pareora, Timaru. Miss Bertha Julius is with Mrs. Denniston at Peel Forest.

A Visitor's Praise of our Tourist Department.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. F. J. PROCTER, OF VANCOUVER.

Mr. F. J. Procter, of Vancouver, British Columbia, has been spending some weeks in New Zealand. In an interview Mr. Procter said:—

"I am deeply interested in the working of your Government Tourist Department, and through the courtesy of Mr. Donne, the Superintendent, and Mr. Robeson, the Deputy-Superintendent, I have been able to learn a great deal with regard to the organisation of this Department. I cannot speak too highly both as to its efficiency and the excellent results which are being obtained. From a commercial point of view, New Zealand has, in my opinion, no greater asset than that which is being created by this Department, and no country is richer in what may be termed the 'raw material' than New Zealand. Everywhere throughout the two islands are sights and places of wonderful interest to the tourist; but it required an intelligent Department to control them, make them accessible, provide guides, build accommodation houses, establish bureaux of information under courteous agents in all the leading cities and chief places of interest—not only has the Department done all this, but it has also undertaken the establishment and management of the different sanatoriums, including Rotoma, with its fine systems of baths and beautiful grounds. The Department is also to be congratulated on the excellent character and beauty of its literature, and on the extensive advertising which it is doing. I am convinced that the Government cannot do anything more profitable for the country than increase the allowance for the latter. Few people realise the commercial value, direct and indirect, of tourist-traffic. Every tourist who visits New Zealand must spend in the country at the very least £25 to £50. Twenty thousand tourists mean, therefore, between £500,000 to £1,000,000 of good hard cash left in the colony. With judicious advertising the number of visitors will be annually increased. There is nothing to fear, because what the Department advertises it has got to show. It can, as the Americans say, 'deliver the goods.' I cannot imagine anyone going away dissatisfied, and every visitor who goes away pleased will send two more. In British Columbia, or, indeed, in Canada, there is no work of this sort undertaken, either by the Dominion Government or the Provincial Governments, but there are several local tourist associations. We have one in Vancouver which is supported by voluntary contributions and an annual grant from the City Council. A number of business men are elected annually on the board of directors, and the association is conducted on very similar lines to the New Zealand Tourist Department. The association's rooms in Vancouver are situated on the leading business street, and are visited annually by several thousand tourists. I have discussed with Mr. Donne the question of reciprocity between his Department and our associations, and he is thoroughly in favour of entering into some arrangements which will be of mutual benefit, and steps are already being taken in this direction. I trust therefore that the advertising of the tourist attractions of New Zealand through our association in Vancouver will become an accomplished fact, and that in return through the instrumentality of the New Zealand Tourist Department British Columbia and its fine scenic attractions will be more prominently brought before New Zealanders and their many visitors. I hope to see the All Red Route become increasingly popular. The railway journey across Canada by the splendidly equipped trains of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company is full of interest. The scenery in the Rocky Mountains cannot, I believe, be surpassed anywhere, and the railway company has built several beautiful hotels in the mountains, where travellers can break their journey."

Mr. Procter has been one of the directors of the Vancouver Tourist Association for some years.

AUCKLAND.

EVERY EVENING. MATINEE WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY.

HOTSTOCK & WOODHULL'S NOVELTY THEATRE AND COMPLEXTON MENAGERIE.
 Under an Enormous Spread of Canvas.
MECHANIC BAY.
PERFORMING LIONS, TIGERS, etc.
THE LIKISHIMA TROUPE OF PLUCKY JAPANESE.
 And the
ALL STAR NOVEL CIRCUS CO.
 The First of its kind in New Zealand.
 PRICES — 4/ 3/ and 2/.
 Sole Proprietor E. H. HOTSTOCK

MUSIC AND DRAMA.

"THE FATAL WEDDING."

In Auckland, as everywhere else where it has been produced, "The Fatal Wedding" has proved a stupendous and almost overwhelming financial success. Sensible playgoers will have neither time nor patience for the writers who attempt to apply the ordinary canons of dramatic criticism to such plays as this. The would-be superior beings who flout and sneer at such productions would be capable of demolishing some of the "pretending" games of children by demanding the firesome explanations in which a certain type of "grown-up" revels, and in pointing out the absurdity of converting an inverted table into a 6000 ton steamer, or constituting the sofa a mail coach bound for London town. "The characters are untrue to life," say the sapient and superior critics, with ponderous veracity. Of course they are. As Mrs. Camp observed, "Who denies it, Betsy?" but those who go to such plays know, or ought to know, that they must be prepared to leave the stale realities of life outside the theatre door. That is, in effect, what they go for. The "let's pretend" of childhood is the sole and universal "Open Sesame" by which the average human being passes from the drab common-places of every day to that enchanted land beyond the footlights. Surely because the form of the play allows it is no reason we should demand absolute realism and querulously complain that such and such characters are not to be found in everyday life, and would never act in such and such a way under any circumstances whatsoever. To point out that it is highly absurd to make a loving husband divorce his charming wife on the sole evidence of a very obviously "put-up" dodge on the part of a madly-jealous woman and a villain, doubtless shows high intellectuality, but it argues a very plentiful lack of the faculty for harmless imagination and the capacity for "pretending" from which poor human nature, young and old, derives half the salt of life.

Judged on the score of realism, "stiff and non-sense" might be used with effect with regard to the conduct of Lear in dividing his kingdom as he did, and no "real life" father would leave the future of his daughter and her fortune to the accident of choice amongst three caskets.

One does not, of course, compare the degrees of improbabilities, but merely desires to maintain that even in the highest, as in the lowest, a strict attention to realism would leave us poor indeed. "The Fatal Wedding" is pure melodrama of the domestic order, and is therefore singularly free from those gruesome and hair-raising incidents usually described as transpontine, from the fact that the home of their first production is usually the Surrey Theatre—across the bridges. The appeals to the feelings are, as usual, of the direct and primitive order, which keep handkerchiefs busy when pathos is to the fore, and which cause opinionious hilarity when the rough and ready comic element takes its place. So far "The Fatal Wedding" differs not from its fellows, except that it is, as already said, less blunthirsty and gloomy than many of its mates. But it possesses a feature which is all its own. The children's scene is absolutely delightful and unique. The youngsters play with remarkable "vital" and go, and the whole scene goes with a vim and snap absolutely irresistible. The main title set in the foreword was the public like, and the secret of its success is as obvious as it is unaccountable; it is what the great mass of playgoers like, and there, after all, is the Alpha and Omega of the matter.

