

# Our Illustrations

## GOLF AT OKOROIRE.

One of the most pleasant places to spend a holiday is Okoroire. The climate is magnificent, and particularly bracing to those who are accustomed to living near the sea. The thermal baths are always delightful, and at the different seasons there is plenty of sport with rod or gun. Okoroire is a place that grows on one, and people who go up for a week always stay two or three, and more if they can spare the time. Two Englishmen not long ago were induced to go up under protest for a week. It was seven months before they left the place, and then only because they were compelled to go Home on business. Mr. and Mrs. T. Martin, who have charge, know exactly how things should be done, and make the place more like a home for their guests than a hostelry. The latest attraction which has been added is a golf links, and judging from the vogue of this grand game, it will become one of the greatest inducements to spend a week at this well-known resort. Both Mr. and Mrs. Martin hail from the home of golf, and have played on all the famous links, so the course is naturally laid out to the best advantage. When Mr. Martin took over the management of the hotel he set himself, with the assistance of visitors, to make a 6 hole course, which has been played on for some months. Another 3 holes has now been added, which makes it one of the best inland courses in the colony. The 1st tee is about 50 yards from the hotel, and a brushwood fence has to be carried with a drive. There is also a sod wall 30 yards from the green. Going to the 2nd hole there is a brushwood fence, and

near the hole are 3 small bunkers, which make a good trap for a short approach. This hole has the road on the left, and a deep gully on the right. The 3rd hole is similar to the 2nd, having a brushwood fence and 3 bunkers, besides the gully on the left. Going to the 4th hole, which is an iron shot, the manuka scrub has to be carried, a sliced or low shot landing one in difficulties. The drive to the 5th hole is over a large patch of manuka scrub on the right and a fence and rushes on the left. There is also a bunker to avoid before getting on the green. Going to the 6th hole, one has to negotiate some hillocks, and a large brushwood fence is a nice trap for a short drive. At the 7th hole the rushes have to be carried with a good drive for a nice lie, and the second shot has to carry a brushwood fence, otherwise the lie is in rough ground. There is also a large bunker 30 yards from the green. The drive to the 8th hole requires to carry a brushwood fence. There are also rushes and a small bunker close to this green. The home hole should be done in three or four, but pine trees and two fences have to be crossed before getting on to the green. The distance for the 9 holes is 2472 yards, which makes the maximum length 3 miles for 18 holes. All the greens are protected by wire fences.

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL DINNER.

The annual dinner held under the auspices of the Auckland Chamber of Commerce, is now becoming one of the most interesting functions of the year, as it affords an opportunity for men of all shades of political opinion to meet together and discuss matters of vital interest, not only to the Province of Auckland, but to the colony as a whole. The dinner last week was held in the Federal Hall and proved an unqualified success. Each speaker was limited to ten minutes, the result being pithy speeches, going straight to the

point, thus securing an utter absence of that tendency to prolixity which occasionally characterises after-dinner remarks. The hall was tastefully decorated with ferns and evergreens, the ceiling being festooned with lycopodium, while round the walls were cabbage trees and nikau palms. On the table in front of the president was the model of a large steamer, indicative of the fact that the progress of commerce is inseparably connected with that of the port. The catering was in the capable hands of Mr Griffiths, and was admirably attended to. Three long tables were placed lengthways of the room, and at the platform end of the hall was the table of honour, at which was seated the president (Mr J. B. Macfarlane). On his right hand were seated Mr W. F. Massey, M.H.R., the Mayor of Auckland (Mr A. M. Myers), Mr F. Mander, M.H.R., Mr J. H. Mutton and the Hon. W. Behan, M.L.C. To the left of the chairman were seated Mr F. E. Baume, M.H.R., Mr A. Kidd, M.H.R., Mr H. C. Tewsley and Dr. H. D. Bamford. Seated in other parts were the following members of Parliament:—Messrs F. Lawry, M. M. Kirkbride, John Bolland, E. W. Alison, John Stallworthy, W. H. Herries and C. H. Poole. Invitations had also been sent to the Hon. E. Mitchelson (Chairman of the Harbour Board) and Mr J. H. Greenslade, M.H.R., also to the Premier, the Hon. Sir Joseph Ward, and to the Hon. George Fowlds. The president read the following telegram from the Premier:—"I am exceedingly sorry that at the present juncture it is not possible for me to be with you at your dinner to-night. I had hoped to have had the pleasure of being present, but I feel that under the circumstances you will excuse me. I trust you may have a very pleasant and successful evening. (Applause.) The following telegram was also received from the Hon. G. Fowlds:—"I much regret being unable to attend dinner. I hope the function will prove quite as successful as the one held a year ago." The following is the list of those to whom seats had been allotted, nearly all of whom were present:—

- Messrs R. R. Hunt, A. St. C. Brown, J. Robertson, J. C. Spedding, J. H. Ganson, H. G. Poussonis, G. A. Aikin, J. Peacock, A. Young, J. Reid, M. A. Clark, R. Freeman, N. E. Williams, J. C. Hardie, G. M. Shaw, W. J. W. Poulson, A. Aitken, John McLauchlan, Thos. Coates, W. B. Mowbray, S. J. Nathan, P. Luckie, V. J. Lamer, J. M. Mennie, H. Luckleton, A. Bell, G. Elliott, J. Wilson, G. A. Buttle, H. T. Taylor, H. W. Buttle, E. W. G. Rathbone, E. W. Evans, W. B. Leyland, J. C. Smith, A. Gould, F. M. Hansen, E. Winstone, E. H. Pickering, E. N. Gaudin, A. Clark, W. H. Leys, L. J. Bagnall, H. Brett, A. Cleave, H. Horton, E. Langguth, R. Burns, W. Frater, J. B. Jones, H. B. Oakes, R. H. Corwell, A. Whitley, H. Moore, S. Valle, C. A. Stubbs, E. B. Valle, A. Baddley, W. S. Whitley, E. Yates, L. A. Bacheider, W. H. Pountney, E. Seeger, J. Thomas, A. Grierson, G. L. Fenwick, J. W. Wiseman, Jas. Kitcher, H. Edmonds, G. Nicol, E. Spinks, W. Reinger, F. W. Leighton, A. B. Morton, W. E. Hutchinson, C. A. Whitley, J. Court, J. Robb, T. Barstow, T. Russell, J. C. Burns, M. McLean, T. de Scryver, E. A. Frice, H. Rogers, G. L. Barr, D. W. Butler, H. Heath, W. A. Robertson, J. M. Chambers, A. J. Denniston, J. D. Greg, J. Hodgson, A. Hart, Jno. S. A. Longuet, E. A. Craig, F. W. Abbott, E. Russell, L. N. Benjamin, D. Nathan, C. Ransom, H. Gillman, Jno. J. M. Luxon, S. Murray, A. C. Stevenson, W. F. Stewart, G. W. Bews, D. R. Caldwell, and H. Walker.

A 15 centesimi black stamp has been issued in Italy of a new type. The design is a simple one. In the foreground is an excellent portrait of the King, and the sea forms an effective background. A ray of sunshine illuminates a small suspended crown.

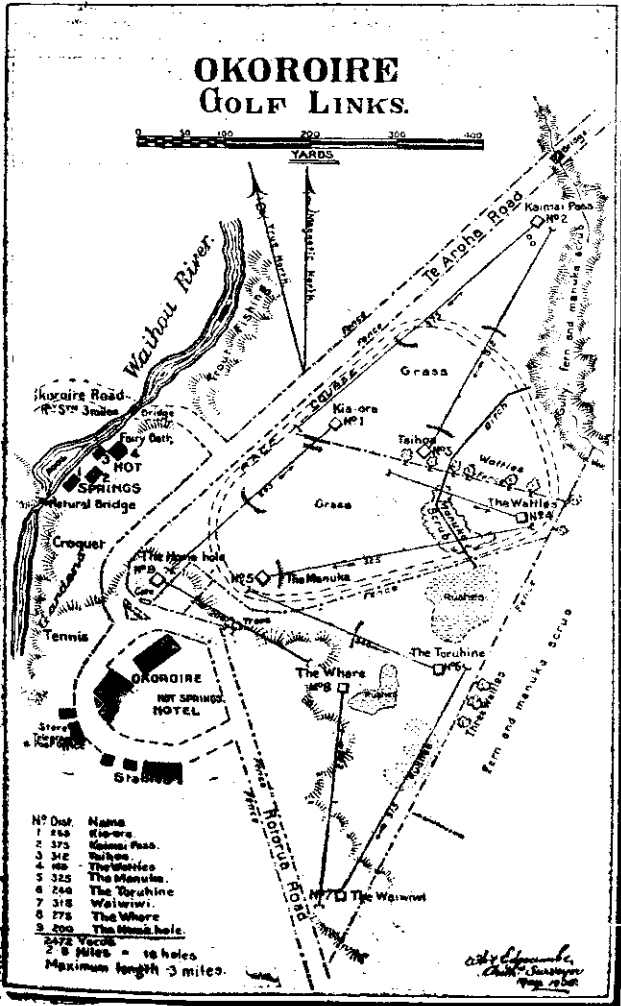
Certain changes have taken place in French stamps owing to the introduction of the penny post. There has been a re-arrangement of the stamps of the "Sower" type. While the figure of the woman has not been altered, it has been thrown into better relief by the whole of the background being in one solid colour. At the top are the words, "Republique Francaise." While at the bottom of the stamp is the value, with the word postes. The "Stamp Collector" states with regard to these "Sower" stamps: "If the design was specially emblematic of France, the type as a whole might be considered a very good one, as conveying all that is necessary as an official intimation of the use of the stamp, as was the case in the old "Ceres" type of Republic, and similar one for the Empire, which like our early ones and those of Gambia, etc., were ideal in their appropriate simplicity, as distinct from the many incongruous florid pictures and poster types manufactured to attract certain collectors now-a-days."

Another series of stamps has been issued in Greece in honour of the Olympic games. As usual, the stamps are beautiful specimens of the engraver's art. The values and colours are as follows:—1 lepton brown, wmk. Crown ET, 2, green, 3, orange, 5, green, 10, carmine, 20, royal purple, 25, ultramarine, 30, violet, 40, sepia, 50, red-brown, 1dr. black, 2dr. light rose, 3dr. pale yellow-green, and 5 drachmae slate blue.

The following description of how stamps are gummed, appears in "Casell's Magazine":—"There is probably nothing so interesting in Government printing as the manner in which stamps are gummed and dried. A new gumming plant has recently been installed at the United States Printing Bureau in Washington. The room was specially designed to receive it. The stamps receive their coating of gum at the farther end of the room and then drop on to a continuous chain or belt. This belt carries the sheets through vats which contain coils of steam pipes fifty feet long. Wonderful as it may seem, the slow passage of the freshly gummed sheets through the vats dries them. When they reach the other end of the vats, they are dry enough to be piled one upon another. Every precaution is taken by the authorities to insure absolute uniformity in the spreading and drying of the gum.

The Chinese are a singular race, and in illustration of the statement may be mentioned that a few days after the Post Office was started at Kai Teng (states the Stamp Collector) a couple of men entered and asked for stamps, throwing a bundle of letters and some money on the counter. The stamps were supplied, but the men did not seem to be satisfied, and after five or ten minutes had passed, they were asked if they required anything else. They replied that they were waiting for the clerks to put the stamps on the letters. It was explained that this was forbidden by the regulations, but the Chinese could not or would not understand, and insisted that the postal officials were paid to affix the stamps. The clerks, of course, did not at all accept this view of the matter, and politely refused, whereupon the men started to paint the place blue. The office was wrecked, and the clerks had to take refuge in another room till the arrival of the police, who escorted the frate natives to the local jail.

A copy of the four-penny blue Western Australian first issue 1854, with inverted centre was sold by auction in London on the 31st of May. Only nine copies of this rarity are known to exist as only a few got out in this state, the error being speedily rectified. The price realised was £400.



## Stamp Collecting.

The set of stamps to be issued to commemorate the International Exhibition in Christchurch, will be available for postal purposes over a limited area, which will include Great Britain, the Australian Commonwealth, and the colony of New Zealand. These stamps are only to be purchasable at the post office established within the exhibition buildings.

Considerable ingenuity has been displayed by certain unscrupulous persons in faking the higher values of the King's Head stamps of Lagos. Stamps of lower values, printed in colours exactly corresponding to the 2/6, 5/- and 10/- stamps respectively, are acquired by the fakers; their tablets of value are removed and cunningly replaced by others expressing the higher values.

It has been estimated that in a collection of 20,000 stamps, at least 3,000 shades of colours may be obtained.