

**Diamond Wedding Celebration.**

We hear occasionally of "Golden Weddings," but it is seldom indeed that the term of matrimonial happiness extends to sixty years. The rare event of a Diamond Jubilee, however, was celebrated by Mr. and Mrs. John McLean, of Auckland, last week. Mr. McLean, founder of the well-known firm of railway and marine contractors, John McLean and Sons, was born in Argyshire, Scotland, 84 years ago. He went to Cape Breton, Canada, in early life, with his parents, and came to New Zealand in 1860 in the "Helen Lewis," with a party of 240 special settlers from Nova Scotia, who were pioneers to this country by the Rev. Norman McLeod. After arrival he entered into various employments, took his share in the country's defence during the Maori War, and tried his luck, with not much financial success, at mining upon the opening of the Thames goldfields. Nearly forty years ago Mr. McLean entered upon the



Bullitt, photo.  
**MR. AND MRS. JOHN McLEAN, OF AUCKLAND.**  
 Who celebrated their diamond wedding last week.

business of contractor, more especially in connection with the construction of bridges and wharves, admitting his sons, Murdoch and Neil, into partnership at a later period. The progress of the firm has been uninterrupted ever since, until it now stands at the head of the list of New Zealand contractors, having in hand works representing a million pounds sterling, including the Otira Tunnel, the largest work of its kind south of the equator; a big graving dock and a ferro-concrete wharf at Wellington, and other important contracts. The venerable partner of Mr. McLean's fortunes is now in her 83rd year, being one year younger than her husband. Of the considerable number of married people who arrived by the "Helen Lewis" in 1860, many of them younger than Mr. and Mrs. McLean, they alone remain united, and both are hale and active considering their advanced years. Many messages of friendly congratulation from all parts of New Zealand were received on the occasion of the happy celebration.



**VETERINARY SURGEONS PRESENT AT THE PROFESSIONAL BANQUET TENDERED TO MR. J. A. GILBERT IN WELLINGTON, PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE DOMINION.**

FRONT ROW: Messrs. P. M. Edgar (Wanganui), J. Kerrigan (Dunedin), C. J. Reakes (Acting-Chief Veterinarian), J. A. Gilbert, J. G. Clayton (Christchurch), A. R. Young (New Plymouth), G. Spillman (Petone).  
 BACK ROW: Messrs. H. S. S. Kyle (Auckland, Christchurch), H. A. Reid (Wellington), C. J. Sanderson (Ashburton), T. G. Lillico (Hastings).



**NEW ZEALAND'S PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENTAL HEADS.**

FRONT ROW: Mr. C. W. Hirsthouse (Chief Engineer, Roads Department), Colonel A. Hume (Inspector of Prisons), Messrs. T. Ronayne (General Manager N. Z. Railways), H. J. H. Blow (Under Secretary to the Treasury), J. H. Richardson, Commissioner and Inspector of Customs, G. Alport (Secretary, Marine Department), D. Robertson (Secretary, Post and Telegraph Department). SECOND ROW: Messrs. A. Barron (Land Purchase Inspector), J. D. Ritchie (Secretary for Agriculture), W. C. Kensington (Under Secretary for Lands), G. F. E. Campbell (Valuer-General), T. Humphries (Surveyor-General), J. W. Poynton (Public Trustee), P. Hayes (Commissioner of Taxes), W. Hume (Commissioner of Police), T. W. Fisher (Under-Secretary Native Department), R. W. Hudson (Engineer-in-Chief, Public Works Department). THIRD ROW: Messrs. C. A. St. G. Hickson (Commissioner of Stamps), G. Hughes, M.A. (Inspector-General of Schools), E. J. Van Duzen (Inspector-General), John Mackay (Government Printer), Frank Hay, M.B., C.M. (Inspector-General of Mental Hospitals), F. W. Mansfield (Chief Electoral Officer), J. M. Mason, M.D. (Chief Health Officer), R. E. Hayes (Registrar of Friendly Societies). FOURTH ROW: Messrs. T. H. Hamer (Under-Secretary for Mines), T. E. Dome (General Manager, Department of Tourist and Health Resorts).

Muir and MacKintlay, photo.