

## PERSONAL NOTES.

## Death of Colonel Rookes.

Colonel Rookes, whose adventurous career is told at considerable length in "The Defenders of New Zealand," died last week. Entering the service as ensign in H.M. 2nd West Indian Regiment on March 11, 1842, promoted to a lieutenant the same year, December 31, 1842, and to a captain March 20, 1846; was selected by special appointment of the Duke of Wellington as aide-de-camp, and private secretary to the several governors of the Bahamas and Trinidad. He received the Cross of the Legion of Honour from the French Government for services on the west coast of Africa; the Malajeh Star from a native prince (only three were struck for presentation, a Captain Selwyn, R.N., nephew of the famous Bishop Selwyn, being another recipient); and the New Zealand medal. Soon after his arrival in Auckland, the Maori rebellion of 1860 broke out, and Colonel Rookes was employed by the Colonial Government in organising the war branch (now the Defence Office), and in recognition of the able manner in which this duty was performed, the Fox Ministry placed him by their recommendation in command of the Wanganui district as the deputy of the Governor. While holding this command, he raised, organised and personally drilled seven separate troops of cavalry in the Rangitikei, Turakina and Wangaehu districts so successfully that these forces were repeatedly thanked on the field and in general orders by Generals Cameron and Waddy. The latter officer, a veteran of considerable experience in India and the Crimea, remarked "that he considered these troopers, in physique and fearless riding, the best ideal of what irregular cavalry should be." Colonel Rookes, in 1865, further received the thanks of the Colonial Government of New Zealand for the successful manner in which, under that distinguished Governor and statesman, Sir George Grey, he led the colonial forces at the capture of the Wererona Pa, completely nullifying the assertion made in General Cameron's dispatches, "that it would require a large addition of Imperial troops to reduce that stronghold of the natives."

## Kudos for Mr. Harle Giles.

The Hon. A. W. Hogg (Minister for Labour), speaks in high terms of the work being performed by the Auckland Conciliation Commissioner (Mr. T. Harle Giles). Speaking to a Wellington pressman the Minister said: "He is saving the Arbitration Court a great deal of difficult business, and those among the labour unions who were at first so strongly opposed to his appointment, are now speaking of him in the most complimentary terms. I talked with some of them when I was in Auckland a few days ago, and I found that they were delighted with the way in which Mr. Giles has been fixing up their difficulties."

## Auckland's New S.M.

Mr. E. C. Cutten, S.M., presided over the Auckland Police Court for the first time on Friday, since his appointment as successor to Mr. R. W. Dyer.

Mr. W. J. Napier said he had been asked by a number of members of the legal profession to congratulate his Worship on his appointment to Auckland. "We have heard of your Worship's reputation," went on Mr. Napier, "as a painstaking officer, and one possessing an eminently judicial mind. We hope that there will be the most cordial relations between your Worship and the members of the profession."

Mr. J. R. Lundon had pleasure in adding his congratulations. It had been a matter of sincere congratulation amongst the legal profession that Mr. Cutten had been removed to this more important sphere.

Mr. W. F. Hackett, on behalf of the junior bar, said that as far as they were concerned, it would be their endeavour to assist his Worship in the discharge of his sometimes difficult duties.

Mr. Cutten: It is extremely pleasant to be welcomed in this kindly way by you. Since I have been appointed to the magisterial bench, I have received such kindness and such courteous assistance from the solicitors that my work has been a pleasure to me, and I shall confidently look forward to the same experience among the solicitors practising at the bar in Auckland. I thank you, gentlemen, for your kind remarks.

Messrs. Spencer Crackenthorp and L. M. Crackenthorp, the well-known Victorian chess players, left Wellington by the Warrimoo on Friday, on their return home.

Mr. D. Carter, manager of the Grey-mouth office of the Union Company, left with Mrs. Carter by the Mokoia on Monday on a holiday trip to Australia.

Mr. E. J. Cairn, of Avondale, left last week for Sydney on a holiday trip to the Old Country. He will connect at Sydney with the Ophir for London.

Mr. Justice Edwards and Mr. Justice Cooper will hear, at Hamilton, the petition in connection with the recent Maori election.

Mr. J. Lomas, Chief Inspector of Factories, and Mr. W. Temple, architect for the workmen's homes, have been in Auckland on a Departmental visit.

Mr. Carr, conductor of the Royal Comic Opera Company, is accompanied by his wife, who, as Miss Beatrix Tracy, was a well-known contributor to the "Lone Hand" (of which she was sub-editor), the "Bulletin," and other Australian journals.

Mr. C. Holdsworth, general manager of the Union Steam Ship Company, arrived in Auckland by the s.s. Mokoia on Sunday. From here he proceeds to Fiji to join the Vancouver steamer on his way home. Mr. Holdsworth will be away six or seven months.

Mr. F. E. Powell, assistant engineer to the Auckland Harbour Board was the recipient of a presentation from the staff last week, to mark his departure on an eight months' holiday trip abroad. The function took the form of a social at the Tiffin, Mr. Hamer presiding over a gathering of about 200.

The representative of the Parsons Trading Company, Mr. J. R. De Costa, with Mrs. De Costa, left Wellington by the Warrimoo last week en route to India. Mr. De Costa has been promoted to the charge of the company's business in India, with headquarters at Bombay, and his many friends will be pleased to hear of his advancement.

Mr. E. W. Love, resident secretary of the A.M.P. Society, left Wellington for Sydney by the Warrimoo to attend the jubilee annual meeting, to be held in Sydney. He is accompanied by Mrs. and Miss Love.

Mother Marie St. Benedict died somewhat suddenly at the Ashburton Convent, aged 74 years. The deceased had been in Ashburton about 12 years, and she was held in very high esteem. She was one of the first band of mission sisters who arrived in Christchurch to open the Christchurch convent some 45 years ago. New Plymouth papers report that Mr. H. J. H. Okey, M.P., is confined to bed with an attack of rheumatic fever.

Mr. and Mrs. Eichelbaum, of Wellington, were arrivals in Auckland by the Main Trunk train last week. During a stay here of about three weeks they will be guests at the Grand Hotel.

Mr. A. Gregory, of Dargaville, has gone to Wellington, for the purpose of attending the convention of the Society of Friends.

Captain Hope-Johnstone, who accompanied the Anglo-Welsh football team on its travels in Australasia last year, has purchased a farm in the Kihikihiki district, and intends to settle in New Zealand. Before doing so, however, he will return to England, on account of a serious illness in the family, and he does not expect to be back in the Dominion until some time in November.

Dr. McArthur, S.M., has been appointed chairman of the North Island Railway Appeal Board in succession to Mr. H. Eyre Kenny, who has retired on superannuation.

Mr. G. F. C. Campbell, Valuer-General, who is to be appointed Inspector-General of Defence Forces during the absence in England of Colonel Davies, entered the Civil Service in 1874 as a cadet in the Public Works Department. The Valuation Department is now to be combined with that of Land and Income Tax, under Mr. P. Heyes. Mr. Campbell passed his military examinations and entered the volunteer service as a sub-lieutenant of the Wellington Naval Artillery in 1887, and was promoted to be captain in 1894, and lieutenant-colonel Wellington Garrison Artillery Division in 1902.

Friends of Mr. Walter G. Foster, of Lower Hutt, entertained him at lunch at the Grand Hotel last week, prior to his leaving for England. Occasion was taken of the gathering to present Mr. Foster with a travelling rug, and a deck chair for Miss Foster. Mr. and Miss

Foster left for England by the Rusephu on Thursday.

Mr. Alfred Hill, who has been seriously ill for some time past, is now reported to be doing well.

Mr. H. V. Gully, retiring town clerk at Nelson, was the recipient of several presentations from all branches of the municipal service. Mr. Gully has held the position for thirty-five years, and is retiring to enter legal practice.

Mr. Harry Holmes, of Matahiwi, Wairarapa, left Wellington on Friday for Sydney, en route for Canada. He will travel to Vancouver in the Mikura.

Mr. John Harker, of Waipawa, is dead; aged seventy. He was regarded as the father of Liberalism in Hawke's Bay.

Mr. E. Reynolds, of E. Reynolds and Co., Wellington, has gone to Sydney, en route to London, by the steamer India.

A presentation of a handsome marble clock was made by the railway employees last week, to Mr. J. Goodall, of Napier staff, who is retiring on superannuation after 25 years' service, in addition to having served 22 years on the railways in England.

It is understood that Mr. J. Eman Smith, Registrar of Old Age Pensions, whose Department will be merged in the Postal Department, has been offered and has declined the position of head of the Government Fire Insurance Department, says the "Dominion."

Mr. W. G. Gordon, manager and engineer at Wellington of the National Electrical and Engineering Company, Ltd., has accepted the position of tramways engineer at Brisbane. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon left for Sydney en route to Queensland on Friday last.

Mr. R. Corbett a station-holder in the extreme north of New Zealand, returned from an extended trip to the Old Country by the Rimutaka last week. His niece, Miss Thurston, accompanied him. Try by the Rimutaka on Wednesday. His niece, Miss Thurston, accompanied him.

Mr. John Bolland, M.P., has been 48 years a member of the Avondale (late Whau) School Committee, and for the last 40 years has been unanimously elected chairman. This probably is a record for the Dominion.

Captain England, who commanded the Nimrod on the first journey to the Antarctic, is at present confined to his bed in Christchurch. He intended to leave for England by the Bute, but he has had to postpone the voyage.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Knight, of Hamilton, who have been spending a holiday in the Whangarei district, have returned home.

Mr. D. M. Luckie, late Deputy Commissioner of the Government Life Insurance Department, died at Wellington last week. The deceased retired from the service last July. He was 81 years of age last October, and was a very old resident of New Zealand, being well known as a journalist in Nelson, Wellington and Auckland in the early days.

The Rev. William Mawson, who for some years past has been engaged in the Presbyterian mission amongst Canton villages, China, arrived in Wellington by the Sydney steamer last week. The Rev. Mr. Mawson, who is accompanied by Mrs. Mawson, are come to New Zealand to spend his furlough, and intends to go round all the Presbyterian churches in the Dominion in the interests of his mission.

Mr. S. Pascoe, who landed at the Kati Kati settlement with the Vesey Stewart party, which came out to the Dominion in the ship Carisbrook Castle in 1875, died at Onehunga last week. After a residence at Kati Kati the deceased proceeded to Auckland, and thence to Hamilton, where he was engaged in business for a number of years, during which time he became widely known and respected throughout the Waikato. In recent years he had resided at Onehunga. The deceased leaves a widow and twelve children, seven daughters and five sons, to mourn their loss.

Mr. H. F. Arkwright, of Marton, left Wellington by the Warrimoo last week, to catch the Ophir, leaving for London on the 15th inst.

At the conclusion of the mayoral installation at the Maori Hill Council Chambers, Dunedin, last week, the Mayor (Mr. Butterfield) presented Mr. Peter Pilkington with a handsome armchair as an expression of regard for the services he had rendered the borough.

Mr. Robert Galbraith, of Southland, is to be nominated for the position of president of the New Zealand Rugby Union at the annual meeting this week.

Mr. D. Zimen, of the Consolidated Goldfields Company, who has been visiting Auckland and Waihi, has returned to Wellington. He is visiting Reefton this week.

The Hon. T. Thompson, M.L.C., is at present visiting Rotorua for a few days' trout fishing on the lake.

The appointment of the Hon. T. Mackenzie as Minister for Agriculture as from May 1, is officially announced.

Mr. W. G. Runcie, Auditor of Land Revenue, is at present in Auckland on official business, and will be in town for several weeks.

Inspector Cullen, who has been on a visit of inspection to the Wellford and Port Albert district, returned to town on Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Douglas, of Taviuni, Fiji, are at present staying at the Staf Hotel. They will leave for Suva to-day, by the Maitai.

Dr. Sharman, port health officer, returned on Sunday by the Mokoia from Napier, where he had been attending the Appeal Court of the New Zealand Racing Conference.

Mrs. Annie Besant, the well-known lecturer and writer on theosophy, has just recovered from an attack of fever at Madras. She is reported to have aged considerably in appearance as a result of the attack.

Mr. S. J. Elston, of Dunedin, has been appointed organising secretary in New Zealand and Australia for the Amalgamated Society of Engineers. He has commenced his duties with a tour of Southland and Otago.

The Hon. Jas. Carroll, Minister for Native Affairs, is spending about a fortnight in the Gisborne district. He purports meeting the Hon. R. McKenzie on the arrival of the Minister for Public Works, overland from Waihi.

Mr. Hector McLean, M.A., one of the travelling secretaries for the Presbyterian Bible Class Union, is visiting the Bible classes in the Auckland Province, and is at present in Rotorua. Mr. McLean is a distinguished student, and was one of the four nominees in New Zealand this year for the Rhodes' scholarship.

A presentation of a travelling rug and Gladstone bag was made on Monday to Mrs. Davison, lady attendant at the Auckland Railway Station. Mrs. Davison has got six months' leave of absence, and has left for Scotland. Mr. Benney, coaching foreman, made the presentation, in a neat speech.

Bandmaster Stuart, of Cambridge, has accepted an appointment at Gore, and leaves at an early date.

Mr. James McInnes (an old settler of the Waipu district) died on Monday week at the advanced age of 74 years.

Mr. Chas. J. Tunks has been appointed Deputy Mayor of Mt. Eden during the absence of Mr. O. Nicholson at New Plymouth.

Judge R. Sim (of the Native Land Court) is to retire as from the end of the present month. Judge Sim is a comparatively young man, and it is less than two years since he was appointed to the Native Land Court Bench.

Mr. J. J. Weir, of the Railway Department, New Plymouth, where he has been stationed the last five years, has been promoted to the position of chief clerk at the Thorndon goods station, Wellington. He will be succeeded at New Plymouth by Mr. White, stationmaster at Waitara.

Mr. James Inkster (recently of the Public Works Department, Auckland) has been appointed to the position of Supreme Court crier, vice Mr. Martin, who was lately retired, and is now assistant librarian at the Supreme Court. On Monday his brother officers of the Public Works Department made a presentation to Mr. Inkster of several pictures as a parting token of their esteem and goodwill.

Colonel Webb (late secretary of the Council of Defence), who has retired on superannuation, will take up his residence at Nelson in a few weeks. He was the guest at an informal gathering of the headquarters staff in the Garrison Officers' Club, Wellington, last week. Colonel Davies, C.B., and Colonel Collins being among those present. Colonel Webb's health was drunk with the utmost cordiality and Colonel Robin banded him, for Mrs. Webb, a handsome silver teapot.

At the Auckland warehouse of Messrs. P. Hayman and Co., last week, Mr. G. E. Browne, head storeman, was presented by his fellow workers with a case of pipes duly inscribed, the occasion being the 26th anniversary of Mr. Browne's service with the firm.

Mr. Marmaduke Webster, whose death was announced in Sydney recently