

Our Illustrations

CALIFORNIA BOYS ON TOUR.

MR. GARNET HOLME, of Jesus College, Cambridge, but for the last two years in charge of the dramatic work of the State University of California, arrived by the through express last week from Wellington, he being the manager of the California Boys' tour. He had an interview on Wednesday with the chairman of the Education Board (Mr. G. J. Parr), Mr. P. M. Mackay, Colonel V. W. S. Patterson, and the Mayor (Mr. C. D. Grey). Seen by a representative of the Auckland "Star" shortly after his arrival, Mr. Holme gave some interesting particulars regarding the California Boys' Club, which, he stated, was started by Major Pixotto in a little room in San Francisco some 15 years ago. In 1906 the club had a membership of 800. Here the lads received gymnasium training, were taught military drill and outdoor athletics of every description, also received instruction in basket making, wood-carving, clay modeling, and all kinds of handicraft, musical and dramatic work. There was also a fine brass band. The earthquake left the club without a home, and a fresh start had to be made. The old boys, however, rallied round the Major, and as a result there is a new clubhouse. It may be mentioned that every member of the California Boys' Club now, on tour was in the rescue camps during the exciting days following the earthquake. Most of the boys are the sons of small tradesmen or working men of San Francisco. An invitation was forwarded from Australia for the California Boys' Club to visit the Commonwealth. Accompanying the invitation was an offer to hospitalize the visitors for four months. "We want," said Mr. Holme, "our boys to meet the boys of New Zealand. At Wellington the Y.M.C.A. has arranged for them to be received into the homes of some people. In your city Mrs. Leo Myers (to whom I had letters of introduction) has asked to have two boys as visitors during their stay here, and Mr. P. M. Mackay, Colonel Patterson, and the Rev. W. Gray Dixon are interesting themselves in the matter of providing homes for the other boys."

"Will they stay long in Auckland?"
 "Oh, no, for they have to go to Sydney. The boys should arrive here on the 24th of June, and leave on the 26th."
 "What is the object of the tour?"
 "We want the boys, while they are here, to see all that they can in the time at their disposal. As you people in Auckland are, I understand, great in athletics, it should interest you to learn that we have with us the champion boys' baseball, basket ball, and football teams of San Francisco. The ages range from 12 to 20 years. While we are in Auckland, the boys will give a concert at the Choral Hall, at which your Mayor has promised to preside. I may tell you that each summer a party of 40 boys of the club marches for five weeks through the State of California. No boy is allowed to start out on this trip unless he can prove himself valuable to the party. The expenses of this expedition are raised by the giving of the same entertainment as is offered on this foreign trip. The visit of the American boys to Australia and New Zealand should not only prove immensely helpful to the boys themselves and those interested in such work, but should also be an important step in the bringing together and the better mutual understanding of the two great English-speaking peoples."

THE NEW GOVERNMENT HOUSE AT WELLINGTON.

Among our illustrations will be found two sketches of the new Government

House, which will soon form a commanding feature on the landscape near the old Mount View Asylum. The work of excavating for foundations has been commenced. The residence has been placed in such a position that its erection can be considerably advanced before it becomes necessary to dismantle Mount View Asylum and find accommodation for its patients in the extensions of mental hospitals now in progress elsewhere. There are to be two imposing frontages, one to a garden, which is to be kept as private as possible, and the other facing the north, and the carriage drive, which will run from Gussier Square up the hill to join the existing drive. Foundations of concrete will be provided, and then brick will come into use for the base, rising to the height of the verandah. Above this the usual timber structure will be used, but the walls, instead of being covered with weatherboarding, will be of a rough-cast plaster, with the main timbers showing. These beams will be stained dark, and, contrasting with the white plaster and the red roof-tiles, will give the residence an exceedingly picturesque appearance, strongly suggestive of the Elizabethan style of architecture. By designing the building with two long elevations, the maximum amount of sunshine will be available in all the principal rooms.

The garden front will face the north, the sunny aspect, and will be quite shielded from the public means of access, the main entrance to the residence being on the south side, in the centre of the building. Outside will be a porte-cochere—the covered porch for carriages—and then a vestibule leading into the spacious entrance hall 40ft by 25ft. Leading off this will be the grand staircase, similar in design to that at the old Government House, in that it will have two branches, or return staircases, reaching from the first landing to the upper corridor. On the right, upon entering the building, and overlooking the northern aspect, will be his Excellency's private sitting-rooms, while at the extremity, the eastern end of the ground floor plan, will be situated the drawing-room, 31ft 6in by 26ft, with a spacious bay, off which will lead a large conservatory. Doors will also lead from this bay into the ballroom, 75ft by 40ft, or rather more than twice the size of the old ballroom. This will be provided with a special entrance for guests, having cloakrooms and a large ante-room.

There are to be 18 bed and dressing-rooms for his Excellency, his suite, and guests. While the new residence will be spacious and its exterior picturesque, the cost has been kept down, and the Government architect (Mr. J. Campbell) is to be congratulated upon the manner in which he has endeavoured to meet all these requirements, at the same time keeping within the estimate originally submitted by the Prime Minister to Parliament—viz. £25,000. It is expected that the building will be completed in June, 1910. The work is to be done by day labour under the superintendence of the Public Works Department. It was in the late sixties that the old Government House, which in its final days is doing duty as a Parliamentary Building, was first commenced, the contract price being £10,332. There were a number of extras, the contractor failed to complete the work at the contract price, and it was estimated that the building, when completed in 1871, was worth £16,246.

THOMAS BALLINGER AND CO., LIMITED.

By an oversight in late week's issue the name of Messrs Thomas Ballinger and Co., Ltd. of the Empire Plumbing

Works was incorrectly printed as "Ballinger Bros." under an illustration of the Dixon-street works of the firm. The misprint was too obvious to be read otherwise than a mistake, but at the request of the firm we have pleasure in drawing attention to same in order to prevent misunderstanding.

THE FRIMLEY EXHIBIT AT THE AUCKLAND WINTER SHOW.


A NOVEL DISPLAY.

(See Page 23.)

The Frimley Cannery exhibit attracted a great deal of attention. Mr. J. R. Wheeler, the Auckland agent, went to a lot of trouble to make the display novel and artistic, and the crowd that gathered around the stall all the week amply testified to his success. The Governor himself spent fully quarter of an hour there on his tour of inspection, and congratulated Mr. Wheeler upon being the representative of one of the finest industrial firms in the Dominion, the land value of whose orchards has advanced from £35 to £200 per acre. The stall, which was in pavilion form, had a background of the firm's canned goods arranged in groups, tiers and pyramids, their elegant labels making a pleasing bank of rich colour. These labels were also used to finish the edge of the raised dais, and tastefully introduced in panel effect on one side of the stall, forming a blank wall, draped with alternate rays of gathered saten in sunflower and fan shape, and interspersed with lycopodium, the colours of pink, pale green, heliotrope and old gold blending harmoniously. The labels, whose richness and elegance were the subject of frequent comment, were printed at the "Star" Office. The goods comprised tomato sauce, green peas in tins and packets, tinned vegetables of all kinds, including tomatoes, tinned fruits of all kinds, jams, and pie fruits. Some of the tins were opened, and the

contents turned into glass dishes, examples being appetizing enough to make the mouths of the bystanders water. The fruit is preserved in halves, of the largest and best quality, free from mawk, one standard, the best, and nothing but the best, being rigidly maintained. Inside of a little railing, the goods forming a pretty background, stood two girls and a boy, dressed to represent a Frimley plum, peach and vegetable, respectively, and were, of course, the centre of attraction. They handed out amusing circulars representing a Maori attempt at imitation of the Frimley Works, and little packets of court plaster, bearing the legend, "Stick to Frimley." The Plum (Miss Mabel Abbott), a handsome brunette, wore a short skirt of leaves in saten, nicely veined and edged, Frimley Plums, cut from the labels, forming a border. The baby bodice was of soft heliotrope silk, with zouave in yellow, and groups of plums applique, and a loose scarf of yellow silk knitted at the left side. Her cap was an inverted plum tin, with ribbon streamers in green heliotrope and gold, with plum drops, and she wore black openwork stockings and high-heeled shoes, presumably to represent stalks. The Peach (Miss Kathleen Robinson) was a dainty little blonde, short and plump, with long flaxen hair falling over her shoulders. She wore a soft pink saten dress in Empire style, reaching to the floor, with Empire sash in golden yellow, and Frimley Peach in brown cut from labels forming the hem of skirt. Her large hat of rustic straw was edged with pink ribbons, the crown decorated with sprays of peach blossom, and she carried a spray of the same in her hand. The Vegetable (Master Dick Turner) wore clown's attire, with loose red pantaloons, green blouse and red spotted tie, white straw shoes, and red and white striped stockings. Over this were pasted bunches of green peas and other vegetables cut from the labels, his peaked cap being also made of labels. His face was blackened, and he acted the part well by moving about among the crowd and causing much merriment.

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N.B.—We wish to draw the attention of all intending purchasers that we let no goods go without the full money at time of purchase.