

of the society getting that little bundle of concessions is not quite so good as some other things that might be mentioned as likely to happen before the new year.

The ball in which these pictures are shown is not of the largest. Therefore, when one enters fresh from a perusal of the epiphenetic criticisms of the hanging committee, one smiles at the storm in this teacup. To the uninitiated eye one place seems just as good as another here. And, if one smiles, the smile is made broader by the proposal, quite seriously made by one of the exhibitors to have an exhibition of all the rejected addresses. What more topsy-turvydom could one have than a proposal which supposes that it is the duty of a selection committee to exhibit the worst pictures?

More serious, of course, is the allegation that the committee contains artists who, when their own pictures come up for judgment, do not retire. But no impartial man doubts their impartiality for all that.

The Volunteer Returns.

In August the volunteer returns showed an increase over the totals of any previous year in the history of New Zealand. That being the case, it is satisfactory to record that the September returns exhibit numerical superiority over those for August, and the reason for congratulation is more pronounced because the increase is apparent in adult volunteer ranks as distinguished from those of rifle clubs and cadets. The increase would have been even more pronounced had the strength of the four training corps for officers, formed recently in Otago and Canterbury, been included in the September figures. These, however, were not received in time, and they will be added to the totals for October, which are likely to establish a new record.

A Prison Gate Home.

Island Bay residents are much perturbed at the proposal of the Salvation Army to establish a prison gate home in their midst, and there is a strong feeling of resentment against the scheme (telegraphs our Wellington correspondent). The seaward suburbanites fear that in a sparsely populated and insufficiently policed locality like Island Bay they would never feel safe to leave their homes, knowing that men who had committed crimes and served sentences for them were close at hand. There were so many young children about the place, too, that the danger would be twofold. When these views were placed before the authorities of the head office of the Army, the provincial secretary stated that similar homes were established in the chief cities of Australia and in Auckland, and there had been no trouble. In Melbourne the home was at Abbotsford, right in the thickest populated district about the city, which was Collingwood. In Sydney it was at Enmore, out Newmarket way, not far from the Redfern station. The district there was also closely populated. In Brisbane the home was at Red Hill, a residential suburb. In Adelaide it was in the very heart of the city, and in Auckland it was just near the Newmarket tram terminus. The residents of Island Bay might rest assured that the establishment of the home would do them no harm whatever. This declaration, however, has failed to calm the fears of the residents.

New Zealand Artillery.

Captain Richardson, Chief Instructor of Artillery, in his annual report, states that in nearly every company there has been improvement both in shooting and general efficiency. Ten out of twelve companies qualified as first-class. There has been a gradual improvement until it would seem impossible to get better results from volunteers than those now recorded. The order of merit is worked out as follows: Eight-inch B.L. guns: No. 2 Company, Canterbury, 1; No. 2, Auckland, 2; No. 1, Wellington, 3. Six-inch B.L. guns: No. 3, Auckland, 1; No. 1, Wellington, 2; No. 1, Otago, 3. Light quick-firing guns: No. 1, Auckland, 1; No. 3, Auckland, 2; No. 2, Auckland, 3. For all shooting: No. 3, Auckland, 1; No. 1, Auckland, 2; No. 2, Wellington, 3.

Helping the Poor.

During the year ending 31st March, 1909, the sum of £5424 was expended in charitable aid (outdoor relief) in the country portion of the Wellington district. The figures, as reported by the

secretary to the Wellington and Wairarapa Charitable Aid Board, are as follows:—Orders on storekeepers, £1400; rent, £500; cash, £40; funerals, £60; medical attendance and drugs, £50; passages and board en route, £14; temporary board and lodging, £250; children boarded out, £3010; other relief, £100.

Gold and Silver Exports.

The export of gold from New Zealand during the nine months ended Thursday last amounted to 372,520ozs, valued at £1,480,858, being a decrease of 17,922ozs, valued at £63,373, compared with the figures for the corresponding period of last year. Silver exported during the past nine months totalled 1,351,233 ozs, valued at £134,709, which is 112,918 ozs, of the value of £8812 more than in the first three quarters of last year.

Last month's export of gold was 40,922 ozs, valued at £162,733, or 12,201ozs (value £47,260) less than in September of last year. The quantity of silver exported last month was 220,397ozs (value £22,020), being an increase of 29,710ozs (value £2785) over the figures for the corresponding month of 1908.

Railway Revenue.

"Notwithstanding the tightness of the money market," said the Minister for Railways to a "Star" reporter, "the railway revenue has kept up wonderfully well. The returns for the past five months of this year show a satisfactory increase over the corresponding five months of the previous year. The increase in revenue reaches £153,000, while the increase in expenditure has only been £73,000, so that we have a net profit of £80,000 over and above the previous year. It will be seen that the cost of earning this increased revenue was only 51 per cent, and I think that after taking everything into consideration, this increase in railway revenue for the past five months is to be regarded as highly satisfactory."

The Second Express.

The running times of the Main Trunk second express are announced in the new railway time-table. The train will leave Wellington at night, passing in daylight through the heart of the King Country. The time of the Auckland departure will be in the forenoon. Providing the train is a success in the summer time, it will be made permanent should its continuance seem warranted. The arrival of the express at Frankton from Wellington will approximate the time of the Rotorua express from Auckland, and Southern passengers will thus be enabled to continue their journey to the Hot Lakes and the Thames district without delay.

An Interesting Gift.

Mrs. R. M. Maslin has generously presented to the people of New Zealand through the High Commissioner in London, some very interesting relics of the late Queen Victoria, inherited by her from a member of the Household of the late Duchess of Kent, and afterwards of Queen Victoria. The relics consist of, amongst many other things, a gold watch, an autograph letter of the late Queen, medals and photographs, and have been presented by Mrs. Maslin in appreciation of New Zealand's action with regard to the offer of a Dreadnought to the British Navy.

AUCKLAND.

HOME AGAIN.

Sir Joseph Enthusiastically Received.

Streets Lined With People.

The Prime Minister's reception on Thursday was the most enthusiastic one. Long before the time announced for Sir Joseph's landing at the man-o-war steps the streets were lined with people, and at 2.30 Quay-street was so densely packed that traffic was absolutely blocked. All the surrounding wharves and quays were thronged with people, and from the shipping, upper storeys of adjacent buildings, and other vantage grounds, interested spectators watched the proceedings.

Promptly at 3 o'clock Sir Joseph and Lady Ward landed from the Challenger in one of the warship's launches. On arrival they were met by the Mayor (Mr C. D. Grey), the chairman of the

Harbour Board (the Hon. E. Mitchellson), the Ministers, members of Parliament, members of the Legislative Council, and members of the reception committee. The kiosk at the man-o-war steps was tastefully decorated in pink and mauve, with green trimmings, and the men from the Veterans' Home, under Captain Archer, were drawn up as a guard of honour. After being welcomed by the Mayor and Harbour Board chairman, Sir Joseph briefly thanked the veterans for being the first to welcome him, and remarked that while in London he had met Lord Ranfurly, who had inquired after the Veterans' Home. Sir Joseph and Lady Ward, and the Mayor and Chairman of the Harbour Board, and Master Pat Ward then entered the first cab, and nine other cabs followed, containing the Ministers and invited guests. Headed by the Garrison Band and a large detachment of cadets, the procession threaded its way along Quay-street into Queen-street, and from thence travelled up the main thoroughfare to Wellesley-street, turning into Albert Park from Princes-street. The route was lined throughout with rows of people, and as the procession proceeded up Wellesley-street the scene was a particularly bright one, thousands of people lining the footpaths and park slopes. From Victoria-street the way was lined with veterans.

At the Albert Park there was a large gathering long before the time at which the Premier was announced to make his appearance, and when the carriages appeared at the gates the lawns in the vicinity of the rotunda were black with people.

The Veterans, under Major Morrow, lined the footway leading to the place where the reception took place, and in front of the rotunda there was a guard of honour composed of bluejackets from H.M.S. Challenger, under Lieut. Longstaff.

Among those on the rotunda, or in the space reserved for representative people, were: Messrs T. W. Leya, B. Kent, P. J. Nerieny, P. M. Mackay, J. H. Kirker, Hon. B. Harris, M. J. Bennett, G. Knight, A. Keyes, E. Davis, C. Bagley, A. Kidd, and F. Pitt (members of the executive committee entrusted with the reception arrangements). Sir G. M. O'Rorke, Col. Wolfe, Hon. S. T. George and W. Beehan, Hon. E. Mitchellson, Hon. W. W. ion's representative at the Imperial Conference. Therefore, in delivering to the people the result of that work, nothing could be more pleasurable than this welcome to him as their representative. Sir Joseph went on to speak of the result of the Conference, and the arrangements which had been made with the Old Country.

PRESENTATION OF AN ADDRESS.

At 4.30 p.m. on Thursday a deputation from the Waitemata Branch Liberal and Labour League waited upon Sir Joseph Ward at the Star Hotel for the purpose of presenting to the Prime Minister an address. The Hon. J. Carroll was also present. The address was as follows: (To the Right Hon. Sir Joseph Ward, P.C., K.C.M.H., D.C.L., etc., Premier of New Zealand.) It was felt that, as the reception tendered to the Prime Minister yesterday was a general one from the citizens, irrespective of party, it would be better to present the address from the Liberal

McCardle, Hon. H. Gilmer, Dr. McDowell, Col. Collins, Messrs H. W. Wilson, W. A. Pzickitt, S. Nathan, Major McDonald, F. Lawry, M.P., A. E. Glover M.P., H. J. Greenlade, M.P., C. H. Poole, M.P., W. Jennings, M.P., J. D. McKenzie, W. E. Bush, and the following representatives of local bodies: Messrs W. Handley, E. W. Burton, M. J. Coyle, J. Rowe, G. Sayers, K. S. Briggs, J. Dempsey.

After the presentation by the Mayor's little daughter of a bouquet to Lady Ward and a poem to Sir Joseph Ward, his Worship the Mayor welcomed the guest of the day and presented him with the citizens' address.

Sir Joseph Ward was loudly and continuously cheered on rising to speak. He said that he desired, in the first place, to express his appreciation to the citizens of Auckland for the reception they had given him as their Prime Minister on his return from an important mission. He did so the more because the gathering was comprised of all classes of political colour, and was intended to welcome him as the Dominion and Labour Federation separately. The members of the delegation were as follows:—Messrs W. J. Napier (president), J. Considine (vice-president), J. Veats, T. Collins, and Mrs. Cassell. The presentation was made by Mr. Napier.

The Frisco Service Not to be Resumed.

Interviewed last week in regard to the proposal to renew the Frisco mail service, Sir Joseph Ward gave to a "Star" representative an important statement of the facts of the case, which will be read with interest as following his statement in regard to the Vancouver service. "The matter, up to the present," said Sir Joseph, "is not within the range of practical possibility, for the reason that none of the Union Steamship Co.'s ships could carry passengers and cargo between Honolulu and San Francisco, or between San Francisco and Honolulu. The trade between these two points is a great factor in the consideration of a mail and passenger service, via San Francisco. That route is usable only by American-owned ships, built and owned by American citizens. That is the American law. Consequently the steamer service between San Francisco and New Zealand would need to be carried on at least at one end by American-owned vessels. The main subsidy enable that to be done must be paid by the United States Government. At present the Senate has taken up the attitude that it will not subsidise any line between San Francisco, New Zealand, and Australia. That is the position at present. If America entertains the project of renewing the service, the subsidy of £70,000 per annum would require to be provided by the United States Government. According to information supplied to me some months ago by those on the American side anxious to see the service again taken up, the position is just as I have stated it. So that any talk of bringing pressure to bear on the Government to have the service resumed is next door to useless. It will be remembered that when the Sprackles line was running

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