

Mrs W. Newman, Mrs Hampton, cream; Mrs Stanford, black; Miss Stanford, cream; Mrs Cornwall, black silk, jet trimmings; Miss F. Cornwall, old gold silk blouse; Miss I. Cornwall looked pretty in a rose pink blouse; Mrs Weston, grey trimmed with white silk, with handsome lace fichu; Miss Hoskin, green; Miss Roy, cream; Mrs Fenton, white; Miss W. West (Thames), black and white silk blouse; Miss Hursthouse, white blouse; Mrs McDermid, pretty grey muslin; Miss Essie, cream; Mrs Morrison, white blouse, dark skirt; Mrs Devenish, black; Miss Devenish, pink blouse, dark skirt; Mrs Gray, white.

NANCY LEE.

WELLINGTON.

Dear Bee, January 19.

The large garden party given yesterday afternoon by Mrs Rhodes, at her beautiful residence, "The Grange," Wadestown, in honour of the officers and men of New Zealand's second contingent, was a most brilliant success. There must have been several hundred guests present, besides those in whose honour it was given, and from three o'clock till close on seven p.m. the grounds presented a very gay scene. The contingent, all mounted, arrived at "The Grange" at three o'clock. They created a great sensation as they proceeded from the camp at Newtown Park through the streets to Wadestown. Thousands of people assembled all along the route to witness this fine display of horsemen, and at intervals bunting was displayed from the house tops.

Commodious accommodation was provided for the horses at "The Grange," some little distance away from the house, where each animal had its goodly share of fodder and water. Shortly after the men had settled their horses His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by the Countess of Ranfurly, Lady Constance Knox, Captain Alexander, and the Hon. Hill-Trevor, arrived, and the German Band, which was stationed near the entrance gate, played the National Anthem.

About 3.30 p.m. the whole party adjourned to the large paddock on the southern side of the house. For the sports, for which dainty programmes were distributed, the events being quite new to Wellington gatherings, the eight events having been arranged for the occasion by Captain Moorhouse, of the "D" Battery, and Messrs G. Bethune and Moore. A most covetable table of prizes for the various events was displayed in the paddock, which included most artistically designed silver medals, pipes (ready filled and silver-mounted), sets of razors, boxes of choice cigars, knives (combining every known accessory in the way of corkscrews and other combinations useful to a soldier), all of which had been bought and provided with evidently much forethought as to their future utility by Mrs Rhodes. The sports were most amusing in many instances, and caused roars of laughter, especially the first event, entitled "Briton v. Boer," in which the doctor's orderly, Trooper Hill, representing the Briton, being blindfolded, and endowed with a bell-topper surmounted by a gaily flowing plume, lay at full length on the ground, where, grasping Trooper Gillespie's left hand (who was similarly accoutred), with a padded weapon in his right hand, after a desperate combat, succeeded, amidst yells of delight, in knocking off his opponent's hat, and thus winning the prize. Other events were well contested, and consisted of tugs of war, 80 men on each side, the "Deerfoot Race," the "Victoria Cross Race," "The Fight for the Standard," a sort of blind man's buff competition, entitled "Mixed Medley," Pipe and Tobacco Race, and a "Number One Combat." The prizes having been distributed by Captain Moorhouse, nephew of Mrs Rhodes, on her behalf, amidst loud cheering, a number of trophies were found to remain over, and these were gracefully presented by Mrs Rhodes to Captain Smith, of the Hotchkiss Battery, to be competed for by the contingent on the Waiverua on the voyage to the Cape. Dancing on the green in front of the house to the excellent dance-music of the Austrian band was the next attraction, and was thoroughly enjoyed by the troopers until 6.30 p.m., when Bugler Chegwain sounded the unwelcome "Fall in," and very shortly after the troopers were once more en route for the city, having, on a call from Major Cradock, first given three hearty cheers for Mrs Rhodes, and then for

the "ladies." Crowds of people lined the side of the hills on the return route of the troopers, and heartily cheered them the whole way back to camp. Among the very large number of guests present to meet the contingent were the Premier, Mr Seddon and Miss Seddon, Colonel Pole-Penton, Sir Robert Stout (Chief Justice) and Lady Stout, Sir James Prendergast, Mr Aiken (Mayor of Wellington), Sir Arthur and Lady Douglas, Judge and Mrs Edwards, Captain Stuart and the officers of the Tauranga, the Count and Countess De Courte, Mrs Parker (sister of Lord Kitchener), who is seeing her son off as a member of the contingent, Mrs Hayhurst (wife of Captain Hayhurst), Lieut.-Col. Newall, Lieut.-Col. Somerville, Captain and Mrs Moorhouse, Dr. and Mrs Newman, Mr and Mrs and W. L. Travers and the Misses Coleridge, Mr and Mrs Parfitt, Mrs and Miss Barron, Mr and Mrs Studholme and Mr Joseph Studholme (Christchurch), Dr. and Mrs Grace, Mr and Mrs T. C. Williams and Misses Williams, Bishop and Mrs Wallis, and very many others.

Now, I must try and remember some of the pretty costumes that were worn. Our kind hostess, for whom ringing cheers were given by the contingent before leaving at the call of Major Cradock, received her guests on the verandah, and wore a rich black silk canvas gown, trained, and the bodice trimmed with black and white gathered chiffon and steel, black lace bonnet trimmed with jet and ospreys and a touch of scarlet. Lady Ranfurly was wearing a black cloth tailor-made costume, handsomely braided, white lace vest and revers, and a becoming black velvet toque with plumes. Lady Constance Knox wore a simple white pique frock and a white straw trimmed with silk ruching and tips; Countess de Courte, a dark blue and white figured silk gown, the skirt made with rather narrow frills from the hips down to the hem, and the bodice was made to correspond, black jetted toque with cream roses; Mrs W. Moorehouse, black braided coat and skirt and pretty mauve satin and chiffon toque; Mrs Wallis, blue and white soft silk gown, the bodice lightened with lace, grey straw hat with fawn chiffon and flowers; Mrs Seddon, handsome black brocade gown with white lace on the bodice; pretty black bonnet trimmed with mauve flowers and white ospreys; Miss Seddon, dark green gown, with lighter vest, and light straw hat trimmed with flowers and black tips; her sister (Mrs Bean, (Christchurch) wore a grey jacket and skirt, and hat with tips; Mrs (Capt.) Stuart, neat cream serge costume, braided, and a mauve straw hat with mauve flowers and chiffon; Mrs Duncan, black silk canvas gown with lovely cream lace on the bodice, stylish black and white bonnet; Lady Douglas, grey jacket and skirt with white silk vest, large black hat trimmed with black and white feathers; Miss Douglas, red cloth coat and skirt and a white straw hat trimmed with feathers; Miss Maggie Douglas, dark grey Eton suit with scarlet vest, white hat trimmed with scarlet; Mrs Perry, a pretty cream and pink figured chine silk, the bodice made with circular frills and trimmed with white lace, large grey straw hat turned up at the side and trimmed with tips and pink flowers; Mrs Richardson, black silk gown with vest of cream satin and lace, and pretty black and white bonnet; Miss Richardson, dark blue coat and skirt and white sailor hat; Mrs Parfitt, brown tailor-made coat and skirt and a pink straw toque trimmed with a deeper pink ribbon and leaves; Mrs Brown, black canvas over maroon tips; Mrs E. B. Brown, white embroidered muslin over mauve, and a white straw hat trimmed with mauve chiffon and flowers; Mrs Sprott, black gown and short cape with green silk revers, black and green hat; Miss Sprott, white silk gown, red jacket, and a red and black hat; Mrs Professor Brown, a light greeny grey coat and skirt, white hat trimmed with daisies; Mrs Barron, black gown with pink vest, small black hat trimmed with bright pink ribbon; Miss Barron, blue print gown and white hat trimmed with pink roses; Miss E. Barron, pink print gown and white and pink hat; Mrs T. Young, dark blue coat and skirt, brown straw hat trimmed with brown and pink ribbon; Mrs Faneourt, black gown and black and pink bonnet; Mrs Travers, dark blue tailor-made suit and a black hat trimmed with black and white chiffon; Miss Coleridge, grey checked gown with black braid, large black hat with white and pink chiffon; Miss Mahed Coleridge, black coat and skirt, large black Leghorn hat, with tips and green ribbon; Mrs A. Pearce, violet cloth gown, with black silk waistband, black and white hat; Mrs Hutchison, black silk gown and small black hat, with ospreys; Miss Hutchison, pretty pale grey gown, with white laced silk yoke; Mrs Warren, dark blue coat and skirt, and black hat, with pink flowers; Mrs Gore, black silk gown, with white vest, white chiffon bonnet, with black and white tips; Miss Olive Gore, dark skirt, and pretty light silk blouse, with lace, blue straw hat, trimmed with flowers and pale blue tips; Mrs Litchfield, red costume and black and red toque; Mrs Grace, handsome black brocade gown, trimmed with narrow white lace, black and white lace bonnet; Miss Grace, pretty white muslin gown, with satin sash, white Leghorn hat, with daisies; Mrs FitzGerald, all black; Mrs Marchant, dark grey jacket and skirt, and black bonnet with pink roses; Miss Marchant, black coat and skirt and white sailor hat; Miss —, Marchant, white gown, with lace collar, black straw hat, with tips; Mrs Edwina, black and pink brocade gown and bonnet to match; Miss Edwina, grey figured lustre gown, with yoke of yellow tucked silk, grey straw hat, trimmed with yellow chiffon and roses; Miss Lillie Edwina, dark coat and skirt, and white straw hat, with pink and white silk ruching; Mrs Reese, brown jacket and skirt, black bonnet, trimmed with pink roses; Miss Rose, dark blue gown, and black straw hat, trimmed with flowers; Mrs Newman, pale buff cloth gown, the bodice trimmed with white lace and dull crimson velvet, violet chiffon toque, with magenta roses; Mrs J. Hume (Lyttelton), dark blue coat and skirt, and black straw hat, with pink ribbon loops and flowers; Mrs Riddiford, black canvas, trimmed with satin and cream lace, mauve straw hat, trimmed with flowers to match; Miss Riddiford, pale fawn coat and skirt, white straw hat, trimmed with pink and red roses and black tips; Mrs Butts, black silk gown, trimmed with white, black and white bonnet; Miss M. Butts, pale grey jacket and skirt, and white straw hat, with yellow silk; Miss Edwards, grey check skirt and short blue Eton jacket, small black hat, with osprey; Mrs W. Reid, black silk gown, trimmed with lace, bonnet to match; Mrs McCarthy, brown jacket and skirt, and black toque, with cream

roses; Mrs Tuckey, black and white costume; Mrs Waldegrave, dark blue figured silk gown, and black hat, with light flowers; Miss Darnsfield, light brown coat and skirt, and white hat, trimmed with pink flowers; Miss Smart, sage green gown, trimmed with narrow white lace and silk, white tulle-trimmed hat with pink roses under the brim; Miss Brandon, dark skirt and mauve silk blouse, black and mauve hat; Miss A. Brandon, black coat and skirt, small black hat, trimmed with tips; Miss E. Richmond, blue and white soft figured silk, with white lace, pretty white straw hat, trimmed with mauve tulle and flowers; Miss Fitzherbert, pale green gown and white straw hat, trimmed with green ribbon and corn; Miss Isan Fitzherbert, white muslin, white hat trimmed with tulle; Miss Hadfield (Marion), dull green coat and skirt, with white revers, black hat, with yellow flowers and tips; Miss C. Williams, cream lustre jacket and skirt, pale blue chiffon toque, with lace wings and leaves; Miss Githa Williams a similar costume and white straw toque, with green ribbon and forget-me-nots; Miss Harcourt, white muslin with lace insertion, black velvet neck and waistband, large white hat, trimmed with black tips and chiffon and pink roses; Miss Chatfield, pale fawn jacket and skirt, white hat; Miss Fitzgerald (grey and black). Also the Chief Justice (Sir Robert Stout), the Premier, Count de Courte, Colonel Pole-Penton, Colonel Newall, Major Somerville, Colonel Hume, Captain Stuart (H.M.S. Tauranga), Areadeacon Faneourt, Rev. Mr Sprott, Rev. Mr Masters, Messrs Duncan, McCarthy, Reid, Richardson, Fitzherbert, Brown, Professors Brown, and Eastfield etc., etc.

On Tuesday evening the members of the Contingent were present at the performance of "A Trip to Chinatown," by the Hoyt and McKee Company, at the Opera House. There was an immense audience, which included Lord and Lady Ranfurly and suite, the Premier and Mrs Seddon and others. Patriotic songs and cheering were the order of the evening and on Mr Wallace Brownlow's rendering "The Absent Minded Beggar," the handsome sum of £13 was thrown on the stage. The house was lavishly decorated for the occasion with draperies of red, white and blue, and flags, and altogether presented a brilliant spectacle.

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