

Personal Paragraphs.

The numerous friends of Mr Conway Matson, Christchurch, will regret to hear that he still remains in a very unsatisfactory state of health, that febrile insomnia having attacked him. He is now trying electric baths and hopes soon for good results.

Mrs T. D. Hartman has gone to Dunedin on a visit.

Mr and Mrs Pat. Campbell, Christchurch, visited Napier for the races.

Mrs John Williams, of Christchurch, and her daughter have gone to Adelaide, where they remain for a few months, going on early next year to England, making the trip overland from Napier.

My Hamilton correspondent writes: On Friday evening, as a break up to Miss Soppett's dancing class, a dance was given by her pupils in the Volunteer Hall, and a most enjoyable dance it proved to be. The music was excellent, provided by the Hamilton Harmonic Society, and Misses Soppett, Cussen, Gillespie and Mr Anderson. Messrs Hammond, Varney and Speight acted as M.C.'s in a most efficient manner. A choice supper was laid in one of the large rooms at the back of the stage. The hall was very prettily decorated with flags and Chinese lanterns. Dancing was kept up with great spirit until two o'clock.

Miss Wyld-Browne, Auckland, is staying with Mrs O'Neil, Claudelands.

Miss N. O'Neil has returned to Hamilton after several months' stay in Auckland.

The Hamilton Comedy Company are busy rehearsing "Charley's Aunt" and "My Little Girl," which they intend playing on Show nights, the 24th and 25th October.

Miss Dotly Gilmer, of Wellington, is visiting Christchurch again, and is the guest at present of the Misses McClatchie, Latimer Square.

Mrs Andrews, Christ's College, is having a well earned holiday, her health having somewhat broken down.

Mrs Buchanan, Little River, was in Christchurch last week.

Mrs P. H. N. Burns has been spending a pleasant holiday with Mrs Duncan Cameron, Methven, and returned to Christchurch at the end of last week.

Mrs Dilworth Fox and little daughter returned to Foxdown, Waikari, on Saturday.

Lady Clifford and her children have returned to Stonehurst after spending some weeks in Christchurch.

Miss Hamilton, late principal of the Wellington Girls' High School, was presented with a gold watch, muff chain, and silver tray by the past and present pupils of the school. The presentation was made in the lecture hall on Saturday afternoon in the presence of a very large assemblage of past and present pupils, the hall being beautifully decorated for the occasion. Miss Richmond, a former mistress of the school, spoke in eulogistic terms of Miss Hamilton's unassuming yet potent influence over the school since her connection with it during the last 17 years, and, on behalf of all present, wished her a future as rich and plentiful in blessings to herself as her past had been to others. Mrs T. Young read and presented a beautifully illuminated address from the old girls couched in affectionate regret at her departure, and Miss Gibson on behalf of the present pupils presented an illuminated address, while the staff presented a framed engraving. Miss Morrish spoke in feeling terms of the consideration they had always received at her hands. The Victoria College professors also presented Miss Hamilton with a parting memento of beautifully bound books in recognition of her many kindnesses to them. Miss Hamilton received a great ovation upon rising to return thanks, and the pleasant little re-union terminated with cheers for Miss Hamilton, who predicted a brilliant future for the school under the management of Miss MacLean, the new principal.

Mr Hugh Gully, Crown Prosecutor, leaves for Australia this week en route for an extended tour in India and Europe; Mr H. D. Bell is to discharge his duties during his absence from the colony.

Mr and Mrs Martin Kennedy (Wellington), have returned from their trip to Australia.

Mrs and Miss J. N. Williams (Napier), are staying in Wellington with Mrs T. C. Williams.

Miss E. O'Connor, Wellington, has returned from her trip to Sydney.

Mr and Mrs Robert Parker returned from England to Wellington a few days ago, after a delightful seven months' trip.

Mrs McKenzie (Wellington) has gone to pay a visit to friends down South.

Dr. and Mrs. Barr, of the North Island, were in Nelson for a few days, but left on Monday for Auckland. They will return to Nelson shortly, when Dr. Barr will commence practice in partnership with Dr. Gibbs.

Mr. Meddings, Inspector of Telegraphs, left Nelson for Auckland last Monday. His departure is much regretted by all the postal and telegraphic officials in the Nelson district, and before leaving he was entertained at a farewell supper, at which there was a large and representative attendance.

Mrs. Mackie, of Nelson, has gone to Wellington on a flying visit to bid farewell to her cousin, the Countess of Ranfurly, before she leaves for England.

Miss Mules has returned to Nelson after a long visit to friends in the Wellington district.

The Rev. Dart, of Reefton, was in Nelson last week.

Miss Doris Marks, who was a guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. Martin, Martinborough, at the time of the dreadful fire, has returned to the Nelson College, and received a very warm welcome from both teachers and pupils.

The Maori King, Mahuta, and his followers and band, were a very conspicuous feature in the Labour Demonstration procession in Wellington, their antics creating great amusement among the crowd, who were greatly diverted by the extraordinary agility of the "Drum-Major," a dusky warrior, waving a war canoe paddle, who, painted in the most approved style, danced and yelled unceasingly along the whole route; and during the afternoon a party of warriors danced a haka at the sports at the Basin Reserve, which considerably enlivened the proceedings.

Mrs W. Barton, "Fareham," Featherston, paid a few days' visit to Wellington with her family, and was the guest of Mrs Adams during her stay.

Dr. Collins, Wellington, has bought the beautiful house and grounds formerly occupied by Mr George Hutcheson, M.H.R., in Hobson street, and will in future reside there with his family, while his partner, Dr. Bishop, will live in his present residence in Boulcott street.

Mr and Mrs Robert Parker, Wellington, returned to Wellington from their trip to England by the Wakanui this week, having thoroughly enjoyed their visit, and are to be entertained by their musical friends on Monday evening at a conversation.

Mr Dennis O'Rourke, "Elmwood," Christchurch, was the guest of Mr and Mrs Heaton Rhodes in Wellington for a few days this week.

Mr and Mrs Pat. Campbell, "Islam," Christchurch, passed through Wellington last week, on their way to the Hawke's Bay races.

Mrs Moss Davis, Auckland, is staying with Miss Coates in Wellington.

Mrs R. Goulter, of "Timaru," Blenheim, who has been visiting friends in Wellington, has returned home again.

Mr James Allen, M.H.R., is spending a few weeks at Rotorua for his health, accompanied by Miss Allen.

The old girls of the Wellington Girls' High School intend making their late popular principal, Miss Hamilton, a presentation before her departure from Wellington, and a large foregathering is to take place at the High School on Saturday next, when the presentation will be made.

By a fire which occurred at "Crispoe," Hawke's Bay, last week, three valuable horses belonging to Mr G. P. Donnelly were burnt to death. Fortunately the house escaped, but the stables were quite destroyed. Both Mr Donnelly and Mr Perry were away at the time.

Mr and Mrs Thomas have arrived from England, and intend taking up their residence near Primley, Hastings.

Mrs and Miss Tanner, of Napier, have returned from a visit to Christchurch.

Miss Hewlings is staying with Mrs F. W. Williams, of Napier.

Mrs Anderson returned to Blenheim last week, after spending a few days in Wellington.

Mrs Orr, of Blenheim, is on a visit to friends in Wellington.

Mr Sims, Inspector of the Opawa Road Board, in Blenheim, has obtained an appointment in Wellington, and has arrived in that place. Mrs Sims follows later on. Mr Sims, who has been organist at the Church of the Nativity, will be greatly missed in Blenheim.

Miss Maggie McCallum, of "Waterloo," Blenheim, is spending a short time in Wellington.

Mr C. de V. Teschemaker, of "Avondale," Blenheim, went to Picton last week to meet Mrs Teschemaker and Miss Fenwick, who had come from the South.

The Garrison Band drove from Blenheim yesterday and played there during the afternoon to a delighted assemblage of townsfolk.

Mr and Mrs J. C. George, of New Plymouth, are enjoying their trip to Auckland.

Mr W. J. Freeth, who has been on a trip to Christchurch, has returned to New Plymouth.

Mr and Mrs Samuels, and Mr and Miss Paul, all of New Plymouth, have returned from their very pleasant trip to the Islands.

Mr Cokill, of New Plymouth, has gone for a short trip to Auckland.

Mr B. Rennell has returned to New Plymouth after his short trip to Auckland.

Mr McKenny, late of the Bank of New Zealand, New Plymouth, has been on a visit to that town, but has now returned to his home in Sydney.

Mr Aicken, stationmaster in New Plymouth, has received notice of transfer to Wellington.

Miss Burgess, of New Plymouth, has gone for a four months' trip to Christchurch.

Mr T. H. Hall, from Auckland, was in New Plymouth last week.

Mr Frith, of the Survey Office, New Plymouth, has gone out into the field at Waitotara.

Misses B. and A. Whitelaw, of Ponsonby, Auckland, have gone for a trip to Rotorua and Te Aroha, and then on to Whangamata, on a visit to Mrs F. H. Whalley.

Mr and Mrs Littler, of Ponsonby, Auckland, left last week on a visit to Sydney and Melbourne.

Mr J. Hague Smith, of the Thames, and Mr Owen, of Auckland, passed through New Plymouth last week on their way to Wellington.

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PERSONAL NOTES FROM LONDON.

(From Our Special War Correspondent.)

LONDON, September 7.

The Agent-General and Mrs Reeves are at present staying at Lymington with Uncle Pember, Q.C., and next week Mr Reeves will, as I have already intimated, deliver one of his wise, witty discourses on the "Colonies as Money Lenders" before the British Association at Bradford.

Mr and Mrs de Crewe, of Pahiatua, have arrived in town on a mingled tour of business and pleasure, and mean to be off shortly to Scotland and Ireland. After that Paris and other good things will follow.

Lord Hampden has been amongst the noble peers taking a course of the waters at Harrogate.

Mandeno Jackson had a triumph series of concerts at Southsea last week.

The Circumlocution Department of the War Office is in great form just now as invalided colonial soldiers find out to their cost. A sergeant of the Imperial Light Horse who came Home some three weeks ago was, the other day, reported fit for duty and was told to prepare to return to South Africa at once. He discovered on making inquiry that he was to be sent back by a boat sailing from the London docks, but that he would have to report himself at Southampton. This means that he will spend one of his few precious days in England in travelling to and from Southampton at, presumably, the expense of the State. This sort of assinine procedure makes one despair of the War Office.

By the Allan liner Parisian, which arrived from Montreal in the Myrse last Monday, Mrs Russell (wife of Capt. Russell) and her son Mr C. J. North Russell, were expected. Mrs Russell landed alone, her son having passed to the great beyond on the second morning of the passage. He was buried at sea the same evening. Mr Russell had known for a long time that his end was coming, and it was at his entreaty that his mother undertook the journey to the Old Country, her son having a strong desire to end his life here. But it was not to be. He bore the long sea journey to Vancouver and the trying overland trip well, and the night preceding his death was exceedingly cheerful. During the night a relapse occurred, and early on the morning Mr Russell passed peacefully away.

The engagement is announced of Captain Arthur H. E. Wood, of the Scottish Rifles, son of General Sir E. Wood, V.C., and Miss Ethel Mary Duncan, youngest daughter of Mr A. Duncan, of Otairi, Marton, New Zealand, and 71, Gloucester Place, Portman Square. The marriage, it is stated, is to take place shortly.

Mr Charles Guthrie, Q.C., the new Sheriff of Ross, in the course of the various methods adopted for learning the Gaelic language, declared that to achieve this accomplishment was a supreme ambition of Robert Louis Stevenson. The latter told him he had spent a considerable amount of time and trouble trying to learn the language, and at last thought he had advanced so far that he might speak it. He addressed an old Highland woman in a simple sentence which he supposed and intended to be Gaelic, but what was his chagrin when the old body calmly informed him that she "did not have the English!"

From Paris under date September 5, "Surbly" writes me a cheery letter of which the following is the gist: "I have just come back from Berlin where I had an engagement for a two days' race meeting. I had a real fine trip, enjoyed myself immensely, but in the racing I was unsuccessful. I had a nasty fall while training one evening during the week I was there, so what chances I may have had were spoilt. I find the style of racing here very different to what we, or rather I have been used to. With us in Australia and New Zealand, we race all the way, say in a mile race, but here in Europe it's a crawl till the last 200 metres and then a quick sprint at the finish. Any foreigner should be here at least two months before the decision of any important events he may wish to compete in, as you have no chance otherwise. I arrived here three weeks before the World's Championships were run, but I was in such a condition