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ENGAGEMENTS.

The marriage of Miss Malcolm, of the Auckland Training College to Mr David Somerville is to be celebrated in Auckland on Monday, December 3.

Miss Whitson of Auckland is to be married to Mr Withers on the 8th December.

ORANGE BLOSSOMS

COOK—WILKIN.

A very pretty wedding was celebrated on Tuesday afternoon at St. Mary's, Merivale, when Dr. Cook, of Rangiora, was married to Miss Maud Wilkin, second daughter of Mr J. C. Wilkin, Carlton Road. Punctually at 2.30 p.m. the bride and her father entered the church, the chancel of which had been prettily decorated with gaulder roses and other white flowers. She looked very sweet and happy in a lovely white brocade, with very long train, the bodice trimmed with chiffon, a coronet of orange blossoms and embroidered tulle veil was worn, and she carried an exquisite shower bouquet. Her sister, Miss Alice Wilkin, was the only bridesmaid, and wore a pretty dress of white satin, finished with lace, white hat and feathers, and shower bouquet. The bridegroom's gift to the bride was a beautiful sapphire and diamond ring, and to the bridesmaid a gold initial bangle.

Miss Zoe Wilkin in white silk Greenaway frock, with long chiffon ends falling from the front, Leghorn hat, and feathers, and Master Allan Wilkin in cream serge suit, carried baskets of flowers, which they strewed before the bride as she left the church. The Rev. Canon Dunkley, H. Airey-Watson (incumbent of St. Mary's), and the Vicar of Rangiora officiated, Miss Dobson presiding at the organ. The wedding party and guests drove to the residence of Mr and Mrs J. C. Wilkin, Carlton Road, where congratulations were heaped upon the happy pair, and their health and prosperity toasted in champagne. A marquee was erected on the lawn, and furnished with rugs and all kinds of easy chairs, and a long table from which all manner of delicacies were served. Mrs Wilkin wore a very handsome black brocade, with white chiffon yoke, Tuscan bonnet, with palest blue bows; Miss Wilkin, pale blue brocade, cream insertion on the skirt, cream lace yoke, pale yellow and blue toque; Mrs Cook, handsome black satin, white vest and collar, veiled in lace and jet, black and pink bonnet; Miss Cook, royal blue voile, white bodice under Eton coat, lace insertion trimming, white hat, pink roses and foliage; Mrs J. W. Wood, pale grey voile, the yoke of tucked pale blue silk, the bodice scalloped and edged with orange gathered ribbon, blue straw hat, orange flowers under the brim, blue chiffon and green oats trimming; Mrs Bellhouse, black brocade, relieved with white, black and green bonnet; Mrs Wagstaff, blue and tan check Eton coat and skirt, light vest, floral hat; Mrs H. Le Cren (Dunedin), pale cream lace gown over cream, feather boa, black hat; Mrs Benson, all black; Miss Benson, black and white check gown, white yoke, trimmed with narrow black velvet, black toque and plumes; Mrs Tyece, palest mauve voile over yellow silk, bodice of mauve chiffon over yellow, the Eton jacket trimmed with cream applique lace, toque of blue straw, and shaded ribbon from blue to mauve flowers to match; Mrs Walcott Wood, cream silk, the frills edged with lace, bodice finished with lace and baby ribbon, Tuscan toque, with shaded red roses; Mrs T. Garrard, blue and white

foulard, vest, yoke and under sleeves of pleated white chiffon, outlined with cream insertion, straps of the insertion on the skirt, black sequin and chiffon hat with pink roses under the brim; Miss Lannaway, pretty pale blue muslin, white and blue hat; Mrs Hartley Smith, pale grey voile, the Eton coat edged with orange velvet and black fringe, black and orange hat; Mrs Kerr, Miss Cabot, Mr and Mrs J. Wilkin, Miss Goss, and several more were present. The bride and bridegroom left about 5 p.m. for the North Island, a trip up the Waunganui River being part of the honeymoon pleasuring. The bride's going away dress was a very becoming heliotrope cloth, with cream yoke hat to match. The presents were very handsome and numerous, a beautiful piano being amongst them from her father and mother.

Personal Paragraphs.

Much sympathy is felt for Mrs McCosh Clark who has only recently returned to Auckland, and who has been advised by the medical men not to reside there as arranged. This is owing to the rheumatic tendency of one of her daughters.

The Misses Greenwood, who with their versatile and clever mother, are well known in New Zealand, are at present in Brisbane, where they seem to be a attracting large audiences by their musical talents. They are evidently very popular in Australia.

Mr and Mrs Frater, of Lake Takapuna, Auckland, accompanied by their son and daughter, returned via the South by the "Zealandia" after a delightful trip to Sydney and Melbourne.

Mrs Langruth who has been on a lengthened visit to Germany returned to Auckland last week.

Miss Danner returned to Auckland after a very pleasant visit to Sydney. She is at present residing at Glenalvon.

Miss Brett, of Lake Takapuna, Auckland, has been visiting friends at Te Awamutu, and is now at Hamilton, where she is spending a few days with Mrs (Dr) Douglas.

Miss Annie Whitelaw, mathematical mistress at Wycliffe Abbey, England, after spending a few months with her relatives in Ponsonby, left Auckland on Tuesday last by the "Robotti" to join the "Paparua" at Wellington for England.

Miss Mabel Hanna, of Ponsonby, Auckland, is at present on a visit to Paeroa.

Mr and Mrs Morison, Wellington, are visiting their relatives in Duacina.

Mr and Mrs W. Ledingham and Miss Ledingham are still in Melbourne, and will not return to Auckland till January.

Mr Claude W. Cato has taken up his duties as manager of the Hastings branch of the Bank of New Zealand.

Mr C. Tazewell of Gisborne, arrived in London a few weeks ago, intent on getting British capital for developing certain lands in the colony. At present he is staying at Clevedon and anticipates being here about six months.

Mrs Hugh Deetham, "Branceoeth," Wairarapa, has been paying a short visit to Wellington this week.

Miss Kennedy, of Napier, has left for the North.

His Excellency the Governor and the Hon. H. U. Butler, will be the guests of Mr and Mrs G. Rhodes, "Claremont," for a few days on their return from Invercargill to Christchurch.

Mr C. B. Morison, the well-known Wellington solicitor, left last week for England, via Sydney, in order to appear in the appeal case, Tetra te Paeva v. Donnelly and others, which is expected to be heard in England in the Privy Council early in the New Year.

Mr Sydney Johnston, of Hawke's Bay, intends to pay a visit to England very shortly.

The Lady Principal, staff, and pupils of the Wellington Girls' High School have issued invitations for a garden party at the High School on Friday, 30th November, from 3 to 6 p.m.

The many friends of Lieutenant J. G. Hughes, of Napier, will be delighted to hear that he is on his way home from South Africa, and preparations are being made to give him a suitable reception.

Mr and Mrs M. M. McCallum (Auckland) returned from Australia by the Talune; they spent "Cup week" in gay Melbourne.

Miss Burke, of Napier, has gone for a visit to Masterton.

Mrs Robert Lusk, of Auckland, is visiting her aunt, Mrs Phillips, of New Plymouth.

The Hon. Dr. Grace, Mrs and Miss Grace have returned to Wellington from Christchurch, where they have been visiting Professor and Mrs Clark.

Mr and Miss Kettle have returned to Napier, after a visit to the South.

The Hon. Bill Trevor was present at the Palmerston North Show, to represent His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Clerk (Remuera) return from their Australian tour by the s.s. Zealandia next week. Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Holmes will also be passengers by this boat.

Captain and Mrs Davidson, who have been spending a month in Christchurch, returned to their home on the Bluff Hill on Tuesday.

Mrs Hudson Williamson, of Carlton Gore Road, Auckland, returned by the Zealandia from Gisborne, where she has been visiting her sister.

Mr W. Wastney and Miss Wastney (Nelson) are the guests of Mr and Mrs Pratt, Worcester-street, Christchurch.

Major F. Nelson George returned from Melbourne by the Talune. Seahorse, his champion racer, was brought back by the same vessel.

Mr. Mrs and Miss W. Y. Dunnett, of Hastings, have gone for a short visit to Christchurch, in order to be present at the carnival there.

Mrs. Burd, Hamilton, is spending a holiday with friends at North Shore.

Mrs Sidey is staying with Mrs A. Davidson, of the Bluff Hill, Napier, on her way home from Auckland to Dunedin.

Miss Cornford, of Napier, has gone for a month's visit to Masterton.

Sir George Whitmore, of the Marine Parade, Napier, has been suffering from an attack of paralysis, but is slowly recovering, and intends leaving Wellington for Napier as soon as his medical advisers consider it safe for him to do so.

Mrs Meredith (Wairarapa) is staying with her mother, Mrs Hardy-Johnston, Hereford-street, Christchurch; also Mrs W. P. Studholme.

Mrs George Roberts, Auckland, is the guest of Mrs Appleby, Cranmer Square, Christchurch.

A large portrait in oils of the late Mr A. McHardy has been presented by his wife and family to the Hawke's Bay A. and P. Society, and is now hung in the Society's Napier office.

Mrs McIntosh, wife of the manager of the Bank of Australasia, New Plymouth, has returned after her pleasant trip to her relatives in Christchurch.

Mrs. Sheath, Ponsonby, is on a visit to her sister, Mrs. Cussen, Hamilton.

Miss Hoadley has returned to Napier after an enjoyable visit to Mrs Roberts, of Dunedin.

Mr Glasgow, Inspector of Customs, was in New Plymouth last week for a few days.

Mrs. Sandes, who had been on a visit to her daughter, Mrs. Palarrat, North Shore, returned home last week.

Gold watches were presented in Nelson last week to Messrs Rout, Harley, and Piper, of the Charitable Aid Board, and to Mr F. Haase, in recognition of their services in connection with the Stoke Industrial School inquiry.

Mr Bridgewater, senr., of Auckland, has been on a visit down South, but has now returned.

Miss Parsons, Ponsonby, is staying with Mrs. Sandes, Hamilton.

Mr Donald Macdonald, the well-known war correspondent, gave three lectures in Nelson last week, which were attended by very large audiences.

Mrs (Judge) Richmond, of Wellington, is visiting Mrs Hursthouse, of New Plymouth.

Mr —, Messenger of Wellington, is on a short visit to Mrs Frank Messenger, New Plymouth.

Mr A. Jones, of Napier, spent a short holiday with his mother in Nelson, and left again last week.

Mrs Carlile, of Napier, is also paying Christchurch a visit.

The Rev. A. H. and Mrs Edgwick returned to Picton from Nelson last week.

Miss Rees left Nelson last week for Wellington and Napier.

Miss May Whitelaw, of Ponsonby, Auckland, left by the Robotti for Wellington, on a visit to her sister, Mrs Gray.

Dr. and Mrs Barr have returned to Nelson, where they intend to reside, and are at present busy furnishing their house in Hardy-street.

The Rev. E. and Mrs Ennor have returned to Blenheim after a short trip to Nelson.

Miss Payn, of England, is visiting Nelson friends, and is at present the guest of Mrs Mules, "Bishopdale."

Miss Kate Isitt, of Wellington, is staying with Mrs Atkinson, Nelson.

Miss Lowry, of Hawke's Bay, is staying in Christchurch for the carnival.

Mrs Chatterton, of Nelson, and her sister, the Baroness Von Blintzingslowen, left Nelson last week for a short visit to Wellington.

Miss Hamerton, of New Plymouth, is on a visit to Auckland.

Mr F. Thomson, of the Bank of New Zealand, New Plymouth, has returned from Akaroa, bringing with him his bride.

Miss G. Jones has returned to Nelson after a visit to her sister, Mrs Falkner, Motueka Valley, where she was detained longer than she intended owing to bad weather and floods.

The Misses Dawson, Auckland, are on a visit to Mrs. O'Neill, Claudelands.

Miss E. Baker, New Plymouth, is on a visit to the country.

Miss Violet Twigg, of Petane, Hawke's Bay, has also come home. She has been staying for some time with Mrs MacLavis, of Wellington.

The Rev. John Hobbs, of Hastings, accompanied by Mrs Hobbs, has gone to Wairoa for a short holiday.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter, the Lake, leave for a trip to Wellington this week.

Mr and Mrs Arthur Elworthy, Paeroa, were the guests of the Bishop and Mrs Julius, Bishopscourt, last week, and left for their home on Saturday morning.

Miss Constance A. Barnicoat, a young New Zealand lady who is at present, I believe, on the staff of that "great and good man," W. T. Stead, has, in a letter to the "Daily Express" of October 8th, on the "Female Suffrage in New Zealand," perpetuated what appears to me to be an A1 copper-bottomed libel. She discusses the question of women's value in politics, and comes to the conclusion that it is very difficult to argue that in New Zealand Female Suffrage has tended to raise the moral standard of your members. She proceeds to tell us that a serious argument against women's suffrage "is the fact that in Wellington alone at last year's election in New Zealand, two members were returned who were about as notoriously disreputable characters as are to be found out of gaol in the place."

"It is (Miss Barnicoat continues) inconceivable how any self-respecting woman could have voted for either of them on any ground whatever, but as it is quite certain that numbers of men would never have been induced to give them their respect, there is no other conclusion but that numbers of women must have helped to swell their large majorities. The only possible explanation to me is that their wives and daughters, against whom nothing could be said, may have gained them many women's votes—out of pity."

The City of Wellington returns three members, and Miss Barnicoat assures us that two of them are "notoriously disreputable." For the sake of the one white lamb she ought to be called upon to name the black sheep.

Dealing with the moral effects of women's vote in New Zealand generally, Miss Barnicoat says it "tends very slightly if at all, to keep out men of low character, thus, if not altogether refuting, at least seriously challenging one of the greatest arguments of the supporters of women's suffrage. If these supporters cannot reinforce their arguments by quoting New Zealand and certain of the American States as shining examples of the good wrought by women's suffrage, their cause will be in far worse plight than if no Bill allowing women to vote had ever become law."