

SOLDIERS ENTERTAINED.

LUNCH TO VETERANS AND RETURNED TROOPERS.

A NOTABLE GATHERING.

At 1 p.m. on Wednesday last the Government entertained at a luncheon in the Choral Hall the naval and military veterans and returned officers, non-commissioned officers and troopers who had been members of the New Zealand Contingents sent to South Africa. The gathering was a very large one, and the lunch an excellent repast. This assemblage of old and young soldiers of the Empire was one of the most interesting features of the Royal celebrations in Auckland. Here were white-headed veterans whose fighting service dated back nearly sixty years side by side with the young South African Contingent troopers who met their baptism of fire only a few months back. The bright scarlet uniform of the olden days worn by the grizzled old soldiers relieved the sombre hue of the troopers' dull khaki and the mutli of the majority of the veterans. The list of invitations totalled 370 names, of Imperial and colonial veterans, in addition to a large number of the khaki-clad more youthful "veterans" of the Transvaal war. From all parts of the Auckland province the old soldiers and men-of-warships had gathered for the reception of the Duke, and they made a fine parade in Government House grounds yesterday afternoon, as one of the guards of honour. Their medals, worn so proudly on their breasts, denote service in all parts of the Empire, from India to New Zealand. The returned South African troopers, too, wore their newly-won Boer war medals with as much pardonable pride as the oldest and most-decorated greybeard of the parade. Here were to be seen veterans of the Sikh wars, the Indian Mutiny, the Crimea, the Chinese wars, the Egyptian, Afghan, Burmese, South African and New Zealand Maori wars. All ranks, from colonels to privates, were represented, and their deeply-treasured silver medals made a brilliant show, with here and there those decorations prized above all others, the Victoria and the New Zealand Crosses, bearing the simple words, "For Valour." Some of these veterans have most interesting histories. Sergeant-Major Hilditch, the oldest soldier present, fought at the battle of Sobroon, in the Sikh Campaign of the early forties, and single-handed captured a flag of the enemy's. "Rowley" Hill, the man of many medals (he has eight medals and two bars, besides two Royal Humane Society's medals), was the subject of much attention. He served in the Crimean war and the Baltic expedition against the Russian fleet as a young man of warships, went through the Indian Mutiny with the Naval Brigade, and was present at the Relief of Lucknow. Subsequently he served in the Garibaldi Campaign as one of the famous "red-shirt" army, and was wounded in one of the engagements. He won his New Zealand Cross for his bravery in helping to defend a friendly Maori pa at Mohaka (Hawke's Bay) against Te Kooti's Hauhau, and he served under Von Tempsky and other leaders in the Maori campaigns from 1864 to 1871. "Rowley's" full tale of adventures and fights would fill a volume. Another man-of-war veteran, Adam Ayles, has faced death and privation in a peaceful cause, for he was chief gunner's mate on H.M.S. Alert, in Admiral Markham's North Pole expedition of 1875-76. Amongst the officers of the veterans present there are many who saw honourable service in the cause of the Queen in New Zealand as well as in other lands. Most of the medals worn were for service in the Maori wars, and every native campaign in this island from 1845 to 1871 had its participants there. Colonel Dowell, a Victoria Cross wearer, was one of the present, and both the naval and military branches of the nation's defence were well represented amongst the commissioned officers.

The following is a list of veterans who accepted the invitations to the luncheon, "private" being understood in those cases where no name is mentioned:—

IMPERIAL FORCES.

Officers: Royal Marine Artillery, G. D. Dowell (V.C.), Lt. Col. Victoria Cross and

Baltic medal; 30th Foot, T. M. Haultain, Col., the Hon. Maharajpore and N.Z. medals; 18th Foot, C. Dawson, Lt. Col., N.Z. medals; Royal Navy, Captain, Commander: 1st Royal Grenadier Militia, Jaa Pirie, Major; 6th Inskilling Dragoons, B. J. Davaney, Captain; 4th Foot, F. B. Blackmore, Captain; 71st Highlanders, Frank Brodie, Captain, Indian Frontier medals; 1st Battalion, East F. Home, Ingway, Captain, N.Z. medals; 10th Militia medals; 80th Foot, H. Johnson, Captain, India and Zulu medals, clasp, Perak; Bombay Army, R. Richardson, Captain, Crimea, Turkish, and Indian Mutiny medals, clasp, Alma, Inkerman, and Sebastopol; 7th Foot, 4th Slattery, Captain, Z. medal; King's Dragoon Guards, Dr. Boynton, Surgeon, Crimea and China medals, clasp, Sebastopol, two clasps China; R. H. Bakewell, Assistant-Surgeon, Crimea medal; Commissar, Lt. Henry Doube, N.Z. medal; 70th Foot, J. McPherson, Lieut., Crimea, Turkish, Indian Mutiny, and N.Z. medals, clasp, Balahava, Sebastopol, and Relief and Defence of Lucknow. 5th Dragoon Guards, G. F. Such, Crimea and Turkish medals, clasp, Sebastopol. 2nd Royal Scots Greys, Wm. Neilson, Crimea and Turkish medals. 3rd Hussars, J. Carley, Regimental Sergeant-Major, Crimea, Turkish, Indian Mutiny, and Long Service medals. 1st Foot: D. Ryan, Crimea and Turkish medals; R. Cannon, Crimea and N.Z. medals. 2nd Foot: G. Dunklin, China and N.Z. medals, two clasps; T. P. Gill, N.Z. medal; W. Blance, Sergeant, N.Z. medal; W. A. Smith, N.Z. medal; J. Quinn, N.Z. medal; W. Andrews, N.Z. medal; W. Lumber, N.Z. medal; W. Bush, Colour-Serg., N.Z. and Long Service medals; J. Kennedy, N.Z. medal. 4th Foot: J. Dunn, Crimea and Turkish medals, clasp, Sebastopol; T. Hamilton, Crimea, Turkish, and N.Z. medals, clasp Sebastopol; G. Heighon, N.Z. medal; J. Row, N.Z. medal; A. Knowles, N.Z. medal; J. Quedler, Crimea, Turkish, N.Z., and Long Service medals. 5th Foot: M. Bezan, Colour-Sergeant, Crimea, Turkish, N.Z., and Long Service medals. 15th Foot: F. Brogan, N.Z. medal; A. Conavan, N.Z. and Long Service medals; W. Connell, Crimea, Turkish, N.Z., and Long Service medals; J. Farrell, N.Z. medal; J. Gallagher, Corporal, N.Z. medal; J. Gibbons, N.Z. medal; W. Kenorly, N.Z. medal; M. Looney, N.Z. medal; O. Maginn, N.Z. medal; J. Murphy, N.Z., Indian Mutiny, and Long Service medals; J. Gervelle, N.Z. medal; J. Connors, N.Z. medal; F. De laney, N.Z. medal; J. Nerlon, N.Z. and Long Service medals; T. W. Smith, Serkt., N.Z. medal; P. Holmes, N.Z. medal; J. Murphy, N.Z. medal. 10th Foot: J. Griffin, Crimea and N.Z. medals, clasp, Alma, Inkerman, and Sebastopol. 11th Foot: W. W. Boor, Regimental Sergeant-Major, Warrant Officer. 24th Foot: D. Bentley, N.Z. medal. 25th Foot: J. Chambers, Afghanistan medal; J. Perkins, two medals. 27th Foot: Alexander Smith. 31st Foot: A. Allen, Sergeant, Cape, Crimea, Turkish, and French, China, and Long Service medals. 2nd Foot: R. J. Smith, Indian Mutiny medal, clasp, Lucknow and Defence of Lucknow. 33rd Foot: W. Kelsall, Crimea, Turkish, and Long Service medals. 34th Foot: J. P. Carpenter, Indian Mutiny medal. 40th Foot: M. Carroll, N.Z. medal; P. Cumerford, N.Z. medal; J. Driskill, N.Z. medal; J. Gager, N.Z. medal; T. Gleeson, N.Z. medal; J. Hawkins, N.Z. medal; J. Howland, N.Z. medal; J. N. Hunt, N.Z. medal; W. Jeffrey, N.Z. medal; P. Maher, N.Z. medal; J. Cady, N.Z. medal; A. Gladding, Sergeant, N.Z. and Long Service medals; J. Maxwell, N.Z. medal; J. Twomey, N.Z. medal; G. Palmer, N.Z. medal; Grace, N.Z. medal; J. Weil, N.Z. medal. 43rd Foot: T. Adam, N.Z. medal; W. Rutherford, two medals. 50th Foot: J. Haly, Crimea, Turkish, and N.Z. medals. 51st Foot: J. Stevenson, N.Z. medal; R. Torp, Indian Mutiny and New Zealand medals; Sergeant P. Whelan, Crimea, Turkish, N.Z. and Long Service medals, clasp, Alma, Inkerman, and Sebastopol. 53rd Foot: D. Jackman, Indian Mutiny medal, clasp, R. McLeod, Sutlej and Punjab medals, clasp, Sobroon and Gujrat. 55th Foot: J. Burns, Crimea, Turkish, and N.Z. medals, clasp, Alma, Inkerman, and Sebastopol. 56th Foot: J. Murray, Sergeant, Crimea, Turkish, N.Z., and Long Service medals; W. Steen, Crimea and N.Z. medals; M. Weldon, N.Z. medal; W. Erne, N.Z. medal; A. Halpin, N.Z. medal; M. Nolan, N.Z. medal; M. McGuinness, Crimea, Turkish, and N.Z. medals. 58th Foot: F. Brady, N.Z. medal; J. Brown, N.Z. medal; J. Campbell, N.Z. medal; J. Chapman, N.Z. medal; H. Gooderum, N.Z. medal; J. Hannah, N.Z. medal; H. Lawrence, N.Z. medal; J. Louisa, N.Z. medal; J. McMillan, N.Z. medal; W. Porter, N.Z. medal; J. Sage, Sergeant, N.Z. medal; R. Skinner, N.Z. medal; T. Speehlay, N.Z. medal; J. Thoburn, N.Z. medal; A. Whisker, N.Z. medal; P. McHale, N.Z. medal; J. Neave, N.Z. medal; J. J. Winters, N.Z. medal; N. Edwards, N.Z. medal; G. Gilham, N.Z. medal; K. Foster, N.Z. medal; J. Hanna, N.Z. medal.

50th Foot: J. Panch, China medal. 51st Foot: J. Brown, N.Z. medal; W. Brown, N.Z. medal; J. Clear, N.Z. medal; W. J. Farrendon, N.Z. medal; T. W. Freeman, N.Z. medal; H. Gidley, N.Z. medal; F. Gribbin, Sergeant, N.Z. medal; C. Heaton, N.Z. medal; D. Herlihy, Burma and N.Z. medals, clasp, Pegu; E. N. Jones, and Long Service medals; E. Lightfoot, N.Z. medal; H. Liewellyn, N.Z. medal; W. R. Lloyd, N.Z. medal; E. Martin, N.Z. medal; J. Montgomery, N.Z. medal; D. McErierty, N.Z. medal; I. Radding, N.Z. medal; G. S. N.Z. medal; W. Speakman, Sergeant, N.Z. medal; J. Stevenson, N.Z. medal; G. Thomas, N.Z. medal; A. Turnock, N.Z. medal; H. Welch, N.Z. medal; T. Wilson, N.Z. medal; Jas. Wilson, N.Z. medal; W. Beam, N.Z. medal; J. Cleary, N.Z. medal; T. Flynn, N.Z. medal; J. Gaddis, N.Z. medal; J. Greenwood, Sergeant, N.Z. medal; D. Lee, N.Z. medal; J. Masters, N.Z. medal; R. Nesbitt, N.Z. medal; T. Robertson, N.Z. medal; J. T. O'Neil, N.Z. medal; J. G. O'Neil, N.Z. medal; W. Gurney, N.Z. medal; J. Pickup, N.Z. medal; E. Brown, N.Z. medal; W. Burzenabaw, Corporal, N.Z. medal. 61st Foot: J. McGregor, N.Z. medal; J. Blackburn, Crimea, Turkish, and N.Z. medals; E. R. Clifford, N.Z. medal; H. Macdonald, N.Z. medal; W. Douglas, Crimea, Turkish and N.Z. medals; P. Gregory, N.Z. medal; F. Smallwood, Sergeant, N.Z. medal; J. Dooley, Sergeant, Indian Mutiny and N.Z. medals; T. Donovan, Burma, Crimea, Turkish and N.Z. medals; J. Gerrard, Indian Mutiny and N.Z. medals; J. Hemmington, N.Z. medal; W. Jayter, N.Z. medal; Chas. Rose, India and N.Z. medals; W. Foster, Sergeant, N.Z. medal; G. Carroll, Crimea, Turkish and N.Z. medals; P. Finley, Indian Mutiny and N.Z. medals; B. Maldmont, N.Z. medal; W. Patterson, N.Z. medal; M. Quinn, N.Z. medal; G. Foden, Indian Mutiny and N.Z. medals. 63rd Foot: W. Thomson, Sergeant, Persia and Indian Mutiny medals, clasp, Relief and Defence of Lucknow. 80th Foot: T. Hilditch, Sergeant, Indian and Punjab medals, clasp, Moukhe, Ferosha, and Sobroon; E. Platt, Indian Mutiny and N.Z. medals. 84th Foot: J. Milnes, Indian Mutiny medal, clasp, Relief and Defence of Lucknow. 85th Foot: D. Berrigan, N.Z. medal. 89th Foot: D. Kennedy, Crimea, Turkish, and N.Z. medals. 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade: F. R. Power, Indian Mutiny medal, clasp, Relief of Lucknow. Royal Horse Artillery: Joseph Mills. 1st Cavalry: J. H. Holland, N.Z. medal; D. Dacre, N.Z. medal; D. Bruce, N.Z. medal; J. G. Culpin, Sergeant; W. J. Hill, N.Z. medal; T. Lynch, N.Z. medal; J. Cox, N.Z. medal; W. G. Scott, N.Z. medal; A. Brooch, N.Z. medal; R. Read, N.Z. medal; A. James, Corporal, N.Z. medal; H. Maxfield, N.Z. medal. Colonel Defence Force: F. G. Ewington, J.P., N.Z. medal; R. Shepherd (N.Z.C.), N.Z. Cross and N.Z. medal; C. A. Hansen, N.Z. medal; J. Arthur, N.Z. medal; E. Ayles, N.Z. medal; E. Nazzy, N.Z. medal; A. B. Johnson, N.Z. medal; C. Wadman, N.Z. medal; Thos. A. Brown, N.Z. medal. Jackson's Forest Rangers: J. Finley, N.Z. medal; W. Johns, J.P., N.Z. medal; A. J. Bertram, Sergeant-Major, N.Z. medal; J. H. Smith, N.Z. medal; B. Dunn, N.Z. medal. Von Tempsky's Forest Rangers: G. Hill (N.Z.C.), N.Z. Cross and N.Z. medal; L. Hope, N.Z. medal; C. Hendry, N.Z. medal; E. O. Wasley, N.Z. medal. Manku Forest Rangers: J. Wheeler, N.Z. medal; G. Cooper, N.Z. medal; C. Dromgool, N.Z. medal. Watroa Rifles: G. F. Thorp, N.Z. medal; J. S. Wilson, N.Z. medal; A. J. Thorp, N.Z. medal. Royal Volunteer Cavalry: T. Speers, N.Z. medal; E. Fitzpatrick, N.Z. medal; J. Brady, N.Z. medal. Waiuku Volunteer Cavalry: C. J. Barrhill, Sergeant-Major, N.Z. Long Service medals; J. Barrhill, Sergeant, N.Z. Long Service medal. Taranaki Military Settlers' Corps: R. Wright, N.Z. medal; D. Roberts, N.Z. medal. Taranaki Volunteers: T. Ertton, Quarter-master-Sergeant, N.Z. medal; C. A. Pope, N.Z. medal. Taranaki Bush Rangers: S. Brown, Sergeant, N.Z. medal; E. W. J. Gregory, Sergeant, N.Z. medal. Taranaki Militia: R. G. Hawes, N.Z. medal. Weroona Rangers: W. H. Flyger, N.Z. medal. N.Z. Militia: G. O. Morrison, N.Z. medal; R. Oliver, N.Z. medal; T. Harkness, N.Z. medal; A. Palmer, N.Z. medal. Auckland Naval Volunteers: G. Barron, N.Z. medal. Forest Rangers: H. W. Hill, N.Z. medal; Wanganui Rangers: J. Long, N.Z. medal. Wanganui Cavalry: L. L. Levy, Corporal, N.Z. medal. Otahuhu Cavalry: J. Macky, N.Z. medal. Nixons' Cavalry: H. Crose, J.P., N.Z. medal. Poverty Bay Volunteer Cavalry: T. B. Dennis, N.Z. medal. Hawke's Bay Mounted Infantry: A. Plummer, N.Z. medal. Hawke's Bay Volunteers: M. Mullooly, N.Z. medal. Wellington Defence Force: J. N. Smith, N.Z. medal. Canadian Volunteer Militia: C. King, Canadian medal, 1860.

COLONIAL FORCES.

Officers, Auckland Rifle Volunteers: A. Morrow, Major, N.Z. and Long Service medals, Waiuku Volunteer Cavalry; A. W. Williams, Captain, N.Z. Long Service medals; Permanent Militia, W. J. Powell, Captain, N.Z. and Long Service medals; J. Mitchell, Captain, N.Z. medals; Nixon's Volunteer Cavalry, J. A. Wilson, Captain, N.Z. medal; Colonel Defence Force, W. Wilson, Captain, N.Z. medal; 3rd Waikato Regiment, J. Schofield, Captain, N.Z. medal, Auckland Rifle Volunteers, C. Heaketh, Lieutenant, N.Z. medal, Forest Rangers, J. R. Hendry, Lieutenant, N.Z. medal; 1st Waikato Regiment, C. E. Duffs, Lieutenant, N.Z. medal; Bay of Plenty Volunteers Cavalry, H. Wriggs (N.Z.C.), Corporal, N.Z. Cross and N.Z. medal; Forest Rifles, J. Easton, Ensign, N.Z. medal; Wanganui Militia, H. W. Mitchell, Ensign, N.Z. medal; Wika Chaplain, Rev. Thos. Gorrie, N.Z. medal; Nixon's Volunteer Cavalry, J. Gordon, J.P., Captain. 1st Waikato Regiment: M. Cumming, N.Z. medal; J. Muir, Sergeant, N.Z. medal; A. J. Fisher, N.Z. medal; C. Hendry, N.Z. medal; M. O'Donoghue, N.Z. medal; W. D. McCallum, N.Z. medal; J. Kelly, Sergeant, N.Z. medal; J. H. Rae, N.Z. medal; J. S. Small, N.Z. medal; T. Adlis, N.Z. medal; A. S. Ford, N.Z. medal; T. Brennan, N.Z. medal; J. West, N.Z. medal; J. G. Cook, N.Z. medal; A. K. Hill, N.Z. medal; N. Z. medal; J. Wika, N.Z. medal; J. Cobine, N.Z. medal; J. Kenny, N.Z. medal; M. F. Ramsey, N.Z. medal. 2nd Waikato Regiment: R. Cox, N.Z. medal; G. Harper, N.Z. medal; G. E. Cooper, Sergeant, N.Z. medal; G. Saubh, N.Z. medal; T. J. Meredith, N.Z. medal; J. Gordon, N.Z. medal; J. Burnett, N.Z. medal; H. H. Reynolds, Colour-Sergeant, N.Z. medal; F. Woodward, Sergeant, N.Z. medal; E. Pilkington, N.Z. medal; J. Thorpe, N.Z. medal; A. Woodcock, N.Z. medal; A. L. Hume, N.Z. medal; W. H. Higginson, N.Z. medal; W. A. Ford, N.Z. medal; J. Gower, N.Z. medal. 3rd Waikato Regiment: F. J. Johnston, J.P., Sergeant; H. Woolfscroft, N.Z. medal; J. Robinson, N.Z. medal; H. Andrew, N.Z. medal; F. J. Lawrence, N.Z. medal; A. James, Corporal, N.Z. medal; T. Taylor, N.Z. medal; W. Wells, N.Z. medal; J. Clark, N.Z. medal; E. McSweeney, N.Z. and Long Service medals. 4th Waikato Regiment: John Knox, J.P., Sergeant. Auckland Rifle Volunteers: J. H. Mullins, N.Z. medal; W. H. Churton, N.Z. medal; H. Holland, N.Z. medal; J. Dacre, N.Z. medal; D. Bruce, N.Z. medal; J. G. Culpin, Sergeant; W. J. Hill, N.Z. medal; T. Lynch, N.Z. medal; J. Cox, N.Z. medal; W. G. Scott, N.Z. medal; A. Brooch, N.Z. medal; R. Read, N.Z. medal; A. James, Corporal, N.Z. medal; H. Maxfield, N.Z. medal. Colonel Defence Force: F. G. Ewington, J.P., N.Z. medal; R. Shepherd (N.Z.C.), N.Z. Cross and N.Z. medal; C. A. Hansen, N.Z. medal; J. Arthur, N.Z. medal; E. Ayles, N.Z. medal; E. Nazzy, N.Z. medal; A. B. Johnson, N.Z. medal; C. Wadman, N.Z. medal; Thos. A. Brown, N.Z. medal. Jackson's Forest Rangers: J. Finley, N.Z. medal; W. Johns, J.P., N.Z. medal; A. J. Bertram, Sergeant-Major, N.Z. medal; J. H. Smith, N.Z. medal; B. Dunn, N.Z. medal. Von Tempsky's Forest Rangers: G. Hill (N.Z.C.), N.Z. Cross and N.Z. medal; L. Hope, N.Z. medal; C. Hendry, N.Z. medal; E. O. Wasley, N.Z. medal. Manku Forest Rangers: J. Wheeler, N.Z. medal; G. Cooper, N.Z. medal; C. Dromgool, N.Z. medal. Watroa Rifles: G. F. Thorp, N.Z. medal; J. S. Wilson, N.Z. medal; A. J. Thorp, N.Z. medal. Royal Volunteer Cavalry: T. Speers, N.Z. medal; E. Fitzpatrick, N.Z. medal; J. Brady, N.Z. medal. Waiuku Volunteer Cavalry: C. J. Barrhill, Sergeant-Major, N.Z. Long Service medals; J. Barrhill, Sergeant, N.Z. Long Service medal. Taranaki Military Settlers' Corps: R. Wright, N.Z. medal; D. Roberts, N.Z. medal. Taranaki Volunteers: T. Ertton, Quarter-master-Sergeant, N.Z. medal; C. A. Pope, N.Z. medal. Taranaki Bush Rangers: S. Brown, Sergeant, N.Z. medal; E. W. J. Gregory, Sergeant, N.Z. medal. Taranaki Militia: R. G. Hawes, N.Z. medal. Weroona Rangers: W. H. Flyger, N.Z. medal. N.Z. Militia: G. O. Morrison, N.Z. medal; R. Oliver, N.Z. medal; T. Harkness, N.Z. medal; A. Palmer, N.Z. medal. Auckland Naval Volunteers: G. Barron, N.Z. medal. Forest Rangers: H. W. Hill, N.Z. medal; Wanganui Rangers: J. Long, N.Z. medal. Wanganui Cavalry: L. L. Levy, Corporal, N.Z. medal. Otahuhu Cavalry: J. Macky, N.Z. medal. Nixons' Cavalry: H. Crose, J.P., N.Z. medal. Poverty Bay Volunteer Cavalry: T. B. Dennis, N.Z. medal. Hawke's Bay Mounted Infantry: A. Plummer, N.Z. medal. Hawke's Bay Volunteers: M. Mullooly, N.Z. medal. Wellington Defence Force: J. N. Smith, N.Z. medal. Canadian Volunteer Militia: C. King, Canadian medal, 1860.