

General Sir Hector Macdonald looks at things with a soldier's eye very much indeed. His remarks on hearing that in one of the Southern cities the Government's ammunition supply was a million and a half rounds—"just about enough for one man if you were actually engaged in war," was his comment—gives an inkling into his point of view. Making all allowance for hyperbole, it is clear the General would have us armed and ready in quite a different way from what we actually are. Our coasts would bristle with cannon and the march of civilian soldiers would be heard constantly in the land, while every butt would re-echo with their rifles.

All sorts of rumours are getting about regarding Mr Seddon's trip Home. There is a strong impression that he does not mean to come back again. To a Northern member who put the question bluntly to him the great man said he did, but the truth is that he really does not know himself. It all depends on the treatment he gets from the Home Government, and as the Home authorities have a tantalising way of dropping no hint as to their intentions in matters of this kind, Mr Seddon is quite as much in the dark as the rest of us. Mr George Fowlds, I understand, is persuaded that the Premier will be made a peer or something in that direction, but a governorship of a third-rate colony—Jamaica, Fiji, or the Bermudas—seems the more probable destiny of Mr Seddon, if he would accept it. And I fancy there is a pretty big if in the matter.

In one of the Auckland churches last Sunday the clergyman, in the course of his address, took occasion to condemn what he seemed to regard as the irreverent attitude of some of the worshippers who retained an upright posture during prayer instead of inclining their heads. "During the last prayer," he continued, "I counted no less than ten of the congregation who had not even their eyes closed." To adapt the words of Mr W. S. Gilbert it was a case of round the corner he could see that each one wasn't kneeling on his or her knee.

Sports, like individuals, are judged by the company they keep. Frotting in this colony has a questionable reputation, because of its devotees. In the same way billiards, one of the best of games, has, in the eyes of a great many respectable people, acquired a disreputable character merely through its associations. The game stands much in the same position as cards did in the days when card playing was synonymous with gambling, and it can't get out of that position so easily as cards did. The expenses of the table are too great for it to attain that domestic popularity that has quite redeemed the reputation of what were known as the Devil's books. In the popular imagination billiards will long continue to be regarded as especially the pastime of publicans and sinners, a device of Bacchus to ensure his unfortunate victims. That it is under present conditions a minister to drinking and idling, especially idling, there can be little doubt. Even the Maoris have discovered its demoralising influence in this respect, or the Tomaten (East Coast) District Maori Council would not have put their ban so severely on the green cloth. Among the laws enacted by the council at their last meeting was a provision subjecting anyone putting up a billiard table to a fine of £25, while it is also provided that the table may be removed or destroyed.

On Sunday last the Wairoa geyser at Whakarewarewa was soaped for the benefit of the public, and, as is usual on such occasions, a crowd collected to see the sight. "Wairoa" this time refused to respond to the first application of soap (not soft soap), and a second lot had to be thrown in before the geyser would play. In a very few minutes up it went, and played magnificently, better than when it performed for Sir Hector Macdonald's pleasure. Rotorua

inhabitants are extremely thankful that, while such dreadful earthquakes have been wrecking parts of the Northern Island, not so much as a tremor has been felt in Rotorua. No difference has been noticed in the geysers, and all hope that this is a good augury, and that no severe earthquake shocks are in store for the district.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE FISHING SEASON AT OKOROIRE.

The fishing season at Okoroire is proving very successful. Fish are fairly plentiful, and in good condition. In proof of this, it may be mentioned that Mr F. Earl, of Auckland, landed six fish weighing in the aggregate, 28 pounds during a morning's fishing. Many other excellent baskets have been secured.

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Personal Paragraphs.

Dr. Ronald, of Napier, is at present enjoying a holiday in the North. Mr Stowell, of Wellington, is in Rotorua.

Dr. Pollen, of Wellington, spent a few days in Nelson last week.

Miss Stephenson, of London, is staying at the Grand Hotel, Rotorua.

Miss Allison, of Sydney, is staying with Mrs Dr. Roberts, Nelson.

Mrs Moyses, of Australia, is enjoying Rotorua at present.

Mr John Kirkland, of Sydney, was stopping in Auckland last week.

Mr Kield, of Australia, is taking the baths at Rotorua.

Dr. Ronald, of Napier, was in Auckland last week.

Mr and Mrs Moritzon, of Dunedin, are on a visit to Rotorua.

Mrs John Neill, of Orehunga, is at present on a visit to Te Aroha.

Dr. Makgill paid Rotorua a flying visit last week.

Mr and Mrs Roads, of Cincinnati, U.S.A., are on a trip to the Hot Lakes.

The Earl and Countess of Seafield are expected shortly to arrive in Christchurch on a visit.

Messrs Watson, Carmichael, Bradney and Corbett are among the English visitors to Rotorua just now.

Miss Nelson (Wellington) has been staying with Mrs J. J. Kinsey, Christchurch.

Mr and Miss Simecock (England) are among the English visitors to Rotorua just now.

Mrs G. Gould has been spending a few days with her sister, Mrs Wells, at Amberley.

Mr Vial, of Wellington, has been on a visit to Auckland.

Sergeant-Major Hoare and the Rev. Father Lewis, of Wellington, are staying in Rotorua.

Mr Geo. Smith, of Sydney, has been staying at the Albert Hotel, but returned to Sydney on Monday.

Messrs Gittell and Fraser, and Messrs Power and Atkins, of Ohinemuri, are now on a visit to Rotorua.

Mrs and Miss Manoy, of Sydney, returned from Rotorua on Saturday, and are staying at the Albert Hotel.

Mr and Mrs Boyle are expected back from England at the end of this month.

Mr and Mrs F. W. Thompson (Christchurch) have gone on a holiday trip to the North Island.

Mr and Miss Coombrough, of Australia, have been staying at the Geyser Hotel, Rotorua.

Miss Stowe (Wellington) is paying a visit to Mrs Bowen, Middleton.

Miss Scrimger, from the Wairarapa, is at present on a visit to Auckland.

Mr and Mrs and Miss Brown (England) are having a pleasant stay at the Hot Lakes.

Mrs Rudd, of Sydney, is at present in Auckland, staying at the Central Hotel.

Dr. Barraclough, of Australia, is now on a visit to Rotorua.

Mrs Rudd, of Sydney, is at present in Auckland, staying at the Central Hotel.

Mr Snowball, of Dunedin, and Mr J. H. Marshall, of Glasgow, are guests at the Grand, Rotorua.

Mr Luckock, of Sydney, was in Auckland last week, staying at the Central Hotel.

The Misses Wright, of Ashburton, are still visiting Rotorua.

Mr P. Simecocks and Miss Simecocks, of Napier, were at the Star Hotel last week.

Mr A. R. Lyons, of Wellington, paid a flying visit to Auckland a few days since.

Mr E. G. Wright, M.H.R. (Canterbury), with the Misses Wright, are resident at the Grand Hotel, Rotorua, at present.

Staff-Surgeon Innes spent two or three days in New Plymouth on his way to Auckland.

Captain Sutcliffe, of a.s. 'Tougararo, paid a flying visit to Rotorua lately.

Mrs Hughes, late of Gisborne, is on a visit to her daughter, Mrs T. Moore, of Tennyson-street, Napier.

Mr W. Bruce, of Wellington, paid Auckland a flying visit last week.

Colonel Davies and Captain Reid, Auckland, are on a short visit to Rotorua, where Judge Gill is also staying.

Mr J. Bradney, of Christchurch, is paying Auckland a visit, and was last week staying at the Star Hotel.

The Messrs O'Neill, of Australia, are having a pleasant sojourn in the geyser region, Miss Foster, from the other side, is also there.

Mr James Burnett, of Wellington, was in Auckland last week stopping at the Star Hotel.

Mr and Mrs Kinross, who used formerly to reside in Napier, are now living at Bedford, England.

Mr Fox (England), Captain Irvine (Dublin), Messrs Tothunter and Darlot (Australia) are in the Hot Lakes district.

Mr G. Ellis, of Coolgardie, is on a visit to New Zealand.

Miss Empson, accompanied by Miss Gresham, of Auckland, has returned to Rotorua, after spending a month's holiday in Auckland.

Mr V. Mrs, and Miss Rice, of Mt. Eden, Auckland, have been on a visit to Rotorua.

Mr Guinness, M.H.R., and his wife, of Greymouth, are amongst the visitors to Rotorua this week. They are at the "Grand."

Miss Watkins, matron of the Nelson Hospital, has gone to Wellington for a short holiday.

Mrs Sainsbury and Mr O. Sainsbury have returned to Napier, after a prolonged visit to Dunedin.

Miss Chapman, of Napier, has been staying with Mrs Frank Ormond.

Mrs James Hally and Miss Hally, of Cambridge, are on a visit to Auckland, and are staying at "Sonoma," Alfred-street.

Mr Ingleby, of Ceylon, and Mr Mahler and Mr Durander, of Liverpool, are staying at the Grand Hotel, Rotorua.

Mr and Mrs Stafford Walker and Miss Cotter are at present staying at Lake Takapuna.

Mr and Mrs Hagman left on Tuesday for the South, after spending their honeymoon in Sydney and Auckland.

Mr and Mrs Court, of Auckland, are staying at Lake House, Rotorua. Mr and Mrs Roulston have rooms at the same hotel.

Mr and Mrs John Reid, with their son and daughter, are expected back in Auckland—after their visit Home—before Christmas.

Mrs Wardrop and Mrs Ogle (Christchurch) went to stay with Mrs Smithson, Timaru, for the South Canterbury races.

Among the visitors at the Grand Hotel, Rotorua, this week, are Dr. and Mrs Anderson, of Christchurch, and Mr and the Misses Wilson, of the same city.

Colonel Newall paid his first official visit since his return from South Africa to Napier, Hastings, and the surrounding district.

Mr and Mrs Nolan and Mr and Mrs Hogarth, from the Old Country, are in Geyserland at present. They have put up at the Geyser Hotel.

The Dean of Waiapu has returned from Woodville, where he went last week in order to preach at the opening of the new Woodville Anglican Church.

Napier visitors to Rotorua are Messrs Luckie and Cooper.

Mr Willis, M.H.R., of Wanganui, and his wife, are visiting Rotorua at present.

Miss Innes, who has been visiting Wellington, Nelson, and New Plymouth, has now returned to Auckland.

Miss Nicholson has returned to New Plymouth, after a visit to Wanganui.

Miss Roy, of New Plymouth, after spending six months at Wellington and Wanganui, has now returned to her home.