

The Pacific Link.

Some time ago there appeared in these pages pictures of the laying of the Pacific cable and of the station at Doubtless Bay, where the New Zealand end of the cable comes ashore. The station has now been in working order for some little time as the frequent news from Fiji contained in the daily papers show, and it will not be so very long before the entire work of connecting us with the American Continent is complete and we are in direct touch with the new and old worlds by another line of communication. When that is done the staff at Doubtless Bay will no doubt have to be larger than it is

now, and the remote locality will be a more stirring place. But, as it is, what between work and play, the officials at the northern station have not by any means such a slow time of it as we might imagine. Indeed they appear, from all we hear, to enjoy themselves very much.

Any technical explanation of the method of working the cable would be out of place here, but a few words may be useful as supplementary to our pictures. The recording instrument in use is not the ordinary machine used for land telegraphy. Instead of the messages coming in the form of sound and being read by the ear of the receiver, they are permanently recorded on a paper tape by means of what is known as a "syphon



LIEUT.-COLONEL THOS. W. PORTER, of the Seventh New Zealand Contingent, who has been made a C.M.G.



NAPIER CATHEDRAL, showing the new Chapel which is being built in commemoration of peace.

recorder," the invention of Lord Kelvin. The Syphon recorder consists of an extremely fine glass tube, not thicker than a hair at its point. This tube is hollow and contains the ink which marks the tape as the latter passes under it. By means of the electric current the tube is deflected above and below the centre line of the tape, the marks on the upper side representing the dots and those on the under side the dashes of the ordinary Morse system. Among the instruments to be found in the Doubtless Bay station which are not used in ordinary land telegraphy the condenser is the most important. The difficulty of passing ordinary electric currents through an extended cable, except at long intervals, makes it necessary to interpose an instrument in the receiving circuit. By means of this instrument the current is, popularly speaking, collected before it passes on to act on the recording instrument.

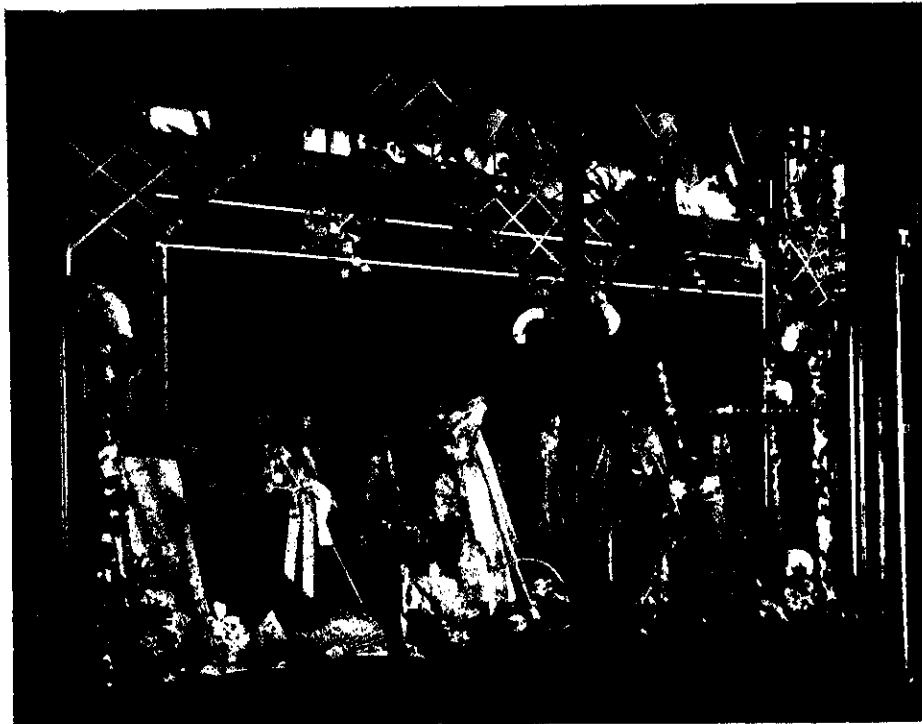
by Milne and Choyce, Limited, last week; a glance at the picture will show in what graceful proportions this display is arranged. The goods shown are such as this firm have always been noted for, and the window is full of ideas for smart weddings and festive occasions. The bridesmaids' hats and crooks were much admired, the rich brocades, silks, laces and flowers all evoked admiration. The other windows also were all designed in most excellent taste, being at once elegant, rich and exclusive, and really represented the house. Notably amongst them "The Coronation Window," with its handsome plaster pillars, panelled with crimson plush and mirrors. This window contained several pieces of choice millinery, emblematic bouquets or roses, shamrocks and thistles also a magnificent jewelled crown resting on a velvet and ermine cushion and drape.

The Bride of To-day.

The beautiful window display produced here, entitled, "The Bride of To-day," is one of the series shown

The Ranfurly Challenge Shield.

A picture is given of the Ranfurly Challenge Shield presented to the New Zealand Rugby Union by His Excellency the Governor. It was originally suggested by His Excellency that the shield should be held by the winners of a North v. South Island match. This was considered impracticable, and it was decided by the N.Z.R.U. that the shield should be held by the province obtaining the greatest number of wins in inter-union matches. The first competition takes place this year. The shield was manufactured by Mr. A. Kohn, the well-known silversmith and jeweller, of Auckland, and is a splendid specimen of the silversmith's art.



"THE BRIDE OF TO-DAY."



Horus, photo. THE RANFURLY CHALLENGE SHIELD.