

The World's Record in Weddings.

In these days of record-breaking, there is still one record handed down to us from classic times which remains unbroken. It may be called the wedding record, and was established by command of the all-conquering Alexander of Macedon.

This largest and most remarkable wedding since the world began took place at Susa. When Alexander the

Great had conquered Persia, wishing to unite victors and vanquished by the strongest ties possible, he decreed a wedding festival. Alexander married Statira, the daughter of Darius; 100 of his chief officers were united to ladies from the noblest Persian and Medean families; and 10,000 of his soldiers married 10,000 Asiatic women. In fact, 20,202 people were married at once.

Moreover, some marvellous caterer,

whose name deserves to have been handed down to posterity, managed to get up a feast for all the brides and bridegrooms, and for a vast multitude of guests besides.

They had the most splendid arrangements. On a plain near the city a vast pavilion was erected on pillars 60ft high. It was hung and spread with the richest tissues, while the gold and precious stones which ornamented it would have made your eyes blink. Adjoining this building were 100 gorgeous chambers for the 100

bridegrooms, while for the remaining 10,000 an outer court was enclosed and hung with costly tapestry, and tables were spread outside for the multitude.

A separate seat was assigned each pair, and all were arranged in a semi-circle on either hand of the royal throne.

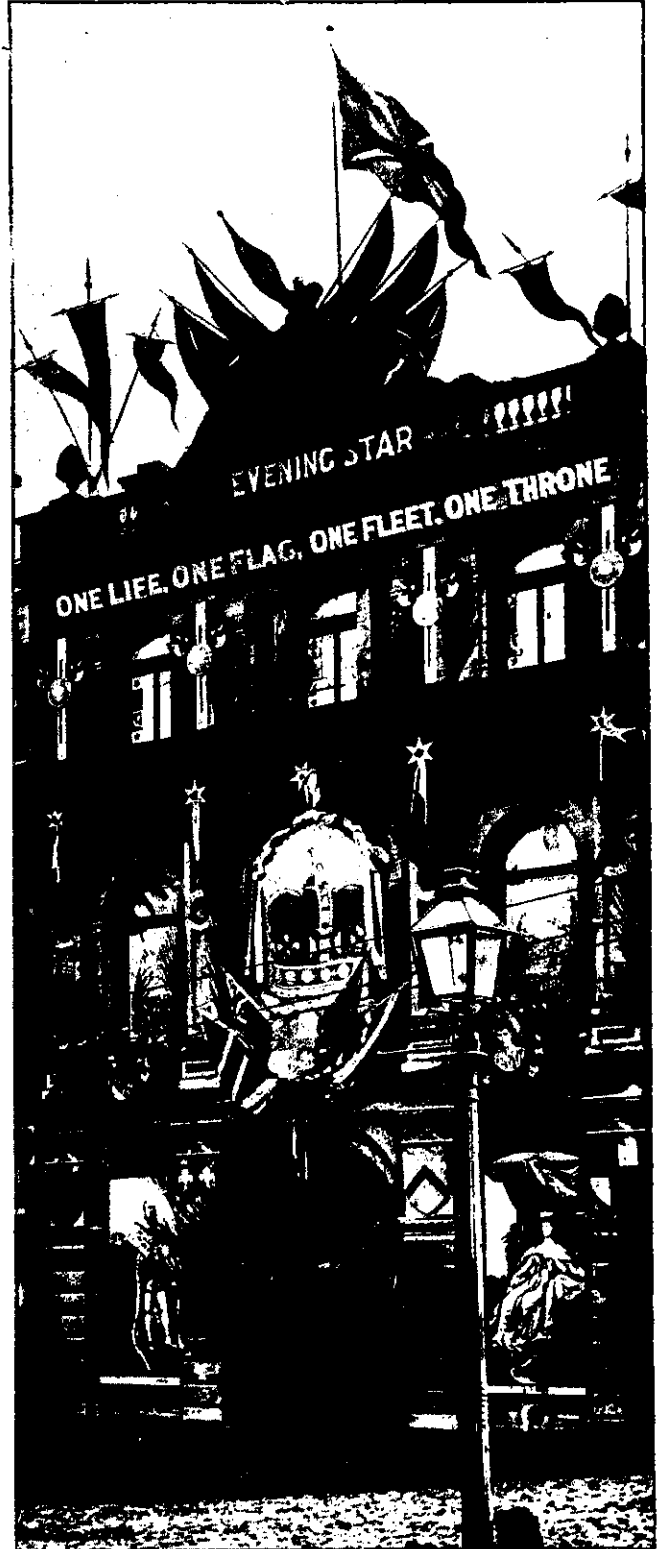
Each bridegroom had received a golden vessel for his libation, and when the last of these had been announced by trumpets to the multitudes without the brides entered the banquet-hall and took their places.



MAIDS OF MAORILAND.



A SPECIMEN OF TALL FLAX MEASURING 13 FEET.



THE "STAR" AND "GRAPHIC" BUILDINGS, AS DECORATED FOR THE CORONATION.

This building was the most profusely decorated of any in Auckland on Coronation Day.