

The Federal Hall, Auckland.

In a large and rising city like Auckland, with suburbs stretching far and wide in every direction, the need must sooner or later arise for an easily accessible meeting place, for socials, dances, public meetings, exhibitions, bazaars, and every sort of gathering of the kind. Of halls suitable for all these there are in Auckland and its suburbs several, and in the past these have doubtless served a useful purpose. But with the spread of the city, the vast increase in population, and the improved spending power of the people, it became evident some years ago that in the near future something better would be required than was in existence. That someone would make money by such a hall sooner or later everyone was aware, but as usual it was one man who gripped the opportunity when it came, leaving all the rest to say "I told you so," and to regret their own supineness in the matter. The gentleman in question was Mr Griffiths, of Wellesley-street West. He saw that a hall to be a success must have certain definite attributes. It must be central, it must have a good stage, it must be suitable for all or any sort of public gathering or entertainment, and it must have a special dancing floor and a roomy and convenient supper-room attached. To all these things Mr Griffiths gave his unremitting attention, and the result is the Federal Hall. Situated in Wellesley-street it is absolutely central, and can be reached by tram from any of Auckland's many suburbs, the cars passing the door at the distance of some four or five yards. So there is no risk of a ducking even on the wettest night. The floor was specially laid for dancing, from timber specially selected for the purpose, and is undoubtedly one of the finest in the colony. For bazaars and entertainments it is absolutely unexcelled, and some of the most important and most successful sales of work and bazaars ever held in Auckland have eventuated in the Federal Hall. As will be seen from our pictures, the interior of the hall is very handsome, and really requires little decoration by visitors.

The supper-room is very convenient, and has an air of comfort very unusual in such buildings. Altogether Auckland is fortunate in having a hall where a

private dance can be given without upsetting the home, or where subscription balls can be held in a position so easily and cheaply accessible from every part of the city and suburbs. Mr Griffiths gives his personal attention to the requirements of all patrons, and his unflinching courtesy and faculty of organisation have won for him a high reputation as a caterer, as well as the owner of the hall. In addition to other attrac-

tions, and in order to meet with the popular fashion of the day, Mr Griffiths has added and thoroughly equipped a ping-pong room. This can be used either as an addition to the ordinary entertainments, or club matches and tournaments can be arranged here. Nothing in brief, either in thought or money has been spared to make the hall a thoroughly up-to-date, and comfortable establishment, and even down to the

dressing rooms, both for ladies and gentlemen, everything is equipped in the best manner. The hall is being freely patronised both by private hostesses and for public dances, and can be confidently recommended in either capacity. A caretaker is always in attendance, who will show intending patrons over the hall, and give every information, as also will Mr Griffiths himself by appointment.



THE SUPPER ROOM.



THE BALL ROOM DECORATED FOR A DANCE.

The Federal Hall, Wellesley Street, Auckland.