

**Wellington's Exhibition.**

Wellington citizens are not rushing the secretary of the industrial exhibition with their cheques in furtherance of the industrial exhibition which it is proposed to hold during the coming winter. They are, in fact, standing solidly aloof from the project. At the end of March Mr. A. F. Allen, secretary of the Wellington Industrial Association, sent out about a hundred circular letters to representative citizens, including manufacturers, merchants, and business men in general, inviting them to guarantee £10, £15, or £20 to assure the Association against any loss on the proposed exhibition during the winter. Mr. Allen has repeatedly explained that the guarantors will stand practically no risk of incurring a loss, but this assurance has not yet stimulated many receivers of the invitations. They were urged to send in their replies before April 11, but very few had sent an answer up to today. The nine days have produced some guarantees, but they make only a small fraction of the hundred to whom the request was posted. Mr. Allen to-day expressed disappointment, especially at the manufacturers' lack of response, but mentioned that delay might have been caused in some cases by the fact that the proposal for a guarantee would have to be referred to the directors of such firms and limited liability companies. Four or five years ago, when it was proposed to have an industrial exhibition here, crowded out eventually by the International Exhibition, some £3000 was guaranteed in twelve hours to one gentleman who approached a few leading citizens. In the present case nothing like that sum was required by way of guarantee; even if £500 was underwritten, Mr. Allen would recommend the association to push on with the project. If the letters failed to bring in a reasonable sum by Monday, the members of the Association's financial committee would make a personal canvass.

**Better Than Music.**

After four years' absence from his tribe, the Ngapuhi, a young Maori, Ihu K. Ngawaka, returned to New Zealand on Wednesday on the Turakina. He has been trained as a vocalist, being the possessor of a fine baritone voice, but, says the "New Zealand Times," the musical profession has no attraction for him. He appeared in concerts at the Town Hall, Sydney, and Queensgate Hall, Kensington, but otherwise did not seek to obtain distinction before the footlights. There are too many trying to earn a somewhat precarious livelihood from music, he found, and the thing was not worth following up. "I preferred to pay attention to work among my own people," he explained, "and it is my intention to leave music alone and take up farming among my own people near Hokianga." He has observed the methods of European farming, and is anxious to see his people co-operating to make better use of their land, now providing them only with the barest necessities of life.

**The Port of Call.**

Concerning Auckland's agitation in reference to the port of call of the P. and O. steamers, Mr. Trelawney, general manager in Australia for the company, seen by a "Post" representative, said he had no information to give at the moment with reference to the company's operations. Mr. H. C. Tewsley, president of the Chamber of Commerce, denied that there was any Wellington feeling in the matter. He strongly deprecated the entry of the P. and O. steamers into New Zealand trade being made a parochial question. So far as he was aware no influence had been exercised, or would be exercised, by Wellington commercial men because Auckland got the service. There surely could not be any reason why Wellington should not strive for an extension to this port? The only feeling that would actuate Wellington was what was best for New Zealand as a whole, certainly not what was prejudicial to Auckland or peculiarly favourable to Wellington.

**Wellington-Tahiti Trade.**

When the Mokoia was at Papeete the inhabitants manifested great interest in the steamer, as the largest passenger vessel that had ever visited the group. The results attending the placing of the Mokoia on the Wellington-Tahiti run are somewhat disappointing, as only ten passengers travelled from Tahiti and Rarotonga to Wellington, where the vessel

arrived on Wednesday. The number carried outward, however, was satisfactory.

**Eight Persons Drowned.**

A distressing drowning accident occurred at Castlecliff, a popular seaside resort at the mouth of the Wanganui River, about noon on Sunday, the result being the death of eight members of two families named Ludlam and Anderson.

A number of residents had arranged a picnic on the south spit on the opposite side of the river from Castlecliff, and a flat-bottomed boat was used to ferry the picnicers across. The first trip was safely accomplished, and the boat left on a second trip with 10 occupants. All went well until the middle of the river was reached, when a strong tide and swell from the sea caused a nasty joggle. An attempt was made to turn back, but when the boat was broadside on it capsized, and all the occupants were precipitated into the water.

A fisherman on the south spit noticed the catastrophe and put off to the rescue. He succeeded in saving two boys (a son of Mrs. Ludlam and a son of Mr. Anderson). He then saw the body of a woman floating. This proved to be Mrs. Ludlam, tightly clasping a young child. Both were dead.

An alarm was given, but owing to the rough state of the river dragging could not be carried out. Later in the afternoon one of the bodies was recovered. It is expected that the other bodies will be taken out to sea and washed ashore along the beach. A large party of police and residents are searching for the bodies.

Those drowned were: Mrs. Ludlam (aged 49), Walter Ludlam (aged 20), James Ludlam (aged 18), Claude Ludlam (aged 10), Gladys Ludlam (aged five); Mrs. Anderson (aged 48), Maide Anderson (aged 18), Ernest Anderson (aged three). The body recovered was that of Walter Ludlam. Mrs. Ludlam was clasping Ernest Anderson to her breast when their bodies were found.

Both families are well known at Castlecliff.

**Silver Coinage.**

With reference to the decision of the New Zealand banks not to accept the new silver coinage of Australia, the position is one of negotiation between the New Zealand Government and the banks. At the moment, it appears to be the banking opinion that, as an enormous profit will accrue to the Commonwealth through the new silver coinage, New Zealand, which has no share in the profit on it, should not circulate it. The seigniorage (or profit) on the coinage belongs theoretically to the King, but actually to the Government on the Commonwealth coinage. The Commonwealth Government makes about 4½ in every shilling, while New Zealand has to pay one shilling for every shilling of the British coinage, and the profit goes to the British Government. The time has come, it is held in some quarters, that if Australia is to have her own silver coinage, the Dominion of New Zealand should have hers; or, if the Commonwealth silver is to circulate here, then it should be effected at a profit to this country, and arrangements with New Zealand should be made by the Commonwealth Government to that end. So far as can be ascertained, there is no desire, at least in New Zealand banking circles, to change the design of the Imperial coinage circulating in this country—no wish to substitute the head of a Maori rangatira for that of Edwardus Rex VII., or the Royal coat-of-arms for a Kiwi couchant. Even supposing arrangements are made between the Government of the Commonwealth and that of New Zealand for the latter to participate in the profits arising out of the new coinage, it will take some time before legislative action to give effect to it can be carried out. In the meanwhile, the Commonwealth silver will have no more than a sentimental or numismatic interest for New Zealanders. Visitors or travellers returning from Australia will no doubt find it very awkward if they come here with pockets full of the new silver, for it will have no more chance of becoming current here than French francs or German marks; for, as has been said, if the banks will not take it the traders will not take it either. There must shortly be a lot of the new silver money in circulation in Australia. There is to arrive in all £200,000 worth of the new money in the following sums: £50,000 in shillings (already in Australia), £100,000 in florins, £25,000 in six-pences, and £25,000 in threepenny pieces. Silver withdrawn from the Australian

banks to a corresponding amount of the new silver will be forwarded to the British Government. The schedule to the Commonwealth Coinage Bill shows that the new silver coins have to be thirty-seven-fortieths of fine silver and three-fortieths alloy. The Commonwealth Treasurer may cause to be made bronze or nickel coins, as well as silver and gold. Hitherto the New Zealand banks have drawn their supplies of silver from Australia for convenience and to save expense, and have returned the worn silver to London via Australia; but New Zealand has been ignored altogether in the matter of the new silver coinage by the Commonwealth, which has assumed that it would secure the seigniorage on the circulation in the Dominion. Hence the trouble.

**Our New Governor.**

It is officially announced that Sir John Dickson-Poynder, B.S.O., is to succeed Lord Plunket in the Governorship of New Zealand.

Lord Plunket has been granted the Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George, of which order he is at present a Knight Commander, the honour being granted in recognition of his services while Governor of New Zealand.

The name of Lord Plunket's successor will not be known to many of the people among whom he is to live for the next five years. Sir John Dickson-Poynder is a Baronet of Scotch descent, and is now forty-four years of age. Lady Dickson-Poynder is a daughter of R. H. D. Dundas and the sister of the second Baron Napier of Magdala, and she was married in 1896. They have one child—a daughter. Sir John is a son of Rear-Admiral John B. Dickson, and assumed the name of Poynder when he inherited certain property from a maternal uncle. Since 1892 he has been connected with politics, and about five or six years ago came into prominence by leaving the Conservative ranks and going over to the Liberals, the point of divergence between him and his former party being the question of Free Trade. In addition to his political career he has taken an interest in municipal matters, having been a member of the London County Council for six years. Sir John was educated at Harrow and Oxford, and subsequently went into the Army. He saw service in South Africa, serving with the Witte Imperial Yeomanry, in which he holds the rank of Major, and acted as A.D.C. to Lord Methuen. For his services in Africa Sir John received the Queen's medal with three clasps, and also got the D.S.O. The baronetcy, of which Sir John is the sixth in line, was created in 1892, and was a reward for the services rendered by Admiral Sir Archibald Dickson, during the struggle of the British fleets against France. Since then there have been a number of sailors in the family, and the title has been held by three admirals and one captain. The present holder of the title inherited from his uncle, Captain Sir A. C. Dickson of the Royal Navy.

**AUCKLAND.**

**Advances to Workers.**

Since the 1st January this year no advances have been made locally to workers under the Act. All applications have been refused without reason, and Mr. Poland has been moving in the matter. He informed our Waikato correspondent last week that the Department has decided to continue loans to local workers, providing the dwellings are to be erected in each instance. Hitherto, loans were granted for additions, purchases of residences, and paying off mortgages.

**Native Schools.**

Bishop Averill returned from his East Coast tour last week, and went on to Napier. The Bishop expressed himself as highly delighted with his visit and the interest shown in church work by the Maoris of the East Coast. He was particularly impressed with the work of the native school teachers, whom he had seen under different sets of circumstances. He had stayed with them, and visited them in their homes and schools, and was quite confident that they were doing splendid work educationally, socially, morally, and religiously. They were exercising a great influence both in and out of the schools, and their work was one of the best elements he had encountered. He greatly appreciated their work on behalf of the

Maoris, and considered it to be one of the most striking things he had witnessed on the coast.

**Gisborne High School.**

The Hon. Geo. Fowlds on Thursday performed the ceremony of opening the new High School building. There was a large attendance. The proceedings were favoured with glorious weather. The Minister approved the decision of the governors to establish a school on broad modern lines. Under the proposed scheme about three-fifths of the work will be common to all courses, the remainder being more or less specialised. It was an attempt to provide reasonable, efficient secondary education for all sections of the community.

**Death of Mr. W. Williams.**

On Saturday, at Okahakura, Mr. Wymerv Williams, son of Mr. T. C. Williams, of Auckland, was fatally shot by a rifle. An inquest was held on Sunday, before Mr. L. P. Beroff, coroner, and a verdict was returned that deceased came to his death by the accidental discharge of a rifle while in his own hands.

It appears that Mr. Williams made up a party to go out and shoot some wild cattle. The others went on and left the deceased behind, cleaning his rifle. Apparently the weapon, which was a magazine rifle, was loaded, and in handling it an accidental explosion followed. The sound of a shot was heard, and on rushing back, deceased was found lying on the ground, with a bullet wound in the left breast. Death was instantaneous. The body was brought to

CLANT SWEET PEAS. Exhibition 1901 section, 26 varieties, 25 seeds of each, separate named. Posted. 2/4. W. ARICA HALL, Parnell, Auckland.

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**For Russell, Whangaroa, and Mangonui.**  
CLANSMAN ... Every Wednesday, at 5.30 p.m. No Cargo for Russell.

**For Awani, Waipara, Houhora, Whangaroa, and Mangonui.**  
APANUI ... Every Monday, at 2 p.m. No Cargo Whangaroa and Mangonui.

**For Whangaroa, Helena Bay, Tutukaka, and Whangunaki.**  
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7th 11.45 a.m. 2 p.m. 1 p.m. No str.  
9th 11.45 a.m. 3.45 p.m. 2 p.m. 4 p.m.  
11th—9 p.m. day. 9 a.m. No str. 9 a.m.  
14th—9 p.m. day. 9.30 a.m. 8 a.m. No str.  
16th 9.15 a.m. 11 a.m. 9 a.m. 11 a.m.  
18th 9.15 a.m. 11.45 a.m. No str. Noon.  
21st 9.15 a.m. 3 p.m. 11 a.m. No str.  
23rd 11.45 a.m. 3 p.m. 1 p.m. 3 p.m.  
25th No cargo. 2 p.m. No str. 2 p.m.  
28th—9 p.m. day. 9.30 a.m. 8 a.m. No str.  
30th 9.15 a.m. 11 a.m. 9 a.m. 11 a.m.  
31st No cargo. 11 a.m. No str. 11 a.m.

Goods outward by steamers leaving on following dates, viz: 4th, 11th, 14th, 16th, 25th, and 30th, must leave one country station by afternoon train previous day.

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