

**Xmas Day** proper was signalled by an especial downpour of rain until quite late in the afternoon, clearing up, however, in time to allow us to form part of the crowded congregation at St. Peter's evening service.

At the Waikato Hospital everyone rejoiced in the suitable and welcome present found at every bedside, nominally by Santa Claus, though we knew it was the work of a kind friend (Mrs. Graham) and a willing band of helpers. Their object was certainly attained, viz., great pleasure given to many lonely souls.

#### Bowling.

A party of Wanganni bowlers visited Hamilton, playing several matches. They were accompanied by five or six ladies, who showed the Hamilton ladies on the green how well ladies could acquit themselves in the gentlemen's game!

#### Camping Party.

A party of ladies and gentlemen went to camp in Raglan Harbour. Some of them were: Misses Chitty (2), Taylor (2) from Cambridge, Loudon, also from Cambridge, Cussens (2), and Messrs. Hurdwood, Chitty, Cussen, etc. Mrs. Vere Chitty accompanied them as chaperon.

#### Personal.

Mrs. Hyde is spending the holidays in Rotorna.

Mrs. J. Knight met with a painful accident on Boxing Day as she was being driven by her daughter Kathleen. The horse reared and backed. Mrs. Knight jumped out, with the result that both ankle bones were broken.

ZILLA.

### SOUTH TARANAKI.

Hawera, December 29.

#### The Holidays.

The Christmas holidays passed off very quietly here. On Boxing Day numbers of people took advantage of the fine weather for picnics to the beach, bush, etc., while others of a more sporting turn of mind journeyed to the New Plymouth races. Mrs. Moore has a large camping party on her brother's property, a delightful spot near Normanby.

#### Personal.

Mrs. Williamson has returned from a holiday in Christchurch.

Mrs. Page (Wellington) is visiting her son, Mr. R. E. Page.

Miss Nolan has returned from Wanganui.

Miss C. Reilly is visiting friends in the Waikato.

Misses Brett and Douglas spent a few days in New Plymouth.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennett are on a fishing excursion to Opanake.

Miss Glenn has gone on a holiday to Auckland and Rotorna.

Miss Whitcombe has gone to Christchurch for a few weeks.

Miss S. Williamson is spending a short holiday in Christchurch.

JOAN.

### GISBORNE.

December 29.

#### Picnics and Excursions.

Picnic parties are the order of the day, the beach, hills, and train excursions being crowded with holiday-makers.

A large number of people went through to Otoko on Monday last, some excursionists journeying through by coach to Rahauroa, the train terminus at present, or, rather, the construction of the railway lines being carried to that distance, eight miles distant from the present train terminus, Otoko.

Mrs. Humphreys also gave a large picnic up the line on Monday, a large number of townspeople being her guests that day.

#### Personal.

The Rev. Percy Williams, warden of St. John's College, Auckland, is at present visiting Gisborne.

Mr. and Mrs. Lusk and family (Napier) have taken a furnished house in Gisborne, and are spending the summer holidays here.

Mr. and Mrs. Humphreys (Napier) are at present the guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. Margoliouth (Gisborne).

Dr. Morrison returned on Saturday from the South.

Mr. H. Williams (Napier) is at present the guest of Dr. A. N. Williams (Gisborne).

Mr. and Mrs. Shield (Hawke's Bay) are staying with Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Wallis, at "Maungaroa," Kaiki.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Lysnar returned from Hawke's Bay on Saturday.

Mr. Bloomfield (Auckland) arrived in Gisborne on Sunday last.

Mr. C. Margoliouth left on Sunday for Napier.

ELSA.

### NAPIER.

December 28.

#### Christmas Holidays.

The most perfect weather has prevailed during the holidays. On Christmas Eve the gaily decorated shops attracted many hundreds of people, especially children. During the early hours of Christmas morning a band of carol players visited the hills, playing the old familiar tunes. Large congregations attended the Christmas services in the different churches, which were all beautifully decorated.

#### Personal.

The news of the death of Mrs. F. U. Williams, which took place on December 27th, has caused the greatest sorrow throughout Hawke's Bay. Mrs. Williams had always taken an active part in charitable and social affairs in Napier. She was closely connected with the management of the H.B. Children's Home, the Queen's Fund, and was vice-president of the Victoria League. The greatest sympathy is felt for her family in their sad bereavement.

Mrs. McHardy and family are spending the Christmas holidays at Blackhead.

Mrs. Herbert White, Herbertville, H.B., has been visiting Napier.

Mrs. Balfour is visiting the Waerata. The Misses Kennedy are on a visit to Gisborne.

Mrs. McKay is visiting Pahiatua.

Mrs. C. E. Johnstone and family, Hastings, are spending a month in Napier.

Mr. and Mrs. Polson have gone to Sydney.

Mrs. T. C. Williams and Miss Winnie Williams are visiting Gisborne.

Mrs. Von Dadelzon is the guest of Lady Whitmore.

Miss M. Dean is on a visit to Auckland.

Mr. and Mrs. John Humphreys are visiting Gisborne.

Miss Page is spending Christmas with Lady Whitmore.

Miss Coates is the guest of Mrs. Averil, Bishopscourt.

Miss O. Seal and Miss Lanauze are visiting Wellington.

Mrs. and Mrs. George Nelson and family are spending Christmas at Taupo.

MARJORIE.

### FEILDING.

December 28.

#### Birthday Party.

Mr. and Mrs. Scoble Cornish entertained a large number of friends at their residence, "Scoble Kivitea," on the evening of the 10th inst., the occasion being the 21st birthday of Mr. P. G. R. Taylor. Mrs. Cornish received her guests in a handsome black mervelleux silk, with black sequin panel, and the corsage relieved with green. Amongst the guests were: Mrs. Guthrie, in electric blue silk voile; Mrs. Melbeth, black satin; Mrs. Baddeley, white; Mrs. Beedie, white; Mrs. Palmer, black silk; Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Gibson; Mrs. Nossiter, vieux rose; Mrs. Stack; Mrs. Wallace, pink and black; Mrs. Curtayne, black and white. During the evening Mr. Taylor was the recipient of two presentations, one from his old schoolfellows, presented by Mr. French, in the form of a handsome silver card case, with his crest and suitable inscription; and the other a pipe, exquisitely carved in Maori design, given by the ladies and gentlemen who staged Mr. Cornish's "Ngauio" in Feilding lately. The evening was passed pleasantly with competitions of various kinds, interspersed with an excellent musical programme. The town's competition was won by Miss A. Mulvaney and Dr. Beedie; the stick competition by Mr. Wallace, who was nominated by Miss Coray; the hidden treasure was found by Miss Madge Godfrey, of Eketahuna. At 10.30 all adjourned to the supper room, where the beautiful decorations in mauve and white were much admired, masses of wistaria adding greatly to the artistic effect, the credit of which was due to the Misses Mulvaney, of Auckland, who are at present the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Cornish. After the usual toasts, with musical honours, the guests adjourned to the ballroom, where dancing was kept up till the "ree sine" hours.

TUL.

### PALMERSTON NORTH.

December 28.

#### The Holidays.

With the exception of Saturday—Christmas Eve—when it rained all day, the weather has been ideal right through the holidays. The races are the great attraction here at Christmas time, and were a great success this year. All three days were beautifully fine, and the picturesque course at Awapuni was looking its best. Flowers were in profusion everywhere, and with a background of native bush, with the hills and river showing in the distance, made a perfect setting for the many beautiful toilettes worn by ladies present. On the first day (Friday) ladies were not there in great numbers, but some pretty frocks were worn. Mrs. Alan Strang was wearing a pale grey coat and skirt, and large cream straw hat with black and white silk flowers; Mrs. R. Levin (Taonui), a cream cloth costume and large hat with mauve floral trimming; Mrs. C. J. Munro, grey coat and skirt, grey hat with pink roses and mauve ribbon; Miss Munro, deep rose-pink linen Russian coat and skirt, large black hat lined with deep pink, and finished with cluster of pink flowers in same shade; Mrs. Broad, cream pink and lace, white ostrich feather boa, white hat with ostrich feathers; Mrs. R. Davis, bright blue serge coat and skirt, large black hat; Mrs. R. S. Abraham, navy blue coat and skirt, black hat with pink flowers; Mrs. W. L. Fitzherbert, cornflower-blue linen coat and skirt, hat with pink clovers; Mrs. J. P. Innes, navy coat and skirt, elaborately braided in black, large black hat with floral trimming; Mrs. and Miss Warburton, Miss Sybil Abraham, Mrs. J. Strang, Mrs. O'Brien, Mrs. G. Potts, Mrs. Wilson, and others.

#### Boxing Day at the Races.

Monday (Boxing Day) was perfect, bright and sunny, with a gentle breeze blowing. Ladies were present en masse, all dressed in their best and gayest, and some in particularly lovely frocks. Mrs. Turnbull (Wellington) was wearing a navy blue coat and skirt and large hat with black and white striped silk bows; Mrs. Percy Baldwin, a white linen coat and skirt, black hat with white plumes; Mrs. Alan Strang, cream cloth Russian coat and skirt, the cream braiding outlined with scarlet, large black hat with pink roses; Mrs. Jack Strang, blue and cream spotted silk frock, white ostrich feather boa, and black tulle toque with black ospreys; Miss Campbell (Christchurch), green shantung toilette, small black hat; Miss Dorothy Strang, deep rose linen coat and skirt, hat with mauve and pale blue flowers; Mrs. L. A. Abraham, fine grey cloth with tunic of grey ninon, hat with shaded saxe blue feathers; Miss Sybil Abraham, white spotted muslin embroidered in delicate shades of blue and pink, very large black hat with double band of pink roses across the crown; Mrs. R. Levin (Taonui), pale blue shantung, white ostrich feather boa, grey blue hat with pink roses and grey blue oats; Miss Levett (Bulls), Wedgwood blue and white spotted silk, hat with wreath of pink roses; Mrs. Taverner (Rangitikei), blue and black broadcated silk with black ninon tunic, black hat with black feathers; Mrs. Redmayne (Halcombe), mauve charmeuse frock, floral hat in same shade; Miss Shannon (Stanway), white muslin, black hat with feathers; Mrs. C. J. Munro, grey ninon over pink silk, grey hat with pink roses and mauve silk bow; Miss Munro, white embroidered muslin, pale pink scarf, large black hat with deep pink flowers; Mrs. Adam McDonald, white linen coat and skirt, burnt straw hat with cluster of pink roses; Mrs. Gifford Moore, cream striped toilette with grey blue silk sashes, black hat with black wings; Mrs. (Dr.) Wilson, a green toilette, hat with fawn Paisley crown, clusters of forget-me-nots under the brim; Miss Frances Fraser, fawn linen coat and skirt, with black collar and cuffs, black hat with black feathers; Miss W. Fraser, mauve linen coat and skirt, black chiffon scarf, black hat with black feathers; Mrs. Loughnan, deep rose pink silk, black hat with paler shade of pink flowers; Mrs. Randolph, black coat and skirt, braided in black, large black hat with black feathers; Miss Randolph, cream crystalline, draped with cream lace, black hat with black wings; Miss F. Randolph, pale blue satin veiled in pale green ninon, cluster of pink roses at waist, large black hat; Mrs. G. Potts, black satin coat and skirt, black hat with white ostrich feathers and white

roses; Mrs. C. Louison wore a beautiful frock of pink ninon over pink silk, large black hat with pink ospreys; Mrs. R. Davis, mauve Russian net over mauve charmeuse, mauve hat lined with pale pink and trimmed with mauve and pink flowers and mauve feathers; Mrs. Putnam, deep rose pink shantung frock, large black hat with white ostrich feathers; Mrs. Mellsoop, green linen coat and skirt, black hat with white flowers; Mrs. O'Brien, green linen coat and skirt, burnt straw hat with mauve flowers; Miss O'Brien, lilac linen frock, white coque feather boa, cream straw hat with lilac flowers; Miss Mona O'Brien, blue shantung silk frock, black hat with deep pink roses; Mrs. Bell, black and white check coat and skirt, burnt straw hat with pink roses; Mrs. Tripe, blue frock, white ostrich feather boa, hat with old rose tulle and flounces; Miss Tripe, pink linen coat and skirt, hat with wreath of pink flowers; Mrs. E. W. Hitchings, white linen Norfolk coat and skirt, black hat with black wings; Mrs. F. S. McRae, pale blue cloth coat and skirt, pale blue straw hat with pink roses; Miss Dorothy Waldegrave, old rose frock, hat with rose-coloured flowers; Mrs. Atkinson (Wellington), pale blue coat and skirt,

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