

The Mayors of New Zealand.

It was thought that some record of the men selected to represent the various boroughs of New Zealand during the Royal Visit would be of interest to our readers. Those Mayors who, in response to our circulars, sent their photos for reproduction in these pages form a very representative selection of the men chosen to take the lead in Municipal matters; the men who, by building up thriving centres of population, have done so much to make the progress of our country what it is. Their tasks in many cases have been no easy ones. Much apparently thankless toil has been expended in the process; much time badly spared from their own concerns. With indomitable energy they have devoted themselves to their tasks, and the salubrious state of our cities, and the number of smiling townships dotted round our fair land are the results of their labours.



MR. J. G. W. AITKEN, who was elected by the burgesses to fill the Mayoral Chair, and do the honours of the Empire City to the Royal Visitors, is a Scotchman by birth. This is his second term of office, he having held the same position last year. He received his early business training in the offices of a well-known Glasgow mercantile firm, and his experiences there and in their London branch enabled him to establish and build up a substantial business on his own account in Wellington. Mr. Aitken, during his residence in Wellington, has commanded the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens to a marked degree, as the position he holds to-day abundantly proves. The man who has been eminently successful in his own business, providing he takes the interest Mr. Aitken does in municipal affairs, is the one most likely to work most effectually for the good of the city he represents.

MR. R. MOTHEs, who was elected Mayor of Petone by a narrow majority, was born in Saxony in 1852. He arrived in New Zealand from Australia in 1882, and settled in Petone. Mr. Mothes established the industry of manufacturing violin strings in the colony, and has been engaged for several years in the business of Land, Estate and Commission Agent. He has served Petone for fourteen years as a Councillor, and was

elected Mayor in the fourth and fifth years of the borough's existence, but had to retire on account of ill-health. Mr. Mothes is a Justice of the Peace. He has always taken a great interest in educational and charitable and athletic matters, as well as Friendly Societies, and is at present a trustee of the Wellington Benevolent Institution and a member of the local School Committee, Past Master of the Lodge Ulster, N.Z.C., and past officer of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, etc., etc., as well as president and vice-president of several athletic clubs.

MR. JAMES BAILLIE, Mayor of Carterton, Wairarapa, is a native of Wishaw, Lanarkshire, Scotland. He came out to the colony in the barque "Hudson," arriving in Wellington in 1879. Mr. Baillie is a qualified chemist and druggist, having passed the standard examination of the Pharmacy Board of New Zealand. He established his present business in Carterton in 1894. Although he had never held a seat in the Borough Council, it was well known that he took a very keen interest in the affairs of the borough, and his election was regarded as one calculated to considerably advance its interests. He is an enthusiastic bowler, and acts as secretary to the local club.

MR. F. H. WOOD, Mayor of Greytown, was born in London in 1849, and received