

Mr. Roy Bagnall, member for St. George in the New South Wales State Assembly, arrived in Auckland from Sydney by the Maheno on a health-recruiting trip. He has lately suffered from a severe illness. Mr. Bagnall is an Auckland by birth, and is the eldest son of the late Mr. Albert Bagnall. At the elections in December, he defeated the deputy-leader of the Liberal party.

Mr. and Mrs. Staples-Browne are at present holiday-making in Ceylon. Mrs. Staples-Browne was formerly the well-known Rotorua guide, Maggie Papakura. She remained in England when the Maori concert party failed to succeed on the stage and returned to New Zealand.

Mr., Mrs. and Miss Sheldon, with maid, tourists from New South Wales, left Auckland last week for a trip down the Wanganui River and thence to Wellington. The travellers proceeded from that city to the South Island beauty spots before their return to Rotorua later in the summer.

Messrs. R. and J. Sinclair, tourists from Western Australia, who have been on a short visit to Auckland, left last week for Rotorua, and will afterwards proceed south to visit friends in Taihape and Dunedin by way of the Wanganui River and Wellington.

During his recent northern journey, the Hon. H. D. Bell visited Lakes Rotorua and Taupo. Speaking from first-hand observation, he dissents from the reports which have been brought down about blindness amongst the trout in Lake Rotorua. Many small fish are caught in Lake Rotorua, but Mr. Bell says very few "slabs" in Lake Taupo. The policy of netting the lakes in order to reduce the number of fish and encourage an increase in size will probably be continued until Mr. Prince, the Canadian fisheries expert, arrives in the Dominion in April next, when he may possibly recommend other measures.

Mr. J. M. Leigh, of Laghbor, Ashburton, Canterbury, and Mr. Henry Mackay, of the head office of the Public Trust, Wellington, have been on a visit to Auckland, and left last week on a motor tour of the Waikato and other districts.

Mr. A. G. de Silva has recently taken over the Manganui Hotel, which maintains its popularity amongst the travelling public.

Most travellers doing the Far North endeavour to put in a week-end at Whangaroa whenever possible. No better host is to be found than Mr. C. Gothard, of the Masonic Hotel. With the beautiful harbour, bright weather, and the good fare at the hotel, travellers carry away pleasant recollections of their sojourn at this pretty northern seaport.

A party of delegates to the Medical Congress, which consists of Doctors Lillian Cooper and Jane Greig, Doctor and Mrs. Robertson, Doctor and Mrs. Ewing, and Doctors W. T. Robertson, Harvey, Sutton, and L. H. Harvey, left Auckland after the close of the conference for Rotorua. They also intend to see Mount Cook before they return to Australia.

The new section of railway north of Kawakawa is to be opened right through to Kaikohe during the next two months. This will be a great boon to the settlers in the district, who have had to contend with bad roads during the winter months. The hotel at Kaikohe is still under the proprietorship of Mr. H. Dickson, and is a most comfortable place at which to put up.

During the summer months a great number of travellers pass through Horeke to the Hokianga. The Horeke Hotel is a pleasant little place at which to break the journey, being situated right on the water's edge. Mr. and Mrs. Queenin cater specially for the travelling public, and those who patronise this establishment will

be well pleased with their sojourn at Horeke.

A bride and bridegroom were separated on the first express from Christchurch at Timaru through the train being shortened on its arrival there. The couple could not get a seat together, but a seat was found for the bride in a "bird cage" and the husband was told that he could stand on the platform or wait for the next train. The stationmaster says that he endeavoured to find seats for the couple in a first-class carriage, where there were apparently six seats with only one lady to occupy them. The lady told him that all six seats were occupied, but he found when the train left the station that three were still vacant. It is a common thing for ladies travelling first-class to monopolise a lot of space which they do not use, and it is a cause of much annoyance to other travellers. There was not nearly so much selfishness shown by second-class travellers.

Mr. G. F. Whitcombe, Railway Traffic Superintendent, who has returned from an official visit to the West Coast, has remarked on the large volume of passenger traffic which is being dealt with between Christchurch and the Coast. On one day recently there were about one hundred passengers to and from the Coast. Mr. Whitcombe expressed the opinion that it would not be long before practically all the passenger traffic to the Coast would go via Christchurch, and when the Arthur's Pass tunnel is completed he thought that the steamers now trading to the Coast would be discontinued. Towards the end of March or about the first or second week in April, it was anticipated that the line on the eastern side would be open to Bealey Flat, which would reduce the journey by coach to eleven miles. At Bealey Flat, which would be the eastern terminus for some time, a large station and yards were being provided, which would enable the traffic to be better handled than is at present possible at Halpin Creek. The station buildings at Bealey Flat are making good progress towards completion, and as soon as the line is opened it is understood that the present arrangements under which lunch is got at the Cass will be discontinued, and that a refreshment room will be provided at Bealey Flat.

The twenty-ninth annual meeting of the New Zealand Commercial Travellers' and Warehousemen's Association was held in Dunedin on January 10th. The president, Mr. D. McPherson, occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of members. A letter was read from the General Manager of Railways which stated that instructions had been given for a refund to be made to a commercial traveller who had been charged train fare while travelling without his season ticket. This, however, was the last occasion on which a refund would be authorised. In future if season ticket holders did not produce their tickets on demand the department would be compelled to enforce payment of the ordinary fare in all cases. The following officers were

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R. Glover, C. Otto, R. Harper, J. Mcindoe, R. J. Kilroy, and H. S. Cole; treasurer, Mr. James Todd; auditor, Mr. J. F. Peake.


(Continued on page 42.)



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