

THE TOURIST and TRAVELLER

GRAND HOTEL FESTIVITIES.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROLLESTON.

One of the most pleasurable annual functions held in New Zealand is the gathering at the Grand Hotel, Auckland, to mark the closing of the old year and the advent of the new. Popularised by the manager, Mr. Rolleston, it has become quite an institution, and nowhere is the New Year ushered in with brighter auguries. With its full complement of visitors and other guests, the hotel was again the scene of gay festivity on New Year's Eve. The luxurious lounge was charmingly decorated with fragrant flowers, while a delightful programme of music was interspersed by the Lyric Quartette (Messrs. W. Aspinall, H. Richards, Alan McElwain, and J. W. Ryan), Miss Laura Walker, and Bandmaster J. T. Lighton, 3rd Regiment.

The spirit of charity was not forgotten in the midst of hilarity, and dolls presented by Mrs. Gerald Stead (Chris' church) and Mrs. T. H. Lowry (Hawke's Bay) were put up for auction in aid of the Belgian fund and realised over £100. Several flags given by Mr. Ernest Davis also brought in an acceptable sum for the same worthy object.

Notable guests were the Hon. Andrew Fisher, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, and the Hon. W. F. Massey, Prime Minister of New Zealand, who both made speeches warmly eulogistic of Mr. Rolleston. Mr. Massey spoke in glowing terms of Mr. Rolleston's abilities, of his tact, and ready understanding, and referred not only to the good feeling that existed between the host and his guests, but to the cordial relations maintained by the host and his staff. "In fact," emphasised Mr. Massey, "the whole concern seems more like one huge family with Mr. Rolleston at the head," a remark that was greeted with deafening applause and cheers.

Mr. Fisher felicitously added his quota of praise, speaking in superlative terms of the hotel, which he said enjoyed a fame that was world-wide, due to the managerial capacity of the host, and was the best conducted hotel in Australasia. A demonstrative confirmation from the numerous guests greeted Mr. Fisher's contention.

In response, Mr. Rolleston feelingly thanked the hon. gentlemen for the cordiality of their sentiments and their kind expressions of appreciation. "The hearty reciprocity of those present," he said, "was a pleasing tribute to his efforts to serve his guests faithfully and to provide happy memories of their stay."

And to the clinking of glasses and the following up of "The National Anthem" and "Auld Lang Syne," the old year passed out and 1915 came in, with the hope sincerely expressed by Mr. Rolleston that

"All good befortune you,
And every day some ray of
Golden light fall on your way."

The guests included the Rt. Hon. W. F. Massey, Rt. Hon. Andrew Fisher, Miss Bradley, Miss Mitchell, Miss Kearn, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Stead, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Lowry, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Stead, Mr. and Mrs. Mitford, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Davis, Miss Mollie Davis, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. M. Louison, Mr. J. Milward, Mrs. Coleman, Miss Simcox, Mr. and Mrs. S'ernie'd, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Bloomfield, Mrs. and Miss Thompson, Mr. J. H. Abbott, Mr. and Mrs. Giblin, Mrs. Gorton, Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. P. Herman, Miss D. Herman, Mrs. I. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Hussey, Miss Betts, Sir. Geo. Clifford, Colonel Paterson, Mr. A. White, Mr. T. Cogan, Mr. Cyril Stringer, Mr. A. Edmonds, Mr. M. A. Carr, Mr. F. D. Thomson, Mr. Bethune, Mr. Irvine, Mr. W. McLean, Mr. N. Thompson, Mr. E. Gaster, Mr. G. Horton, Mr. E. A. Box, Mr. K. A. Murdoch, Mr. Harold Lyon, Hon. J. Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. Champion, Mr. and Mrs. Miller,

Mr. and Mrs. Meridith, Mr. and Mrs. Norton, Mr. G. B. Norton, Mr. Robertshawe, Mr. R. Blakiston, Mr. H. N. Coleman, Mr. L. E. Johnson, Mr. F. Diddams, Miss Petts, Mr. D. Manson, Mrs. H. E. Gorton, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Gorton, Mrs. F. Baume, Miss McKay, Mr. and Mrs. Pugh, Mr. and Mrs. Edmunds, Miss N. Thorne-George, Mr. and Mrs. Friend, Miss Martin, Miss McAlpine, Mr. A. L. Denniston, Mr. and Mrs. Mahoney, Misses Mahoney, Mr. Mahoney, jun., Mr. A. Cleave, Mr. W. Buckley, Mr. P. Watts, Hon. W. H. Herries, Mr. D. T. McIntosh, Mr. Cyril Leys, Mr. S. Milroy, and many others

HERE AND THERE.

The guests at the Central Hotel last week included: Miss Coffey, Wellington; Capt. Ma'n, Gisborne; Mr. and Mrs. Belgrave, Frankton; Mr. McGarvey, Helensville; Mr. and Mrs. T. Jolly, Hamilton; Miss B. Richards, Wellington; Lieut. J. P. Terris, Avondale; Mr. N. P. Wright, Fiji; Mrs. C. MacCulloch, Hamilton; Miss Hutchens, Wellington; Mr. D. M. Wright, Wellington; Mr. R. Sutton, Sydney; Mr. F. Lang, Melbourne; Mr. and Mrs. Barclay, Hobart; and Mr. and Mrs. T. Osborne, Sydney.

Amongst the guests who were staying at the Royal Hotel last week were: Dr. and rs. Campbell, Whangarei; Mr.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Alison, jun., of Takapuna, left this week for a trip to Mount Cook, where they intend to spend some time. Afterwards the tourists intend to motor through to Queenstown and possibly continue their journey to Sydney before returning to the North.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Gouldsmith, who have postponed their projected visit to England, have gone to Russell, Bay of Islands, and afterwards intend making a tour down the New Zealand coast.

Mr. McCosh Clark and party, of Auckland, are making a motor tour through the North Island, and intend to include Mount Egmont district.

Mr. A. Webber, of Hamilton Road, Ponsonby, accompanied by Mrs. Webber, are at present on a visit to Wairakei.

Dr. Albert Clark, of Remuera, accompanied by a young daughter, is at present enjoying a holiday on the slopes of Mount Egmont.

The world is small. It is not a new observation, but in Ostend three ex-residents of Hawker Street, Wellington, met once again. Dr. Wilson, son of Mr. George Wilson, Nurse Fairchild, daughter of Captain Fairchild, of the Henemoa, and Mr. B. C. Freyberg.

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and Mrs. Pfeffer, Fiji; Mr. A. C. Harrison, Wellington; Dr. MacDiarmid, Huntly; Mr. McLean, Huntly; Mr. Whitmore, Matawai; Mr. T. Mitchell, Wanganui; r. D. Sullivan, Wellington; Mr. J. Ormond, Hastings; Mr. E. Chrisp, Gisborne; Mr. W. Carr, Rotorua; Mr. and Mrs. Raven, Auckland; Mr. and Mrs. J. O'Sullivan, Te Awamutu; Mr. Percy Andrews, Gisborne; Mr. and Mrs. H. Hunter, Tapu; Mr. and Mrs. Elias Martin, Te Kuiti; Mr. A. Paape, Wellington; Dr. and Mrs. Lane-Fox, Great Barrier; Mr. R. G. Butcher, Wellington; and Mr. Dave Sullivan, Wellington.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Fallon, of Auckland, are at present spending a short holiday in the House Boat on the Wanganui River.

Mrs. Laurie and Miss Hillyer, of Pokeno, Waikato, are at present on a tour of the South Island, and intend to spend some time at Queenstown.

Miss M. Carrie, of Stratfield, Sydney, left Auckland last week for a trip to Rotorua, whence the traveller returns to Auckland and proceeds to Wellington and Napier.

Mrs. J. Kissling, accompanied by two children, left Auckland last week by the Monowai for Lyttelton.

Dr. Campbell, of Whangarei, is about to sail with the medical section of the Expeditionary Force, which leaves New Zealand on the 12th of February. Mrs. Campbell left for London by the Remuera, where she intends to meet Dr. Campbell.

Mr. J. M. and Mrs. Gouldsmith and Mr. L. C. Gouldsmith, an English touring party, are at present enjoying a few days fishing at Russell, Bay of Islands, before making a tour of Rotorua and the usual beauty spots. They will return to Wellington in time to leave by the Remuera on February 11th.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Sharpe, from British Columbia, left Auckland last week for Wellington to connect with the Sydney boat.

Mrs. Kesper, wife of Captain Kesper, Auckland, accompanied by her daughter and Mrs. Hildred, of Kingland, left by the Marama on Thursday last for San Francisco, where they intend to make a lengthy stay.

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Davis, of Auckland, left this week for a North Island tour, which will include the Wanganui River.

A good many people have decided upon making the pedestrian tour from Lake Te Anau to Milford Sound, and a large party are going to proceed from Te Anau to Wakatipu. Those who have come to spend the summer in New Zealand include a considerable number of Americans.

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