

The Lindauer pictures have been handed over to the Auckland city by Mr. H. E. Partridge, and the £10,000 purchase money given to Mr. Robert Burns, Acting-Consul for Belgium.

The Auckland Women's Navy League relief fund have offered six fully-equipped beds to the hospital ship.

Madame Melba received first prize for a decorated motor car in a recent patriotic pageant. A Melbourne paper said it was a perfect bower of blue and white, most elaborately and tastefully handled, and was reminiscent of Lohengrin. It was the only thing in the procession which did not look like a motor car, and the prize could only have gone elsewhere by a shocking error of taste.

It is reported that the late Mr. E. W. Knowles, formerly proprietor of the Napier "Telegraph," left estate valued at nearly £70,000, the bulk of which will constitute an endowment for charitable and educational purposes in Hawke's Bay.

By the last English mail, Mr. A. B. Wallace, of Masterton, received very encouraging reports concerning the progress that is being made by Miss Thelma Petersen in her musical studies in London (says a Wairarapa paper). On March 23, Miss Petersen had the honour of singing at a great patriotic concert in the London Opera House, at which Her Majesty Queen Alexandra and three thousand people were present. Miss Petersen was the only lady soloist on the programme, and she was entrusted with the singing of "God Save the King," in which she was accompanied by the Coldstream Guards' Band. She also sang at a college concert, at which she was again the only lady soloist. The report of the examination at the conclusion of the last term of the Royal College of Music states that Miss Petersen had made very considerable progress, and her voice was much more even and agreeable in quality. She has also taken a first prize in elocution.

A public presentation by citizens was made to Mr. C. J. Parr, C.M.G., in recognition of his long service to Auckland as mayor. There was a large gathering, amongst those on the platform being the Mayor, Mr. J. H. Gunson, and Mrs. Gunson, Mr. C. J. Parr and Mrs. Parr, Mr. H. E. Partridge, Mr. Robert Burns, Acting-Consul for Belgium, and Mrs. Burns. Mr. Parr was presented with an illuminated address and a gold watch and chain, while a handsome piece of plate was given to Mrs. Parr. Eulogistic speeches were made by the Mayor, and Messrs. J. H. Upton and A. M. Myers, ex-mayors.

Mdme. Jane Catulle Mendes, who was leaving France for America to lecture on the German atrocities, received the following touching letter from Mdme. Sarah Bernhardt before the recent operation:—"My darling,—As you have perhaps heard, they are going to cut off my leg. Good-bye, my darling; good-bye. But it appears that I was not sufficiently ready for this first performance; the principal artist—my right leg—did not know her part. She has learned it now; and will be charming. Well, I send you some photographs. May God help you on your voyage. Tell the American people all that has taken place here. I wrote two articles in America against the Kaiser and the Emperor of Austria, and threats of death reached me at Andernös. What do I care! One can die but once. Good-bye, my darling. I embrace you very, very tenderly.—Sarah Bernhardt."

Madame Melba is organising an Austral patriotic day on June 3, on which date she will give a great concert in the Town Hall, Sydney, the proceeds to be wholly and solely devoted to Poland. The organisation and administration of this function are in the hands of Mr. John Lemmone. Melba's ambition is to surpass any previous results that have been achieved. It is expected that this will constitute a golden day even in the record of her magnificent services. At the entertainment she will herself sell by auction a British flag, and also the national flags of Scotland and Ireland. In a special autograph letter Melba will make an appeal to every citizen of the State whose wealth will permit it to give £100. The work is in aid of 8,000,000 Poles, and the funds realised will be transmitted through the New South Wales Government to the British Consul-General in Warsaw to be distributed to suffering Poles.

Those who remember Franklin Holding, the gifted violinist, who toured with Madame Nordica, will regret to hear of his death, which occurred suddenly on April 3. Mr. Holding was born in 1886, and was a youthful violin prodigy appearing in public at a very early age. He had a brilliant career, with promise of a great future.

Were I so tall to reach the sky,
Or take the ocean in my span,
What use is length, unless there's strength,
Now tell me if you can.
Suppose I'm ill with rasping cough
Or tickling throat—well, to be sure,
I don't talk length, I gather strength
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Wife (returning from matinee): "Oh, it was too lovely! She had on a pale Nile green silk, with bands of passementerie down the front and the grandest diamonds you ever saw, and when she died in the last act, she roiled over four times, and every woman in the house was crying. I never enjoyed a play so much in my life."



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