

HERE AND THERE.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Richmond, of Hawke's Bay, have returned to New Zealand from Sydney.

Peace celebrations will probably be held at the end of March or the beginning of April next.

Mr. F. G. Raphael, of Christchurch has been elected chairman of the Management Committee of the New Zealand Cricket Council.

Corporal J. H. Wilson, formerly of Thames, has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in action.

Mr. Charles G. Winslow, nephew of Mr. A. A. Winslow, American Consul-General, has been promoted to the position of Second Vice-Consul for America at Auckland.

Mr. F. Harrison, president of the British Club at Honolulu, is visiting Auckland. He intends to go on to Rotorua and other parts of New Zealand.

Doctors Jennings, Strickland, Raymond and Hallen, five nurses, three medical students, and 23 members of the N.Z.M.C. left for Suva by the Talune last week to render assistance to influenza patients.

Mr. C. Earle (editor and managing director of "The Dominion", the Hon. W. J. Geddis (editor and managing director of the "New Zealand Times"), Messrs. M. L. Reading (of the "Lyttelton Times") and G. Fenwick ("Otago Daily Times"), four of the Press delegates who recently went Home as guests of the British Government, returned to Wellington last week after a few days' stay in Auckland on the quarantined Makura.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Poole have arrived back in Christchurch after a trip to Australia.

The French Mission, at present in Australia, has abandoned its proposed New Zealand tour.

Judge Ayson left Wellington last week in charge of the Rarotongan troops. He expects to return back to New Zealand early in January.

Mr. R. W. M'Villy, Wellington, Assistant-General Manager of Railways, is making steady progress towards recovery from an attack of influenza.

About fifty boys from the New Plymouth High School had a fortnight's stay at the North Egmont Hostelry during the epidemic outbreak and escaped the danger of infection. They were in charge of the headmaster, Mr. W. H. Moyes.

The Minister of Defence, explaining to the House an amendment introduced in the Repatriation Bill, said that it was intended to increase the amount to be granted to soldiers who want help for business purposes from £250 to £300.

Mr. J. Sinclair-Thomson (manager of the National Bank in Dunedin for several years), at present in London, is thinking of returning to New Zealand at the end of the year. Throughout the war he has been an unostentatious and generous supporter of every effort for the welfare of "the boys."

Mr. H. L. Noakes, who has retired from the position of secretary and treasurer of the Auckland Stock Exchange, was presented with a handsome silver tea and coffee service on an oak salver. Mr. W. R. Walker, chairman, made the presentation.

Dr. Garcia Webster, of Wellington, has returned home after an absence of seven weeks in Australia.

Captain C. S. Geddis, of Napier, who has been on active service with the New Zealand Forces, returned to New Zealand by the Makura.

Lieutenant O. A. Friedlander, who arrived in New Zealand from India, is spending a furlough in Ashburton with his parents. He is returning to England shortly.

Advice has been received that Mr. Lawrence Rudd, who has been a prisoner of war at Minden, in Germany, for about nine months, has arrived in England. He is a son of Mr. M. Rudd, acting-secretary to the Union Steam Ship Company, at Dunedin.

This is the patriotic manner in which the "New York Tribune" consoles its readers in the midst of a heat wave:—"Cheer up, folks! A day like this will seem like the midde of a blizzard to the Kaiser a few days from now!"

The American War Minister, Mr. Secretary Baker, is a youthful, clever-looking man of 47. By profession a lawyer, he was for some time Mayor of Cleveland, Ohio. He is a good organiser, and a clear and forcible speaker, with a happy knack of phrase-making. Mr. Wilson regards him as one of his successes.

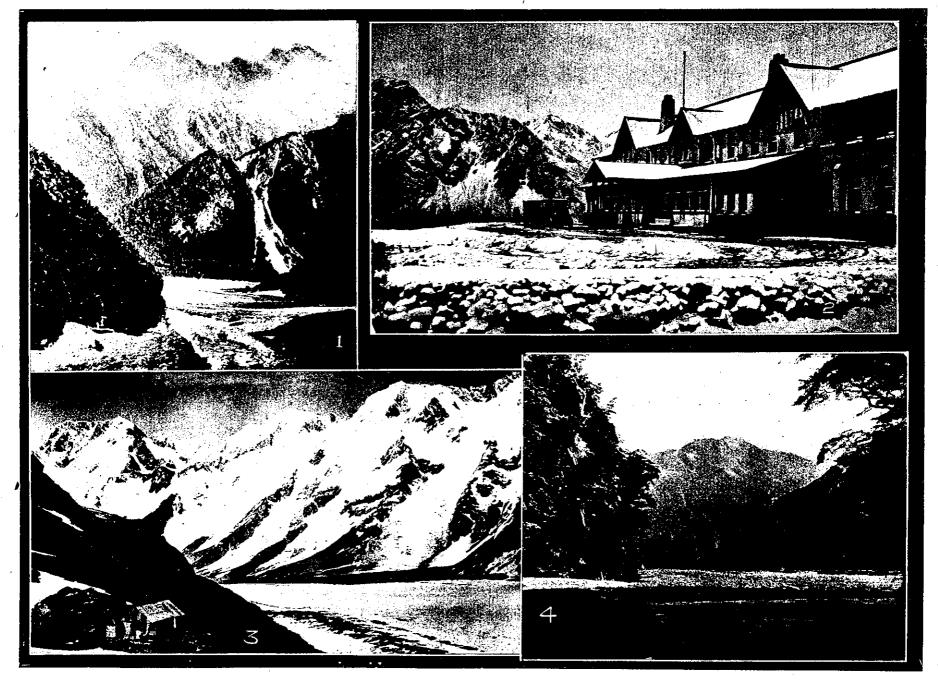
"When does it come into force? You are four years too late," remarked Mr. Witty when the Prime Minister mentioned a new amendment of the War Legislation Act to check the charging of "excessive prices." Mr. Massey replied that the worst cases of exploitation within his knowledge had occurred during the recent epidemic.

Dr. Frengley, who did such good service in combating the influenza epidemic in Auckland, was present ed by the Citizens' Committee with an address expressing the committee's sense of the admirable manner in which he had discharged the duties of his responsible office while in Auckland.

Mr. Massey states that the outlook for the shipping position has greatly improved, and he thinks that while there may, and probably will, be difficulty for some time in getting products such as tallow and hemp carried to British markets, we should get sufficient meat, dairy produce, and wool to keep those great producing industries going without serious inconvenience.

"We are not going to foster rabbitbreeding in this country," said the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. W. D. S. MacDonald) in the House of Representatives. "If we cannot stop it any other way we must stop the export of rabbits. The aim of my department is to go right on with the destruction of rabbits regardless of what the exporters desire. We believe in breeding sheep, and not rabbits."

The Prime Minister (Hon. W. F. Massey) and Sir Joseph Ward, the New Zealand delegates to the Peace Conference, left for London by the Remuera. The Prime Minister gave the following message to the press:—"On our departure to represent New Zealand at the great conference shortly to be held in Europe. I desire to wish my fellow citizens a Merry Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year. Let us all hope that when peace is finally and definitely arranged, it will be worthy of all it has cost in the lives of our brave men and the sacrifices that have been made by our citizens. Kia-ora to all."



SOME OF THE SUPERB SCENIC ATTRACTIONS WITNESSED ON "THE GRAND MOTOR TOUR" OF THE MT. COOK MOTOR CO., LTD.

1. Huxley River, on the new round trip to Mt. Cook. 2. The Hermitage, Mt. Cook, Southern Alps. 3. Malte Brun Hut, Southern Alps. 4. Another view of Huxley River on the new round trip to Mt. Cook.