

## AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Saturday evening in a keenly contested game with his friend Captain Herold. Sir George Grey was another of his close friends and bequeathed his extensive Maori collection to the city.

### Proverbial Patience

No matter how busy he was (and seldom a year passed without an important publication appearing from his pen) he was never too preoccupied to play with his children, and whenever his young son or daughter appeared in the doorway of his book-lined study he would put down his work and, swinging round in his chair to face them, greet them genially: "What can I do for you, Master (or Miss) Cheeseman!" And always he found time for long walks with his family on Sunday afternoons, which incidentally served to increase their knowledge of nature study, his patience with their endless questioning being proverbial. It was characteristic of Cheeseman that he took just as much trouble to answer a child's query as that of the most eminent scientist.

In 1917 he published his jubilee sketch outlining the history of the first 50 years of the Auckland Institute and Museum and citing its future aims. Largely as a result of his far-sighted advice steps were taken to secure a site for a new and larger museum on Observatory Hill, in the Auckland Domain, the Princes Street building being totally unsuited to further additions. By 1920 the institute had collected over £52,000 for this purpose and when it was decided that the proposed museum should be a memorial to the men of the province who gave their lives in the First World War a citizens' committee was set up and further sums collected, the subscriptions amounting to nearly £1 per head of the population. Competitive designs for the building were called for, and 600 were received, 23 coming from Great Britain. It was surely a happy coincidence that the winning design for this war memorial museum was



Mr. Cheeseman was a familiar sight to Aucklanders as he rode on horseback to the museum each day. He is shown here outside his home, "Marunui," Remuera, with his daughter.

the work of three young returned soldiers, Messrs. Grierson, Aimer, and Draffin, of Auckland.

The edifice, which covers almost an acre, was begun in 1925 and took 4 years to complete, with the result that Auckland today has a museum building which vies with Cardiff, Belfast, Saint John, N.B., and half a dozen others for the proud title of the Empire's most beautiful museum, to quote the words of S. F. Markham, M.A., B.Litt., at the Norwich Conference, Mr. Markham having spent 7 years visiting nearly every important museum in the British Empire. (Mr. Markham, in collaboration with Dr. H. C. Richards, compiled "A Directory of the Museums

and Art Galleries in Australia and New Zealand," which was published by the Museums Association, London.) Furthermore, he stated that Mr. Cheeseman's efforts constituted the most inspiring record of what one man could do that had ever happened in the museum field.

### Greek Architecture

The architecture follows the Greek order, the facade and front colonnade being of Doric design, and the lofty pillars of the Hypostyle Hall are Ionic, forming a dignified approach to the central Hall of Memories with its high dome roofed with stained glass in glowing jewel colours and its walls inscribed with the names of over 7000 soldiers, sailors, and airmen of Auckland Province who made the supreme sacrifice in the First World War. Beyond the Hall of Memories is the Apsidal Chapel, which contains a shrine of black marble.

At the ceremonial opening on November 28, 1929, the Governor-General, Sir Charles Fergusson, referred to the impressive ceremony for those who died in battle in ancient Greece, a simple commemoration of duty faithfully done, and urged that the sacrifice of our fallen be a call to duty for the living. The doors were opened in response to His Excellency's knocking with a carved mere and the official party then entered the building, followed by the next-of-kin of the fallen and later by returned servicemen and relatives.

Next day the Maori chiefs and their tribesfolk assembled from all parts of the province for the tomo, the dedication ceremony of the large Ngati-maru meeting-house named after their leading ancestor, Hotunui, to whom it once belonged, Their Excellencies being the first to enter the meeting-house after the traditional ceremony had been performed by Tutanekai Taua.



The Auckland Institute and Museum, which was opened in 1876 by the Marquis of Normanby.