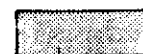


FLAGS OF EARLY NEW ZEALAND — No. FIVE



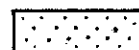
RED



BLUE



GREEN



WHITE

THE TARANAKI RIFLE VOLUNTEERS

The first major engagement of the Maori Wars took place at Waireka, near New Plymouth, in March, 1860. British Regular troops, sailors and marines from H.M.S. Niger took part in this battle, along with the Taranaki Militia and Rifle Volunteers, said to be the first British Volunteer troops to become engaged with an enemy in the field. In November of the same year, the Volunteers again fought beside the Regulars in the battle of Mahoetahi, two miles from Waitara, where the Maoris lost about a third of their force, including several chiefs.

To commemorate these engagements, an impressive ceremony took place at New Plymouth on 25th June, 1861, at which the ladies of Taranaki presented colours to the Militia and Volunteers. The Volun-

teers' flag displayed a red St. George's Cross on a black ground, with the Union Jack in the upper quarter. The centre-piece was a view of Mt. Egmont embroidered in green and white upon a crimson field, and encircled by a blue band with the inscription "Taranaki Volunteers". A golden crown appeared above the centre piece, and below it a green wreath with orange coloured blossoms, below which was the inscription "Waireka". The Militia flag was on a blue background and omitted the St. George's Cross.

In presenting the colours to the two corps. Mrs. Col. Warre assured them of the "grateful and affectionate interest" of the ladies of Taranaki, and of their deep appreciation of the bravery and devotion which had proved "that your true English blood has not deteriorated by your transfer to a distant colony".

Flags have always meant much to the British family of nations, for there is no greater seafaring race than the British. Of all company flags carried around the world by British ships, none is better known than that of the Shell Tanker Fleet.

To ports throughout the world, the Shell tanker carries — in addition to crude oil and petroleum — an ever-increasing number of vital industrial chemicals, formulated by Shell scientists from petroleum raw materials: acetone, alcohol, ammonia, glycerine and sulphur, to name only a few — products of Shell for world-wide use.