

THE DECLARATION OF PEACE.

ON Monday morning, shortly after 10 o'clock, the pealing of the Town Hall bell announced to the citizens of Dunedin that the war in South Africa was a thing of the past, and that peace had been declared. The following telegram from the Acting-Premier, Sir J. G. Ward, conveyed the welcome news:—'It is with intense pleasure that I advise you that I have just received intimation that peace has been declared.'

Lord Kitchener wired to his Excellency the Governor from Pretoria under date June 1, as follows:—
'Peace signed last night.'

No sooner was the news received in Dunedin than business was suspended and people rushed from factory, warehouse, and shop towards the Town Hall, where it was announced a meeting would be held. From nearly every business place floated flags. The meeting at the Town Hall was addressed by the Mayor and several prominent citizens, the keynote of the speeches being thankfulness that the war was ended and that peace reigned once more in South Africa. Later on the enthusiasm of the people found expression in a monster procession which paraded the principal streets.

In all parts of the Colony the receipt of the news that peace was declared was made the occasion for great rejoicing.

In Wellington an immense concourse of people assembled in the front of the General Post Office. The firing of rockets and the shrieking of whistles and sirens expressed the general joy. The Mayor was the first to give the official announcement, and he was followed by Sir J. G. Ward, who gave an intensely patriotic speech, punctuated by singing and cheering. The crowd took the horses out of the Acting-Premier's cab and started a procession down the street. A whole holiday was declared amidst immense popular enthusiasm. The whole town was a mass of bunting, and every place of business was closed.

In Christchurch the Mayor proclaimed a holiday. Processions were hastily organised, the schools closed, and the whole community engaged in celebrating the glad tidings. The chief feature of the celebrations was the procession organised by the employees in the Addington Workshops, and which contained several capital effigies of prominent figures in the war, such as Lords Roberts and Kitchener, Generals White, Baden-Powell, Colonel Robin, and one of Mr. Kruger and John Bull shaking hands over a glass of wine. A mass meeting was held in Cathedral square in the afternoon.

The following cable news regarding the terms of the peace agreement was received on Tuesday:—

After signifying their acceptance of the British terms all the Boer delegates arrived at Pretoria on Saturday and signed, at 10.30 at night, a document containing the terms of surrender. Lord Kitchener despatched a message to England, and added that Lord Milner and himself had also signed. The Boer conference at Vereeniging on Saturday came to a unanimous decision, and the principal leaders accompanied the delegates to Pretoria. The 26th and 27th have been proclaimed public holidays at Pretoria.

There were great jubiliations in London at the declaration of peace. Immense crowds gathered, singing patriotic songs, carrying flags, and wearing rosettes. Processions took place in the streets till a late hour.

Mr. John Redmond, addressing a league meeting at Kensington on Saturday, said the pacification of South Africa would not be witnessed in this or the coming generation. The Dutch would regain their independence and power. England was willing to pay the sacrifice to conciliate the colonies, but the goodwill of Ireland exceeded that of the 32 colonies.

General joy is expressed in Canada and the English provinces. Satisfaction is expressed in America and on the Continent.

The 'London' Standard says that England's gratitude would be associated with ungrudging admiration for the most valiant adversaries the Motherland and colonies had ever encountered. There was no cause for humiliation. They were defeated, but not disgraced.

There was great jubilation in Brisbane when the news was received, but strange to say there was no public manifestation in Sydney.

Mr Balfour, in the House of Commons, announced that the terms of peace include—That the Dutch language is to be used in courts if necessary, and taught in schools where the parents desire it; rifles to be retained for protection; military occupation to be withdrawn when self-government is substituted; no special tax on the Transvaal or Orange River Colony landed property for the war, but £3,000,000 to be raised for restocking farms; rebels to be tried according to the laws of their colony, but there is to be no death penalty, the rank and file to be disfranchised for life.

The Pollard Opera Company.

THE Princess Theatre has been crowded every night since the opening of the season of the Pollard Opera Company. 'Florodora,' which had been a great draw, gave place to 'La Mascotte,' which will be produced to-night for the last time during the present season. On Friday and following nights 'The Rose of Persia' will be staged for the first time in Dunedin. This comic opera is sure to attract crowded houses, as it met with great success wherever produced.

We have been unable to insert a communication from Waimate, as it was not accompanied by the name of the writer as a guarantee of good faith.

It is understood that the Government intends to give local engineering firms an opportunity to tender for the construction of a steamer capable of carrying 1000 passengers for Lake Wakatipu.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

MR. SEDDON has left Cape Town for London. He had a splendid send-off.

The *Triad* is generally noted for the excellence of its reading matter, the June number of this magazine being well up to the usual standard.

The Catholics of Ashburton are taking steps to present Mr McSherry, who has been master of the Catholic boys' school during the past five years, with a substantial recognition of his services.

At a meeting of representatives of banking institutions in Wellington it was agreed that there should be a discontinuance of holidays on St. Patrick's, St. George's, and St. Andrew's days, and that on race days the banks would be kept open for a certain time in the morning. These arrangements would need ratification by the Legislature as some of the holidays which it is proposed to dispense with are statutory.

SPEAKING at Otaki the other day Sir J. G. Ward said the Government were prepared to take the whole line and lands of the Manawatu Railway Company at full computation of what they believed to be their full value. If the shareholders decided to continue to hold the line the State would not do anything to injure them, and the Government would do their best to carry on their own line legitimately in the interests of the country as a whole. No differential rate would be imposed except where it was necessary in order to compete with winter carriage.

ON Thursday morning (says the *Wanganui Herald*) about 50 children, pupils of the Marist Brothers' school and of the convent, received First Communion at St. Mary's Church. The occasion was an appropriate one, it being the feast of Corpus Christi. The boys were attired in black clothes with white sashes and the girls wore white dresses with wreaths and veils. Before giving Communion, the Very Rev. Dean Kirk addressed the children, and exhorted them in a few impressive words, to remember this the most eventful day of their lives and never to fall into sin, reminding them that they were soldiers of God and to lead lives accordingly. The children's choir rendered three pretty hymns appropriate to the occasion.

A pleasant social gathering took place in the Coffee Palace on Monday night, when the letter-carriers of Dunedin held their third annual reunion. About 50 sat down to the tables and the gathering included not only the officials of the Chief Post Office, but several country officers. Mr Scott (chief letter sorter) presided, supported by Mr G. B. Dall (chief clerk) and Mr Ward (of the Money Order Office). The vice-chair was filled by Mr A. Smith (assistant letter sorter). The vice-chairman, in proposing the toast of 'The Department,' said that since their last gathering the department had made great strides. The penny post had been inaugurated, and this had proved a boon to the Colony. Mr Dall, in reply, said when he came to Dunedin there were six letter-carriers in the office, and now there were 29. This went to show the expansion of the postal department to cope with the increased business of the Colony. The position of the letter-carrier, remarked Mr Dall in conclusion, was one of the greatest walks in life. Mr Ward also responded, and did so in a humorous vein. Songs were given by Messrs G. Clarkson, C. Strachan, A. Smith, D. Campbell, W. Brown, T. Anthony, W. B. Dall, G. Foster, W. Easton, and T. O'Connell. The programme also included violin solos, selections by Messrs C. G. O. Naumann, and W. T. Ward, and a recitation by Mr G. Jackson. The committee who had the arrangements in hand were Messrs W. Smith, A. Smith, W. Miller, J. Bain, G. Clarkson, T. Anthony, and A. J. Mitchell (hon. secretary).

If the Governor has not been misinformed, the Costley Home at Auckland is not as well managed as it might be. Speaking in Auckland the other day, Lord Ranfurly said: 'In my remarks on the home I do not wish to find any fault with the management, or with the possible necessary regulations in force. But when I look around the home and at the number there and see that there are about 200 inmates, and am informed that there are only two male and two female attendants to look after these old people, I can only say that it is utterly and entirely insufficient. And what is the result? The place is not kept as clean as it should be, and the people are not kept as clean as they should be. Then again, there is not that proper subdivision or classification that there should be. The sick cannot have proper attendance, and I have failed to find out that they receive proper diet according to their illnesses. No doubt if a doctor may order any special diet they get it; but if none is ordered, they get the same food as other old people. Something more should be done for them. One other matter regarding this home: The cost of food is 4s 0½d per week per inmate. The whole cost of maintenance and food is 7s 4½d per inmate per week. Many of those in the home are old-age pensioners. Out of their pensions a sum of 6s per week is deducted. Many others are in receipt of Imperial pensions, being old soldiers, men who have fought and, in some instances, bled for the Empire. Are they treated the same? No. The whole of their pension is taken away, and up to 10s per week. Why should they be treated differently from old-age pensioners? I cannot understand this thing, and cannot see what justice there is in it. Also, I question very much the legality of taking 10s from these men, considering that, including all expenses, 7s 4½d is the total weekly cost. Is this a Costley charity that is being run at a profit? I mention these things publicly because it is only by the people of Auckland taking these things up that wrongs will be righted. The workhouses at Home are far better and far preferable in many things to the Costley Home. I hope on my next visit to find the Costley Home in a very different position. The Costley legacy for the Home for the Aged Poor seems to have been taken to do work that rates should legally have done, and the rates of the city and district have been saved by that amount.'