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Editorial Comment

The Imperial Link.

New Zealand has just given a very stirring demonstration of its loyalty to the Crown, and we believe that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will leave our shores happy in the knowledge that this, his most distant dominion, is true to the core in its support of the British monarchy. We in New Zealand are very robust believers in Imperialism. We have had our lessons as to the value of the British Navy, the real practical value of close association with the United Kingdom; we live under a social order inherited from that community, and we know full well that our constitution enables us to provide ourselves with the purest democracy in the world. Thus there are sentimental and practical reasons for our loyalty to Britain. As Imperialists, we look to the King as the head of this great Empire—a figure of dignity removed from the bitterness of partisan struggles. Imperialism, centred around our monarch, is on a high plane. The King is the real connecting link between the Old Country and its overseas dominions. The splendid demonstrations which greeted the Prince in every part of New Zealand constituted a revelation to ourselves as a people, regarding our capacity to enthuse. We exceeded our reputation in this respect. So recent an observer as M. Andre Seigfried, Secretary of the French Mission, wrote upon his return to France: "New Zealanders are by temperament neither expansive nor demonstrative . . . Like their parent stock in Great Britain, they are cool, reserved and serious." But we were neither cool nor reserved in our demonstrations of friendship for the Heir Apparent, and his visit has been an epoch-making Imperial event on which we can mutually congratulate ourselves.