

ORANGE BLOSSOMS.**WALDEN-GRAVATT.**

A very pretty wedding, which had been looked forward to with much interest, was solemnized in the Leigh Anglican Church at 7.30 p.m. on Dec. 2nd, the contracting parties being Miss Muriel Gravatt, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs C. E. Gravatt, of Leigh, and Mr T. H. Walden, of Whangateau. Rev. C. Addenbrooke officiated and the ceremony took place under a beautifully decorated floral wedding bell. Mr Grigg presided at the organ and played the "Bridal March" as the bridal party entered the church and the "Wedding March" as they left; a hymn was also sung, "The Voice That Breathed O'er Eden." The church was packed to overflowing, many standing in the porch or outside. The bride was given away by her father, and looked very charming in a dainty frock of pale blue crepe de chene and wore the orthodox veil and orange blossoms, and was attended by her sister, Miss Alberta Gravatt, as bridesmaid, who wore a pretty frock of cream embossed fuji silk. The bridegroom was attended by Mr Lionel Howden, of Auckland, as best man.

As a general invitation had been issued a large assemblage responded and an adjournment was made to the Public Hall where a reception was held, Mr and Mrs Gravatt welcoming their guests at the door. The hall had been nicely decorated and Scholium's orchestra discoursed sweet music for the dances, indulged in by young and old with unflagging energy. Refreshments were handed round to thirsty dancers and onlookers. In the intervals songs and recitations were given by Messrs Stewart and Dunbar, and Mr Milligan obliged the company by giving some choice records on his gramophone.

At midnight a dainty supper was served, which was greatly appreciated as many guests had come from long distances. The bridegroom is indeed to be congratulated as all the cakes, confectionery and beautiful four decker wedding cake were the handiwork of his bride. Mr Addenbrooke, in a humorous speech, proposed the health of the happy couple, the health of the bridesmaid and parents were voiced by the bridegroom and Mr Whitaker.

Before separating, Mr Whitaker, on behalf of the company thanked Mr and Mrs Gravatt for their unbounded hospitality, accompanied by musical honours.

KAIPARA FLATS.

(Our Own Correspondent.)

Last Thursday an excellent day was put in at the courts by some dozen members of the tennis club. A lot of work was done on the new courts and numerous ladder matches played. The following team journeyed to Dome Valley on Saturday:—Misses Linton and Nordstrand, Mrs Foy, Miss Rita Henderson, Messrs R. Ellis, B. Adolph, L. Scott, J. Thomson, C. Phillips and W. Adolph. Dome Valley were very kind, letting the team win by ten matches to three, and looking after the inner man very successfully.

The drought is the burning topic of the day. Only the people who have top dressed heavily are doing well with their cows. And all roots and forage crops are having a rough spin. Most hay crops are light, in fact, some farmers have had to turn their cows in on to them.

The fine weather has helped road work. The Warkworth road has all been well boxed for three miles out, the extra four feet of boxing on either side, when rolled, giving plenty of room for vehicles to pass. Excellent progress has been made with the earth work on the Hills road with Mr Panui in charge.

"The night was noisy with sneezes."—Plough.

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WORLD'S TALLEST HOTEL.**MONUMENT OF GRATITUDE.**

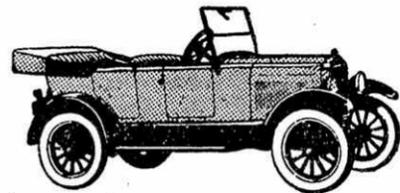
In gratitude for his son's recovery from a serious illness, Mr Oscar Konkle, president of a wealthy real estate company, announces that he will construct in New York the tallest building in the world, containing 65 storeys and towering 800ft. above the street—8ft. higher than the beautiful Woolworth Building—for the purpose of a modern hotel containing 4500 rooms, says the New York correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph." The premises will provide for an inter-denominational church, a hospital, and 12 roof gardens, a bank for missionaries, a diningroom seating 2000 persons, and 10 per cent. of the profits will be devoted to missionary purposes. A suitable site has been procured between 122nd and 123rd streets, and the cost of the project exclusive of the land, which is very costly in New York, will be about £3,000,000. Mr Konkle plans to generate on the premises power for electric light and refrigerating, and 30 lifts. Heat will be provided by fuel supplied from huge tanks in the sub-basement, two storeys below the street level.

Mr Konkle's son, when six years old, was stricken with lockjaw after vaccination. His position was pronounced hopeless, but his father clung to the belief that the boy would live, and vowed that if his hopes came true he would devote his efforts to financing missionary work at home and abroad. The boy lived, and is now at Colgate University, studying to become a medical missionary at the base hospital on the shore of the Victoria Nyanza. One provision for the proposed hotel is that every occupant must be a stockholder. Smoking and drinking of intoxicants will be prohibited, and Sunday newspapers will be eliminated. Missionaries will have the first claim upon the accommodation, and the maximum charge, including room, bath, two meals daily, radio service, hospital and gymnasium privilege, will be four guineas a week—apparently the very cheapest hotel in the American metropolis.

PILOTLESS AEROPLANES.

Arrangements have just been completed for a remarkable flying demonstration to be made at the Istres Aerodrome next month. An aeroplane without any human being on board is to be sent up, make a flight of 200 kilometres, and land again in the aerodrome, the whole flight being controlled by wireless signals from the ground. Flights have already been made in which the pilot, after taking off, did not touch the controls again until he had to land, but this will be the first occasion on which a test has been carried with no one on board the machine, and in which both the taking off and the landing have been accomplished by purely automatic means. The system has been perfected by M. Max Boucher, with the assistance of the engineers, MM. Percheron and Bernardy, and next month's demonstration will be in fulfilment of a contract made with the Under-Secretary for Air. M. Boucher's machine will be piloted by a chrono-barometric device, on which the orders for the whole trip will be registered and carried out, except as modified en route by wireless signals sent from below. Stability is assured by means of gyroscopes acting upon controls in such a way as to correct immediately any irregularity or disturbance of equilibrium. A very ingenious device controls the operation of the landing. Hanging below the machine are two rods with electrical connections with controls. If the machine is in a horizontal position on approaching the ground both rods touch the earth together; but, if it be sloping, one touches after the other, thus adjusting the rudder planes so as to ensure a proper landing position. A commission representing the Air Department has closely followed every step in the development of M. Boucher's system, which, it is claimed, is now no longer in the experimental stage, but fully perfected.

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