

SESS. II.—1897.
NEW ZEALAND.

QUEENSLAND INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, BRISBANE, 1897.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

The Hon. Mr. LARNACH to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Wellington, 28th October, 1897.

SIR,—

I have the honour to report that Mr. Meadows, the Secretary appointed, acting under instructions, proceeded on the 22nd April, in charge of New Zealand Government exhibits per s.s. "Hauroro" to Brisbane, and arrived at Sydney on the 26th April, thence leaving Sydney per s.s. "Tyrian," arrived at Brisbane on the 4th May. He was met by the members of the Queensland Exhibition Executive and proffered every assistance in the arrangement of his exhibits. To insure perfect care in transit, Mr. Meadows had wisely arranged for as many manufacturers' exhibits as possible to accompany him; but, owing to the short notice given to exhibitors, some were not ready with their exhibits, and these consequently did not leave New Zealand in time for being placed in the Exhibition prior to the opening day. Several exhibits for which space had been bespoken did not, in the end, put in an appearance.

The disadvantages of transhipment of such goods at Sydney are very great, not only on account of the delay which occurs there, but also from serious deterioration and damage that must take place on Sydney wharves caused by the great want of sufficient shelter, together with careless handling and indifferent protection whilst goods are waiting transhipment.

The site granted by the National Association of Queensland for the Exhibition buildings covered about 11 acres, and it is one of exceptional beauty and convenience. On a portion of the ground stand the substantial permanent brick buildings erected by the Association in 1891, at a cost of £20,500. These buildings comprise two large halls in which were installed the mining court of Queensland and the art galleries. Adjoining these courts was the concert hall in which, in 1892, a magnificent organ had been built costing nearly £4,500. The loan of £30,000 from the Government to the Association in 1888 provided the funds for the buildings and the organ. General exhibits from all parts of the world were displayed in annexes strongly built of timber and iron, a handsome fernery and bush-house connecting the annexes with the permanent buildings. The fact that the value of space applied for by local manufacturers, traders, and exhibitors exceeded £4,000 should, with judicious management, have placed the promoters of the Exhibition beyond the possibility of any loss.

The attendance on the opening day was very large—some thirty-five thousand people were estimated as being present; it was also large when any special show was held, notably so during Jubilee days, and on the occasions of the Annual Stock and the Agricultural Machinery Shows, held for three days, under the auspices of the National Association of Queensland.

The total attendance reached over 320,000.

NEW ZEALAND COURT.

The space of 8,000 square feet allotted to New Zealand was favourably situated, bordering on one of the main avenues, and was exceedingly well lighted. The frontage of our court was devoted to agricultural machinery and general exhibits. The wall-space at the back was utilised for the display of many excellent photographs of New Zealand scenery, which showed to great advantage, and were much admired by visitors. Attractive descriptions in conspicuous lettering drew attention to the different groups and the various localities of scenery represented. It is satisfactory to point out that the New Zealand Court quickly became one of the popular rendezvous of the Exhibition, and very great interest was taken from the representations shown of New Zealand as a health and tourist resort, as well as for its many advantages offered to settlers under the agricultural conditions and prospects of the colony. Notices placed in prominent positions throughout the buildings drew attention to the fact that any information regarding exhibits, tourist routes, land, land-settle-