

APPENDIX No. 2.

[Extract from the *New Zealand Times*, Wellington, of 2nd November, 1909.]

AUCKLAND GUNNERS.—VISIT TO WELLINGTON.—AN UNUSUAL INCIDENT.

On Saturday afternoon sixty-five men and three officers of the Auckland Garrison Artillery arrived in Wellington. They are now returning to their homes individually. The circumstances of their visit are so very unusual as to require explanation.

The Auckland Garrison Artillery is an enthusiastic corps. It takes its work very seriously and aims at high proficiency. In spite of its most strenuous efforts it has always been defeated in shooting records by the Petone Naval Artillery, whose success in the competition for the proficiency shield has been remarkable. The Aucklanders were unable to understand how Petone managed to do so well. Their desire to discover the secret of Petone's success led to their invasion of Wellington. It has been stated that they came "quite unexpectedly," and announced that their purpose was to triumph over Petone in a match with the big guns at Fort Kelburne. The captain of the Auckland Artillery denies this. He states that they came by invitation, that they were expected, and that they only came to view the equipment at the disposal of the Petone men and the methods they pursued. Having seen these they had accomplished the object of their mission. The train fares for the men were met by a small levy on those who travelled and a substantial contribution by the officers. When they arrived at Wellington they found that no arrangements had been made for their reception. Eventually accommodation was provided at Fort Kelburne, and there the visitors remained until yesterday morning.

The whole thing, however, seems to be a burlesque. It is certain that the Petone Navals had expected a visit from the Auckland corps. Communications had passed between the officers on the subject. The Aucklanders telegraphed prior to departure from home that they were leaving for Wellington, and they received a telegram from Captain Ellis stating that he was delighted at the proposed visit, and that arrangements were complete for their reception. When the train reached Wellington the visitors landed without greeting, and on going to Fort Kelburne were given to understand that their arrival was a surprise. Captain Knyvett, of Auckland, states that he was told by two of the Petone officers that no arrangements had been made to meet them because Colonel Robin had informed them that the Auckland men had not been able to make arrangements to come, as the Department had refused to issue railway passes. His company had no thought of a gunnery competition, but came to study the conditions under which the Petone men worked.

The Official Version.—No Intimation received.

Colonel Robin, Chief of the General Staff, questioned by a *Times* reporter regarding the official aspect of the matter, said that the first knowledge received at headquarters of a contemplated visit from the Auckland Garrison Artillery Volunteers was a communication from the Officer Commanding the Auckland District. This was opened at 9.30 on Saturday morning, permission being asked to make a trip to Wellington in uniform. That letter was sent back the same morning by the Main Trunk mail (in order that there should be no delay), asking for some information about the trip and the reasons. Up to then no authority had been given from headquarters for the trip to be undertaken. The next thing he heard of the matter was an intimation the same day from the Officer Commanding the Wellington District that strange troops were in the city. It appeared that the captain of the Auckland Artillery had not even reported himself on arrival to the Officer Commanding the District, a duty devolving on a responsible officer when removing troops from one place to another. If there had been such intimation in the present case it would have been the duty of a staff officer to meet them and tell them where they had to go. The matter would, of course, form the subject of inquiry.

APPENDIX No. 3.

[Extract from the *Evening Post*, Wellington, of 1st November, 1909.]

A SURPRISE PARTY.—AUCKLAND GUNNERS ARRIVE.—AN AMUSING INCIDENT.

The garrison artillerymen at present in training at Fort Kelburne, Ngahauranga, had a visit from some sixty Auckland gunners on Saturday evening. The guests were totally unexpected, and the local men were naturally anxious, with sixty more mouths to feed, as to how long the rations would hold out.

It appears that some one has blundered. Some time ago the Petone Naval Volunteers, who are in training at Fort Kelburne at the moment, agreed to a friendly contest with their Auckland comrades, conditionally upon the Northern artillerymen obtaining official permission. When the Auckland men arrived it was concluded that they had obtained permission. It was all a mistake, as it turns out. The Aucklanders, who were commanded by Captain Knyvett, Lieutenant Greenhough, and with them Surgeon-Captain Murray, come down prepared to show what they