

THE CONTINGENT'S SEND-OFF.

Poverty Bay Herald, Issue 8770, 9 March 1900, Page 3

The fifteen men selected to form our portion of the Fourth Contingent, together with the twelve men who will be chosen this afternoon for the Fifth Contingent, proceed to Wellington by the Flora on Sunday afternoon.

Mr Cargill, the local manager of the Union Company, has been unsparing in his efforts to assist the Committee in their endeavors to perfect the arrangements for a suitable send-off, and has arranged with his Auckland office to give the Flora good despatch on Saturday so as to get her here early on Sunday afternoon.

The horses will all be embarked on Sunday afternoon, Mr DesBarres with his usual good nature having kindly volunteered to render every assistance in this matter.

The steamer's ordinary passengers will leave the wharf at 4 o'clock, and the members of the contingents will muster as before at the firebell at 5 p.m. sharp.

They will be accompanied from there to the wharf by the bands, friendly societies, members of local bodies, fire brigade, and others.

The steamers will leave the wharf at 5.30 o'clock sharp and steam out to the Flora, which by that time should have taken in the horses, and finished all the working of cargo.

As soon as the contingent embark the Flora will lift her anchor and steam slowly out of the Bay, the steamers accompanying her for about a mile, returning to port about 6.30.

The Committee have arranged for a band of workers to barricade the wharf on Saturday afternoon between the two large sheds, thus giving plenty of room for the contingent and their officials, and there will also be a platform erected from which the last few words will be spoken.

This will also guard against accident from over-crowding, and will enable those on the wharf to see and hear everything that is going on.

As before, all the steamers of the port will be at the disposal of the Committees, including the Noko, and Tawera, kindly lent by Messrs Kennedy and Evans, and the Tuna by Messrs Nelson Bros.

The Contingent Committee have made arrangements to hold a church parade on Sunday morning in the Theatre Royal. Cannon Webb has kindly consented to read the lessons and the sermon will be preached by the Rev. J. G. Paterson.

After the service at the Theatre, an offertory will be taken in aid of the Fourth Contingent.

Mr James Craig has generously offered to provide the men of the contingent with their Sunday's dinner.

AT THE CAMP.

The men at the camp were early astir this morning. Squad drill and manual exercises, were held after the ordinary duties of the morning had been performed. At nine o'clock a parade took place, and the company afterwards proceeded under Major McCredie to the Kaiti rifle range, where the shooting competition for the pair of field glasses, presented by W. Acland Hood, took place. A number of new applicants for enrolment have been received, and these will be dealt with by the Committee this afternoon. The men assembled at Tucker's paddock at three o'clock for riding practice and for selection, the following volunteers for service being present: James Henry James, John Smith, Joseph Wall, John Cameron, William J. Brown, Archie Campbell, George Carter, Anthony Webb, George Quinn, Charles Croon, Henry J. Harris, George Simpson, Edmund Kenny, R. J. Smith, Thomas Harris, Henry Driscoll, Robert Quedley, Hubert Tardley, Thomas Burch, George Grey, Patrick Brady, and John Chas. Ferris. Those selected will probably go into camp though upon this point the Committee are not agreed. The total number sent from this district including the Fifth Contingent is forty three, so Poverty Bay should be well represented at the front. The orderly officers at the camp are Sergeant Arthur and Corporal Barton, who have been appointed to act in these positions whilst the troopers are in camp.

The Committee acknowledge, with thanks, the following gifts:—A cask of beer and a quantity of lemonade from Mr D. J. Barry for the men at the camp; puddings from Mr How Chow; a parcel of books from Dr Cole, including three instruction books on ambulance, as well as a reliance tournequet. Mrs Mann supplied the camp with delicacies to-day; meat was forwarded by Mr Macfarlane, and bread by Mr Craig.

September 1900 - THE "GISBORNE" GUN.

A letter written by Trooper G B CARTER

The persistency of Trooper G. B. Carter, who in spite of various obstacles thrown in his path succeeded in getting to the front has been rewarded, and his friends will be pleased to hear of his promotion. In a letter written from Mafeking on August 4 to his mother, he states:—"I have been on the move ever since you received my last letter. We had not been on our way to Fort Tuli more than three or four days when we were hauled back again and sent here. It is very interesting to be in a place of interest like this, and to be able to have a look at the different things and precautions taken by Lieutenant-General Baden-Powell to protect the town, and

also to look at the damaged buildings. I have been in luck lately. After leaving Bulawayo we travelled here by train, spending two nights in the train. After we had been here a few days I was offered a non-commissioned officer's place in a Maxim gun battery, and was asked to select four others out of our squadron. I was told that I would command a gun, and after considering it I accepted. The squadron was fallen in and I selected a section of boys, and it turned out afterwards that they were all Gisborne exports. To-day it was read out in the orders that Corporal Carter would from this date be sergeant in command of No. 4 gun of the Maxim Gun Battery. We call our gun the "Gisborne," and I hope it will make a name for itself. This battery is made up of two guns from the New South Wales Bushmen. There are 15 men from each regiment—15 from the 5th New Zealand, and 15 from the Australians. This is a peculiar place to live in, nasty dust winds and fairly cool at 5 in the morning, at which time we rise and go out on foot with the guns. We are not allowed to say where we are going or what our movements are, so it is hard for me to give you anything really of interest. Travelling from Marandellas we were obliged to go very slowly on account of the bullock waggons, which carried our clothes. We took about 24 days to travel nearly 300 miles—terribly slow. We saw several things of interest, ostriches, deer, snakes, and ant bears. I caught a snake about 5ft long, and our doctor said it was of a very venomous kind and asked me for the skin."

20TH July 1901

THEIR RETURN HOME

The Gisborne members of the Fourth and Fifth Contingents and Trooper Allan Aislabie (Brabant's Horse) arrived home by the Zealandia this morning. The boys were met on board the steamer by His Worship the Mayor, and were given a hearty welcome home. It was explained to them that there would be no formal reception at the wharf, and for this they seemed thankful, as they stated that they had had a good deal of that sort of thing since they arrived back in New Zealand, and were getting tired of it. They all seemed greatly amused at the fact of "Tony" Webb being the only one of their number to receive the welcome organised for last Thursday, and explained that the reason they did not come up to time was that they had been invited to the Wellington races, and thought they would not miss the opportunity of trying to ascertain for the benefit of the Gisborne sporting public how dividends on first

and second horses worked. The boys all come back in the best of health; in fact, some of them look much sturdier and stouter than they were when they went away, so that the hardships of the campaign have apparently had little ill effect on them. The only one who was injured, Trooper Thomson, son of Captain Thomson, is in good health, and is suffering nothing from the smashing in of one or two of his ribs. All agree that the experience of warfare was one they would not have liked to have missed. They had to put up with a good deal, but they had some rare fun. The worst part of the campaign was the long trek from Beira to Mafeking, in which, as one of them states, they were confined to bare rations, half a pound of beef and a few biscuits, and there was no "loot" on the road to supplement their larder. They enjoyed the trip back on the Tagus, notwithstanding the cold, and speak of her as a splendid vessel; and since landing in New Zealand they have been entertained all along the line, the Napier Reception Committee having been particularly kind in billeting them at the Masonic and Criterion Hotels, and altogether treating them well. Upon questioning the men as to absentees, our representative learned that Troopers Gannon, Walker, Bouppen, Langham, Carter and Davidson remained behind in Africa "to see the thing through," joining the Seventh Contingent. Lieutenants Arthur (whom they all agree is a splendid officer, popular with everybody) and Barton (promoted to be sergeant) and Sharpe have gone to England. Those who have returned home say they have had enough of it, and are glad to be back. Upon arrival at the wharf the troopers were met by their friends and taken to various homes. To-morrow morning there will be a church parade, and on Monday evening the citizens' welcome will be given, the troopers being entertained at a social in the Theatre Royal.

