

TONGA & NEW ZEALAND WELCOME QUEEN

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After a flying-boat journey from Fiji the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh came ashore at Tonga. The 'friendly Islands' (the name Capt. Cook gave them close on 200 years ago) and their very friendly ruler, ~~Queen Salote~~, had been awaiting the royal visit most keenly, ~~and~~ ~~here~~. The 6-foot-3 Queen of the Islands ^{introduced} ~~presented~~ her no-less majestic sons, ~~the~~. The bouquet of welcome was presented by Queen Salote's grandchild, the little daughter of Crown Prince Tungi. ~~That Polynesian~~

The Polynesian people of the Islands showed, ~~without making~~ ~~conscious effort~~, that their hospitality, natural and spontaneous, is without superior anywhere in the world. They cheered all the way as Her Majesty was driven to the Queen's Palace.

Every visitor to the Tongan Royal Residence is shown the ancient tortoise, Tu'Imalila. It's said to have been presented in 1770 to the ~~the~~ King of Tonga by Captain Cook. For the past few years it's

~~has been blind. If the tortoise leads a solitary life, not so~~
been blind. If the tortoise leads a solitary life, not so the flying foxes. They are a species of fruit-eating bats, very worrying to fruit growers in Australia, but not to Tonga, where no-one worries about anything.

At the Wesleyan Church, a building which holds 3,000 people, the minister welcomed Her Majesty, the Duke of Edinburgh and Queen Salote to a combined service. Large though it is the church was full. Hundreds of people had to hear what they could, waiting outside. They didn't mind.

The 50,000 inhabitants of Tonga are almost as large-hearted as Queen Salote herself, ^{who ruled 4 35 yrs} ~~living a life~~ in ⁷ ~~the~~ paradise of simple plenty. ~~They have been ruled by~~

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~~Queen Salote for 35 years, since she succeeded her father, King Tubou II. Bidding the Minister farewell the Royal party drove to the Mala'e, a large open space near the palace, serving as a kind of village green. Here, the main item on the programme was the feast of welcome,~~

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~~and in the Tongan Islands the word feast does not mean a~~
at The long tables ~~for 1,000 guests~~

1,000 guests sat down to 1,000 roasted sucking pigs, with duck and chicken, supported, lest anybody felt peckish, ^{by} ~~with~~ lobsters and fish, breadfruit and melon, bananas and

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island vegetables. All that makes our own Xmas dinners seem like a snack on a country station ~~in the~~

~~in the~~

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(3x Sal) A fest of these dimensions called for a "cabaret" such as only the Friendly Islands could provide. The performers had their ^{little} lunch later.

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When the Lakalaka dances were all over the time came for Tonga to say goodbye to its young royal visitors. On shore the people watched as the liner Gothic/ ~~was~~ ^{prepared to get} underr way.

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The timetable was inflexible. Her Majesty and the Duke had to observe it. It was a much garlanded Royal party that went aboard the Liner to resume the voyage. Queen Salote's last gesture as hostess was to go out in a small boat to wave he last goodbye. Members of the Royal staff threw their garlands into the water, meaning by Tongan custom, ~~that~~ we hope to come again.

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Ahead lay New Zealand, the first port of call, Auckland the largest city of the Dominion, though not the capital.

A host of small craft sailed out to escort the Gothic into harbour.

(aft guns) Auckland is a great city of nearly ^{350,000} ~~400,000~~ people. Here Her Majesty was entering one of her fairest Dominions. New Zealand, however, was looking by no means its fairest. It had rained slightly in Tonga. It rained more than slightly here. The weather did relent for a time as Her Majesty came ashore, welcomed by the Governor-General, Sir Willoughby Norrie, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Holland. A reminder that two races live harmoniously in New Zealand was provided by Maori dancers in native dress. They have equal civil rights in the Dominion but cling with pride to their customs and tradition.

On the balcony of the Town Hall, when the rain had started again, the Queen replied to the City's address of welcome. When Mr. Holland placed a raincoat on her shoulders Her Majesty said, "thank you, Sir Walter Raleigh." It was a great disappointment to Auckland people that they could not present their city to the Queen in its usually pleasant aspect. Everyone, however, remarked that the one completely imperturbable person at the civic ceremony was the Queen herself. Her Majesty was rewarded later on when as the principal guest of the Governor General she attended a garden party in the grounds of Government house. The rain held off and among the 2,000 people present the Queen moved informally.

5-80 [Despite the weather it was a good beginning to Her Majesty's tour of New Zealand.