

Farewell to New Zealand

2097

Perhaps it was fitting that Invercargill, the centre of the Scottish Southlands - should be the last city in New Zealand to greet the Queen... For sons of Scotland have ^{long} ~~ever~~ been ~~pioneers and~~ travellers, and as such, their welcome to Royal guests, ~~so~~ many miles from home, came straight from the heart.

As for the children, well, they were determined to make the most of the Queen's last full day in New Zealand.

On the way from Dunedin, the brief halt at Gore had turned the tiny town upside-down with enthusiasm; but the Royal Bouquet was duly presented. Quickly the time passed, and soon the city's welcome became a message of God Speed - "Thank You and Try to come again!"

And the liner Gothic was waiting at the quayside, as the Queen and the Duke (accompanied by the Premier, Mr Holland) arrived at Bluff - a tiny oyster-fishing port.

On the quayside came the last farewells ^{AND HIS WIFE} To Mr Holland, [^] who had attended the Queen so often during the Tour. Good-byes, too, for the Governor-General, Sir Willoughby Norrie and Lady Norrie...

And with the loyal, heart-felt cheers of New Zealand to speed them on their way, the Queen and the Duke boarded the liner.

The previous evening, the Queen had broadcast, thanking all those, in City, town and lonely wayside halt, who had helped to make her visit both pleasant and memorable.

Slowly, the Gothic moved away - bound for ~~Australia~~ Sydney - well over a thousand miles away - where a big continent and even bigger ~~it~~ welcomes awaited Her Majesty.

~~And to the strains of Maori songs of farewell - the Queen waved good-bye.~~

^{OF NEW ZEALAND WAS OVER.}
~~The Royal Tour was over. To the Commonwealth, New Zealand had become more than two huge islands in the Pacific. They knew it now for a ~~country~~ country of rich pasture-land - rugged hills - lonely settlers and happy Maori folk. A country whose people will long treasure the memories of thirty-nine days that they shared with their Queen.~~