

Vast crowds packed the streets of Invercargill, in the closing hours of the tour of Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh in New Zealand.... and the royal visitors waved gaily to them, from the hotel where the Queen was to make her farewell broadcast.

One of the last receptions was at Gore, where a little girl presented the customary bouquet --- upside down.

All through the night, thousands of New Zealanders had been journeying out to their Land's End --- the little town of Bluff, where ~~the Gothic was waiting to take the Queen across the~~ Tasman Sea to Australia. They crowded down to the little wharf, cheering wildly as the Queen and the Duke went by, with Mr Sidney Holland, the Prime Minister.

Then --- there were the last good-byes before they went on board. As when they had first come to the Dominion --- into Auckland Harbour just before Christmas --- the weather was rainy and cold. But this in no way damped the ~~spirits~~ spirits either of the royal travellers or the crowds that were saying good-bye.

The Gothic is steaming slowly out past Stewart Island, heading towards Sydney; taking with it --- and leaving behind --- unrivalled memories of a unique journey. ~~They~~ ~~thousands of miles and not thousands of new~~ ~~assuredly~~ ~~assuredly~~