

in doing so remarked that the action of the government in so rapidly equipping and despatching 2000 troops and 3000 horses to uphold the honor of the Empire had evoked admiration from every portion of Her Majesty's dominions. In replying, the Acting-Premier (the Hon. J. G. Ward) alluded to the versatility of Colonel Baden-Powell—his literary, artistic and histrionic abilities, which equalled his skill as a great soldier—and he (Mr. Ward) claimed that it was the man of many parts, who, nowadays, came to the front and remained there.

The toast of the "Post Office Officials," associated with the Secretary, Mr. Wm. Gray, was proposed by Mr. Beauchamp, who spoke in very complimentary terms of the fine patriotic spirit shown by the department. Mr. Wm. Gray suitably replied. "Our Guests" was proposed by the Hon. J. G. Ward and responded to by Mr. Beauchamp. During the proceedings "Soldiers of the Queen" was excellently sung by Mr. F. V. Waters, the company of course, joining heartily in the chorus. Among those present were the Hons. W. C. Walker, W. Hall-Jones and Jas. Carroll.

#### SIGNAL LIGHTS AND TRANSPARENCIES.

The Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company's premises were brilliantly illuminated on Saturday night in honor of the relief of Mafeking. Signal lights, flags and transparencies were used with splendid effect. Beneath the flagstaff in the centre of the building photos of Baden-Powell and Lord Roberts were prominently placed, surrounded by the motto, "All honor to our heroes of Mafeking." The effect of the setting was enhanced by the presence of a Heretaunga horseman and a Wellington naval, standing, rifle in hand, on either side of the central flag. The Garrison Band visited the station, followed by a large crowd, numbering some thousands, about a quarter to nine, and special illuminations were contrived for the entertainment of the visitors whilst listening to the serenade.

When the train steamed in at a quarter to ten a stirring scene presented itself. The engine was fitted with red lights, and on approaching the station passed over a series of detonators,

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