

In the evening the scene assumed carnival proportions. Many of the shop windows were especially illuminated and decorated, and red, white and blue were the predominating colors in the streets. At the General Post Office the illuminations were brilliant, and reflected great credit on the taste and ingenuity of the staff. Flags of an ornate character were in every window, many of them bearing devices appropriate to the occasion. "Relief of Mafeking" burned out in red white and blue lettering over the main entrance, and above in the tower, a searchlight added its fierce rays to the illuminations. On the roof a party of pyrotechnists were busy dispatching a fine selection of rockets into space, which vied with those sent up from elevations in other parts of the city.

With a view to the entertainment of the public, a screen had been thrown over the main entrance to the General Post Office, and there were depicted, by means of limelight, pictures of an appropriate character in reference to which an assemblage of many thousands expressed approval or disapproval, as inclination dictated. Right through till midnight parties of revellers paraded the streets waving flags and singing patriotic songs, and it may safely be said that Wellington has never in her previous history witnessed such scenes of sustained and heart-felt enthusiasm.

#### A ROYAL CELEBRATION.

After the ceremony that took place outside the General Post Office to celebrate the relief of Mafeking, a number of gentlemen, at the invitation of the partners adjourned to Messrs. W. M. Bannatyne and Co's offices, where several loyal and patriotic toasts were proposed and drunk in bumpers. That of "The British Army," coupled with the name of Colonel Baden-Powell, proposed by Mr. Harold Beauchamp, was received with great enthusiasm. The speaker referred to the magnificent courage, skill and resourcefulness displayed by the hero of Mafeking. The story of the defence of Mafeking would constitute one of the brightest pages in Britain's history.

Mr. Walter Nathan proposed the health of the ministry, and