

ZEALAND HERALD.

EARL GREY ARRIVES.

IMPRESSIONS OF DOMINION.

"A LOVELY COUNTRY."

THE MAN ON THE LAND.

After visiting various cities in the South, Earl Grey, accompanied by Lady Grey and Lady Sybil Grey, arrived in Auckland from Rotorua on Saturday afternoon.

In the course of an interview Earl Grey gave some interesting impressions of his visit to New Zealand. "You have a lovely country and lovely people," he remarked. "Lady Grey, my daughter, and I have only one feeling with regard to our visit to New Zealand, and that is of regret that it has been so short."

In reply to a question as to what chiefly impressed him during his visit Earl Grey said: "Well, many things. The beauty of the scenery, the fascination of the scenery, the delightfulness of the climate, the good looks and the soft, melodious voices of the people, and the general atmosphere of hospitality and contentment. Every body whom we have met made us feel that no trouble was too great to give us a good time."

"I am also impressed," he continued, "by the profits made by your pastoralists, dairy farmers and orchardists, and still further impressed by what appeared to me to be the exceptional prices which I am told are obtainable for good, proved agricultural land. It seems to be realized in New Zealand that no price is too high for really good land, while, of course, no price is low enough for bad land. I am told that dairy land which will feed one cow to the acre sells readily for from \$50 to \$100 per acre. If this is true of land so far from the London market to which you send your produce we shall have to reconsider the value of land in England."

The high value of your dairy lands is the result of your co-operative organizations and of the advice taken by the Government in teaching the farmer how to test the richness of his milk and the importance of eliminating from his dairy herd unproductive cows and only keeping good producers which will bring him a steady return of \$100.

Great Future for Orchardists.

There would also appear to be a great future for your orchardists. I met an apple-grower in Christchurch who told me that he had averaged a net profit of \$50 per acre. I pointed out that six years' purchase was not a high enough price if he could rely on keeping up an average yield of \$50 per acre. "Well," he replied, "I know of other cheap land obtainable where I can repeat what I have already done and still make for \$250 per acre. There is plenty of room in New Zealand," said Earl Grey, "for any number of others to follow this orchardist's example. It is possible for your fruit industry to be equal in importance to your wool, lamb, and dairy industries. Mr. Beauchamp, chairman of the directors of the Bank of New Zealand, estimates that in a short time you will be exporting a million crates of apples to London in addition to a large number of crates you will sell to South America."

"The habit of eating fruit is largely a matter of education and the fact that your apples come into the markets of the Northern Hemisphere when the Canadian apples are rotting helps both you and the Canadian fruit-grower."

Dominion House Proposal.

Earl Grey was asked if he thought his Dominion House proposal would help the farmer to get a better market in London. "Why, naturally," he replied, "that is the object of my proposal—to bring the Dominion grower and the Home consumer closer together. At present the London householder does not know where to go for Canadian and Tasmanian apples and South African oranges. If the Imperial Crown Garden is established at the centre of London, where the produce of the Dominions will be always on view, it will be easy for the English householder to induce his cabinet dealer to be supplied with British rather than with foreign fruit. If the people of the Dominions have sufficient imagination and energy they will take care not to lose the opportunity which my plan has secured for them. A guarantee of 25 per cent on the white population of the self-governing Dominions would enable us to realize all the money we want and more to erect on the most central and conspicuous site in London a building of which the whole Empire would be proud and of which the rest of the world would be envious."

"A Splendid Advertisement."

Lord Desborough stated the other day that single firms expended \$200,000 a year in advertisements with the object of making people desire to buy the articles they had to sell. Under my plan self-governing Dominions, with their 15,000,000 white population, will not have to spend \$200,000 as single firms in England are doing in advertisements. They will only have to guarantee about half that amount, and as before the Dominion House is built there is sure to be a very active demand for all desirable goods which is not required by the Governments of the self-governing Dominions, States, or Provinces. My impression is that after a very few years the burden of the guarantee will have entirely disappeared. Never in the whole history of trade and commerce has such a splendid advertisement been offered to producers at so low a price. I am glad to say that in those parts of Australia which I have already visited and in New Zealand this is realized. You have seen a letter written to me by Mr. Massey on the subject. It has been published in the newspapers. His letter could not be more sympathetic and helpful. It has already been sent to Australia, South Africa, and Canada."

Earl Grey, in company with Countess Grey and Lady Sybil Grey, will leave Auckland for Sydney by the Wairarapa this evening. Prior to returning home they will visit San Francisco, and for this purpose they will join the Niagara, which leaves Sydney for Auckland on April 6.