

the large area separating the General Post Office and the Queen's Wharf, and, viewed from the vantage ground of the former, presented a sea of expectant faces towards the gallery from which it was anticipated the official announcement of the relief of Mafeking would be made.

The mayor immediately proceeded to business. He officially announced, amidst a renewed outburst of cheering, that official tidings had been received of the relief of Mafeking. He was quite sure, he said, that every heart in New Zealand that day rejoiced in the hearing of that good news. (Renewed cheering.) It was one of the noblest defences ever carried out—(great applause)—but it had entailed an immense amount of suffering, which they could not forget. Colonel Baden-Powell had shown himself to be made of the pluck of which great English generals had ever been made. (“Three cheers for Baden-Powell!” given with tremendous enthusiasm.) He was sure that every heart would be thankful to God for the good news which had come. (Prolonged applause.) He called upon the Acting-Premier to address them.

The Hon. J. G. Ward, who received a great ovation, said:

“Mr. Mayor and fellow-citizens of New Zealand—I have the inexpressible pleasure of announcing to you the happy event of the relief of Mafeking. (Enthusiastic cheers.) The news has been confirmed by the receipt of cable messages from most authentic sources in Australia. (Cheers.) I deeply regret that the Right Hon. the Premier is not here to perform the duty now imposed upon me; because, as you know, he has taken the keenest possible interest in co-operating with the people of the colony in sending men to help the Mother Country in fighting for the maintenance of our great and glorious Empire. (Here there was great cheering, and the crowd sang ‘For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow.’) Immediately on the receipt of the information, I sent the following cables:—‘To Colonel Baden-Powell, Mafeking.—On behalf of the people of New Zealand I desire to tender you our heartiest congratulations on the successful result of your heroic defence of Mafeking, and express to you warm appreciation of the noble way in which that defence has been maintained by you and the