

THE
PRINCE OF WALES

VISIT TO BALLARAT.

PROCESSION IN THE RAIN.

OPENS ARCH OF VICTORY.

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

After a restful night at Glenormiston, the Prince boarded the Royal train at Terang for his tour to Ballarat. It was noticeable that he was looking worn, and it was generally agreed that there were adequate reasons for the postponement of his New South Wales tour by a week. Although he had not complained, the strain of the last few days was evident. There is, however, no cause for anxiety, and the week's rest will serve to completely restore him.

His progress to Ballarat was a repetition of his journey down to Camperdown. Crowds were gathered at every station through which the train passed. Cressey, where the Prince had a reception, was en fete. A large number of vehicles in the vicinity of the station testified to the fact that farmers from all parts of the district had set the day aside to welcome the Prince. In reply to an address, he expressed his gratification, and secured a whole holiday for the school children in commemoration of his visit. Aeroplanes performed a varied series of air flights while the train was at the station. The Prince was greatly interested in the old diggings, through which the train ran prior to reaching Ballarat.

Up to this time the clerk of the weather had been kind, but the Royal procession through Ballarat was marred by heavy falls of rain. Despite this, a record crowd filled the broad streets. Along the route were strongposts manned by the Australian Natives' Association, the Caledonian Society, the Red Cross societies, soldiers, and sailors, the Fathers' Association, and various other bodies. These posts were supported by choirs, who lustily sang patriotic songs.

The Prince motored to the Arch of Victory, a most imposing structure, 53 feet high, and 64 feet wide, made of brick and concrete. The arch cost £1600. It will serve as an entrance to the avenue of honour, wherein trees for every Ballarat soldier, numbering 3912, will be planted. The Prince performed the opening ceremony by cutting the ribbons which held the festoons blocking the arch, with a pair of gold scissors. The Prince was

held the festoons blocking the arch, with a pair of gold scissors. The Prince was then presented with an elaborate sleeping suit, in the making of which 500 girls had participated. The Prince was rather embarrassed by the gift, but thanked the makers, who were seated on the stand opposite the arch. He congratulated Ballarat on its war records.

At the Ballarat Hall he met returned soldiers, war workers, nurses, and prominent citizens. After partaking of afternoon tea he left for the station, where the crowd had greatly increased, so much so that it was only with great difficulty that the party accompanying the Prince could force its way to the train. Although the weather was inclement, the Prince had no reason to complain of the lack of enthusiasm by the people of Ballarat. He was in Ballarat for only two hours, but they were crowded with heartfelt exhibitions of loyalty.

The Prince had to undergo repeated rounds of cheering when he arrived at Spencer-street on his return to Melbourne.

In the evening the Prince attended a ball given by the Lieutenant-Governor and Lady Irvine at the State Government House at Malvern.

TO-DAY'S PROGRAMME.

The Prince has, happily, a quiet day before him on Thursday, that is, a comparatively quiet one, but it will be restful compared with his previous experiences. The morning is left free. At one o'clock the Prince will attend luncheon given by the Returned Sailors and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia. He likes these functions, and it is expected that he will not find this one tedious. At three o'clock he will attend the University, where a degree is to be conferred on him, and at four o'clock he will be present at a garden party at Parliament House, assuming that the weather will be propitious, which is by no means certain. He dines at the Melbourne Club in the evening as the guest of the president and members, and subsequently will attend the matrons' ball at the St. Kilda Town Hall. Friday, however, will be a busier day, as the Prince will then visit Kyneton, Castlemaine, and Bendigo. In the latter place he will make what will probably be his first acquaintance with a gold mine.