

EMPIRE DAY

CELEBRATION AT GISBORNE

The State school at Gisborne was en fete on Wednesday, when Empire Day was duly celebrated according to the programme issued by the Education Department. The school was beautifully decorated with flags and green branches, the latter being supplied by Mr Whiting. At 10 a.m. there was quite a gathering of children and adults, though there would have been more of the latter if the hour were fixed during the afternoon.

The first thing was the ceremony of saluting the flag. The children, who were drawn up under the head teacher (Mr Lanyon), repeated the words, "I love God and my country; I honour the Flag; I will serve the King, and cheerfully obey my parents, teachers, and the laws.

An adjournment was then made to the schoolroom, which was decorated as stated. The programme was produced on the blackboard, surrounded with the national flags in colours. This was entirely the design and the work of the following pupils: Elsie Eddie, Grace Martin, Olive Kettle, and Lizzie Raines. The teacher (Mr Lanyon) occupied the chair, and the programme was as follows:—

Recitation, "The Bugles of England"—Master S. Brandum.

Recitation, "The British Flag"—Master J. Eddie.

Song, "The Sea is England's Glory"—School.

Recitation, "The Flag Song"—Miss Amy Williams.

Song, "God Bless the Absent Ones"—School.

A roll of honour giving the names of old scholars who had enlisted, was then unveiled, and an address on the Victoria League, and its objects and aims, was given by Madame de Fegely.

The Rev. Mr. Thomson (a mission-

ary lately returned from India), then delivered a very interesting address. He pointed out that in saluting the flag they paid the first honour to God, and then followed their country, and parents and teachers. They should know that the King read the Scriptures and prayed to God daily. The British Empire stood for justice, and that meant a great deal. A friend from Africa told him that when the French traders landed in that country the natives were indifferent; when the Germans landed, they fled; but when the British landed they crowded to trade, for they knew they would get fair dealing from the latter.

The programme was continued as follows:—

Song, "The Grocer's Young Man"—Juniors.

Recitation, "Australia Fair"—Master O. Miller.

The Rev. F. C. Boundy then described how Empire Day was started by the Earl of Meath, and pointed out how all the Dominions had loyally responded to the call of the motherland.

The programme was then concluded as follows:—

Song, "Ye Mariners of England"—Seniors.

Recitation, "The Charge of the Light Brigade"—Master G. McPherson.

A very well executed replica of the painting, "The Landing at Anzac," the gift of Lady Stanley to the school, was presented by Madame de Fegely, who made a few well-chosen remarks.