

MAKAMBO-MALAITA TOUR.

AN ENJOYABLE THREE WEEKS.

Accounts of the Makambo's special three weeks' tour to Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands go to show that this (the first 'personally conducted' tour organised in Australia) was most successful and enjoyable.

Some 45 people left by the steamer on New Year's Eve, who formed the special "family party" conducted by Mr N. Ferguson, one of Burns, Philp, and Co.'s cadets. Not a single case of sea (or any other) sickness was recorded en route, which in itself is something of a record. The voyage was accomplished in delightful weather, and by the thoughtfulness of Captain Wetherall, the party was enabled to enjoy a whole-day picnic at Lord Howe Island, the chief steward (Mr Lynch) seeing that the commissariat department was in good working order. The beautiful plantation scenery appealed strongly to the little mainland contingent, and a swim which followed their ramble enabled them to do justice to lunch at Flagstaff-hill. The afternoon was filled in with a cricket match, snapshotting, and (of course) botanising.

showing, and (of course) localising.

On the way to Norfolk Island the party enjoyed grand marine views of Lidgbird Island, towering 2500 feet above sea level. Mount Gower (2800 ft.), and the striking peak of Ball's Pyramid (1800ft.), while Captain Weatherall caused general wonder and

amazement by frightening up some millions of sea-fowl by a vigorous use of the siren. A little concert was given on board on the night before reaching Norfolk Island, followed by a supper—and a collection! Be it said, however, that the collection was for a good purpose, the King Edward VII. Seamen's Mission.

At Norfolk Island the party was met by Mr and Miss Rossiter, and driven over to their house, where they had luxurious headquarters for the ten days of their stay at Norfolk Island. Amongst the places visited during the tour of the island were the cable and mission stations, the Government quarters, the ruins and relics left by "The System", the cemetery, and the aptly-named "Bloody Bridge," where the convicts rose against and murdered their warders 100 years ago! The Norfolk Island residents tendered the party a picnic at Steel's Point, and special trips were made to Ball's Bay and Bombori, so famous for their

and Bombori, so famous for their scenery. Farm Glen coffee plantation afforded an impressive sight, as the plants were in full bloom and berry. The owner, Mr Waterhouse, was warmly complimented by the party. An ascent of Mount Pitt (1056ft) proved a pleasant experience by reason of its luxuriant vegetation and the charming view of the island which it commands. Duncan Bay, the Cascades, where the whaling station "smells to Heaven," and the island school—where Mr Matthews (the master) and his children entertained the visitors—were all seen and admired in turn. A drive through the avenue of pines and the beautiful Fern Lane road was a delightful experience. At the two halls, which the island possesses (the Sir Harry Rawson and Long Ridge halls), the party was entertained at some enjoyable evenings. In fact, the islanders laid themselves out to give their mainland visitors a real good time, an object in which they thoroughly succeeded. Feeling their indebtedness the party returned the compliment by giving a concert in the Rawson-hall. The conductor, Mr Ferguson, on behalf of Messrs Burns, Philp and Company, took occasion to thank the islanders for their kindness and hospitality to the tourists during their visit. Captain Elliott, R.N., the

VISIT. Captain EMMETT, R.N., the island magistrate, acknowledged the compliment, and said they were always delighted to see folk from the mainland. (Applause.) All the residents of the island appeared to be in first-rate health, and there is no hitch or accident or mishap to record. The party returned per S.S. Malaita on Tuesday.

An unknown airship, brilliantly lighted, has been seen passing over Liverpool. The atmosphere above England seems to be thick with phantom airships. Lately there have been stories of mysterious craft of the kind flying over Dover, then over Bristol, and over London. There have been no explanations as to whether those appearances were made by one craft or several.
