

ESSAY COMPETITION.

The Secretary of the British and Foreign Sailor's Society has forwarded the results of the Essay Competition on "Who, in your judgement, is the greatest British sailor next to Nelson, and why do you think so?"

The report is as follows:-

North Island: William Ward, Queen's Park School, Wanganui, prize; Gordon Maxwell, Onehunga Convent School, Auckland, highly commended; Clarice M. Williamson, Taradale School, Hawke's Bay, and Mary Martin, Onehunga Convent School, Auckland, prizes, both equal.

South Island: John T. Brady, Southbridge District High School, prize; James S. Church and Harry S. Kenrick, Waitaki Boys' High School, both highly commended; Leslie D. Trotter, also of this school, commended; Enid E. Ryburn, Middle School, Invercargill, prize; Muriel A. Innes, Marlborough High School, highly commended.

The report further states:-

"I am desired by Queen Alexandra to say that Her Majesty will be very pleased that the presentation of plaques, medals, and souvenirs to the schools of New Zealand should be made in her name.

"the essays reached a good standard. It is interesting to note their respective sailor heroes as Drake, Blake, Jervis, Cook, Grenville, Hawke, Cochrane, and Scott. The essays show great patriotism, considerable reading, and keen appreciation of Britain's dependence upon her sailors in the past. In some cases more originality should be aimed at, but not a few show, in a high degree, the splendid teaching in that young Dominion. In fact, I may say that the accomplished scholastic teachers of the Old Country, who were this year the adjudicators, felt proud of the good work turned out by the New Zealand workshops."

The plaques awarded as prizes are of copper taken from Lord Nelson's flagships, and all contain copper from the "Victory."

Four more plaques are offered for competition this year, the subject of the essay being "To show in the Great War of 1914-15 what the British Empire owes to its Sailors, both Royal and Mercantile."

A plaque will be awarded to a boy and a girl in each Island, and the Minister of Education has prescribed the following conditions for the competition:-

- (1.) Competitors must be under sixteen years of age on the 31st May.
- (2.) The essays, which must not exceed one thousand words in length, must be forwarded to the Education Board of the district (or, in the case of Native Schools and Special Schools, to the Education Department direct) on or before the 31st May. The envelope is to bear the words "Essay Competition."
- (3.) The essays must be written in school without notes, text-books, or assistance from the teacher.
- (4.) The number of essays from the boys of any one school, or from the girls of the same school, is limited to two, or, at the most, three. A pupil who has been previously successful in competing for a plaque is not eligible to compete again.
- (5.) On the last page of each essay must be shown the full name of the writer, his or her age, the name of the school, the Island in which the school is situated, and the head teacher's certificate that the conditions imposed have been fully complied with.