

INTERVIEW WITH THE COLONIAL STANDARD-BEARER.

The Colonial Standard-Bearer for this year's Common-Riding is Mr Thomas L. Currie, a son of Councillor Currie. Mr Currie was previously employed in Selkirk as a plumber with Messrs Grierson & Taylor, and he pursued the same avocation in Australia, to which country he first proceeded on leaving this country five years ago. In Australia, Mr Currie had some adventurous experiences in the bush. He next proceeded to South Island, New Zealand, where he resided for two years in Dunedin, and made headway, after the manner of most Scotsmen, in the far parts of the Empire. He then proceeded to the North Island, where he resided for another two years among the Maoris. There he made such fine progress that he was enabled to pay this visit home. Mr Currie can speak the Maori language like a native, and he says, "you only need to know their lingo to get on well with them." Mr Currie has been back about three weeks now in his native place, and proposes to stay till August. During the course of his absence he has always taken a keen interest in the goings-on in Selkirk, and, as he has, from first to last, been the recipient every week of the *Southern Reporter*, he has been kept well informed on the affairs of Souterdom. Especially did he look forward to the arrival of his copy of the paper when the Common-Riding was on. The only other Souter he met in the course of his travels in the Antipodes was Mr Willie Johnston, who has been out for 25 years, and is now prospering as a farmer. Mr Johnston was born in the Cross Keys Hotel, and he will be remembered by many of the older generation in the burgh. Although thus cut off by the great seas from fellow-Souters, Mr Currie never failed to celebrate the great day in his own way, and it gives him especial pleasure to take part in the proceedings this year, while on a visit to his native town.

COLONIAL PRIZES.

Mr R. W. Dickson, secretary of the Colonial Society, has received from Mr Charles R. Stewart, Revelstoke, British Columbia, a donation of 1 dollar 50 cents. as a contribution to the Common-Riding prize fund.

On Tuesday evening, Mr Dickson was the recipient of a magnificent prize from the members of the Selkirk Colonial Society in Canada. This was a handsome case of cutlery, and its display in Mr Johnstone's window has attracted the greatest admiration. It is really an exceptionally high-class gift, the case in itself being of extraordinary value. The cutlery is of chaste design, and its splendid appearance testifies to the solid value of the gift. Experienced judges say they have never seen anything like it in Selkirk before, and, in fact, it is a gift of altogether unique value. The winner will be Dame Fortune's darling with a vengeance. It will be a very difficult matter for the Committee to decide for what competition it is to be given. The following is the text of the letter, which Mr Dickson received with the gift:—

Toronto, 28th May, 1914.
"Dear Mr Dickson,—I have forwarded to you one case of cutlery, which we desire to have competed for at the Toll on the Common-Riding morning. We will leave the race to the disposal of the Committee in Selkirk.

"We were somewhat at a loss to know just what to send, and thought that a prize of this description would be suitable for an occasion of this kind, and trust same will arrive in good condition, and will be acceptable to the Committee.

"It is our sincerest wish that the celebration will be held under good weather, and, given that, the success is assured. Thanking you in anticipation for all your trouble.—I remain, yours truly,

T. B. WILLIAMSON."

COLONIAL BUSSIN'.

A hearty night's enjoyment is sure to be had to-night at the Colonial Bussing. Mr Henderson is a first class orator, and this is all the more appropriate as this is the first occasion on which the Society have managed to have a speaker direct from the Colonies. The meeting is to be restricted to the hour this year. Quality, not quantity, is the aim of the Colonials.