

mounted in the form of the musical lyre. On one occasion, lunching at a coffee palace in the far north-east of Victoria, I said to the lady of the house, "I suppose there are not many Lyrebirds in this district now." She replied, "They have disappeared." I said, "That is what I expected, there are nine Lyrebirds' tails in this room." They were placed in vases on the mantelpiece and behind each of the cheap oleographs that served for mural decoration.

At one plume sale in London 120 of the characteristic lyrate, outer tail-feathers were offered for sale. At least 60 male birds must have been slaughtered to provide the plumes for that one sale. That was before the war. During the war, shortage of shipping and close oversight of any shipment of unnecessaries broke the habit of destroying these birds. A great increase of interest and pride in Australia and its unique animals has been noticeable since the splendid feat of arms of the Australian soldiers at the war. There is now no possibility that any movement harmful to the Lyrebird will be allowed to develop.

CONCLUSION.

John Gould long ago thought that the Lyrebird should be used as an emblem by Australians. It was used on postage stamps in New South Wales, as was the Black Swan in Western Australia, the Magpie in South Australia, and the Kagu in New Caledonia. It now occupies a high place in public estimation, and its future seems assured in special sanctuaries. It is the accepted wonder-bird of Australia just as the platypus is the Australian wonder-mammal.

Great Flight of Mutton-Birds.—Vast numbers of Mutton-Birds or Short-tailed Shearwaters (*Puffinus tenuirostris*) were recently (mid-October) observed feeding on the surface of the water off our coast. A Devonport fisherman stated that the birds extended for miles, starting from the vicinity of Pardoe Beach, which is about three miles east from us, and extending westerly as far as he could see; similar numbers were reported by residents at Penguin, 19 miles to the west of Devonport, so that the birds must be reckoned in tens of thousands. Penguin people say that only isolated specimens have appeared within their recollection, and that this great gathering is unique. It is possible that owing to the almost continuous rains and high winds for three months past, the birds have not been able to get into their burrows for the "spring-cleaning," and are now waiting in the Strait for the weather to take up.—H. STUART DOVE, F.Z.S., Devonport, Tas.