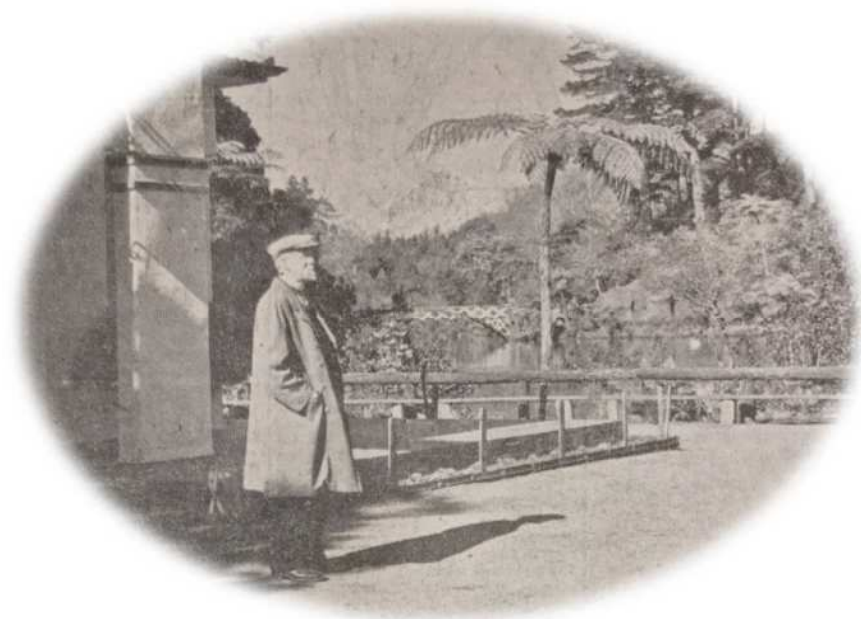


The History of Pukekura Park 1908-1920



The Smith Years

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Written and compiled by Alan Metcalfe

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Ian Hutchinson— Pukekura Park's Botanical Records Officer.

Staff at Puke Ariki Research Centre.

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INTRODUCTION

This compilation of records related to Pukekura Park and taken mainly from reports in the Taranaki Herald and Daily News, was meticulously researched and compiled by Alan Metcalfe, who also wrote a summary of each year's main activities.

It is called 'The Smith Years' because the period of history covered coincided with William Walter Smith's tenure as Curator.

WW Smith was a field naturalist of repute, studying a range of aspects of natural history from insects to moa, and as a botanist also had a keen interest in the native flora. He had served as Curator of Parks in Ashburton and Palmerston North. His appointment coincided with the naming of the park Pukekura, after the stream now dammed and forming the Main Lake, which passed through the valley, and the opening of the Recreational Sports Ground.

His contribution to the development of Pukekura Park was profound. Even though his monthly reports highlighted the drudgery of the job, cutting the grass with scythes, grubbing gorse, or pulling weeds, they included a string of major developments which have shaped the park we now know. Pine trees planted earlier were gradually removed and replaced with native trees. Ferns and other plants were also established on the surrounding hillsides, giving the natural appearance so appreciated today. As well, among developments were the construction of the dell by the present teahouse and the re-establishment of trout rearing ponds next to the Lily Pond, now the Hatchery Lawn. In a small shed he was the first to breed kiwi in captivity. He managed the weather station which was installed in his garden on Victoria Road. Time was also given to several plant-collecting expeditions and the study of insects, particularly ants.

The Park Board struggled through the period to meet the running costs and despite a small grant from the Council, relied on subscriptions and donations, many of which were collected on a single day, when the whole town was canvassed. Each year, too, generous donations of plants and seeds helped enable the park to be recognised as one of the most beautiful in the country.

The Recreation Sports Ground, at times needing much maintenance work, became the centre of New Plymouth's activities. As well as athletic sports, both international rugby and cricket games were hosted. In rugby in 1908 Taranaki beat the visiting British team 5 - nil; in cricket in 1910, Taranaki drew with Australia. Fund raising ventures on the sports ground included fetes, fireworks displays, hot-air balloon ascents and outdoor movies. Civic parades and events included visits by the Governor-General, the Prince of Wales, and a victory parade marking the end of WW1.

The details of all activities associated with Pukekura Park are well outlined in this volume, along with the outstanding contribution of many citizens who contributed to the Park's development. This, WW Smith, a student of nature, a knowledgeable, self-effacing man of wisdom, helped shape.

Lynn Bublitz

PREFACE

A couple of years ago I became involved in the Pukekura Park when I volunteered to be a buggy driver doing tours for the Friends of the Park. There was some historical information available for the drivers but whether the driver decided to use it was up to them.

Once I had decided I was going to use historical information on my tours I found that I wanted to know more than was provided. This started me on my research journey.

This is the second book that I have compiled. The first is entitled *New Plymouth Recreation Ground*. - ISBN 978-0-473-58215-9, available for download at Puke Ariki Library's BorrowBox - eBook collection. It covers Pukekura Park from 1875 to 1908, when it was known as New Plymouth Recreation Ground.

This second publication covers the history of Pukekura Park from 1908 until 1920. There were two reasons for choosing this period. (1) William Walter Smith was the curator. (2) *Papers Past*, from which the content is derived, only includes information from local newspapers until end of 1920.

Each year there is an overview of events for the year, a summary of significant events, a selection of newspaper articles and some photos where I feel they add to the story. The articles included only represent a small selection of published articles since there are far too many to include them all. The main contributors being the *Taranaki Herald (TH)* and the *Taranaki Daily News (TDN)*. Most of the available published Pukekura Park Board's minutes of meetings are included. There are adverts for some of the fundraising events and reports of them also. These reports give an insight into the sort of things people did for amusement in the early 20th century.

Throughout this document there are photos copied from the *Auckland Weekly News (AWN)*. These are not necessarily important for the events they cover, but they show what the Park looked like on a particular day. This can help when trying to date other photos.

Alan Metcalfe

Units of Measurement

Weight

lb oz (pounds and ounces) 16oz = 1 lb

1 lb = 0.454 kg

Length

ft - in (feet and inches) 12in = 1ft

1 ft = 304.8mm

3 ft - 6in = 3' - 6"

yd (yard) 1 yard = 3 ft

chain

1 chain = 66 ft (length of a cricket wicket)

On section plans the length and breadth would be shown in links. A link being 1/100 of a chain or 7.92 inches (201mm)

Volume

Yards = cubic yards

1 cubic yard = 0.765 m³

Area (land)

A R P (acres, roods and perches)

1 acre = 4046.86 m²

1 acre = 4 roods

1 rood = 40 perches

Money

£ s d (pounds shillings and pence)

1 pound = 20 shillings

1 shilling = 12 pence

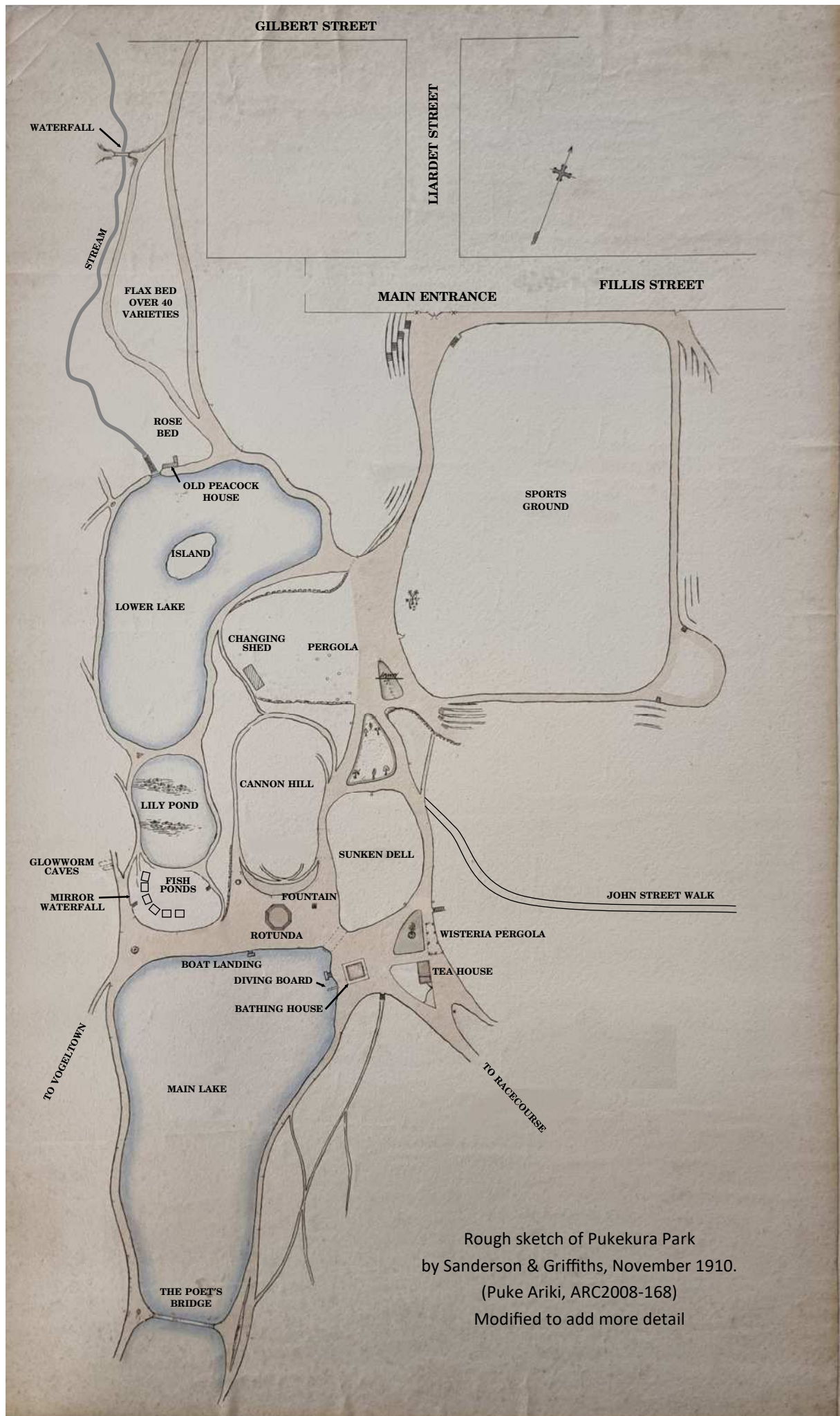
LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS

1908—1920

Mr. Harris Ford	Mr. Robert Clinton Hughes
Mr. T. K. Skinner	Mr. J. B. Roy
Mr. F. P. Corkill	Mr. Richard Cock
Mr. C. W. Govett	Mr. W. L. Newman
Mr. S. Percy Smith	Mr. C. H. Drew
Mr. W. A. Collis	Mr. E. Dockrill (Mayor)
Mr. C. Carter	Mrs. C. H. Burgess
Mr. D. Hutchen	Mr. F. T. Bellringer
Mr. A. E. Watkins	Mr. G. Tisch (Mayor)
Mr. W. Ambury	Mr. G. W. Browne (Mayor)
Mr. F. E. Wilson (Mayor)	Mr. W. F. Short
Mr. A. S. Brooker	Mr. J. W. Hayden
Mr. H. V. S. Griffiths	Mr. W. C. Weston
Mr. E. H. Tribe (Secretary/ Treasurer)	
Mr. C. H. Drew (Secretary/ Treasurer)	
Mr. A. Grey (Secretary/ Treasurer)	

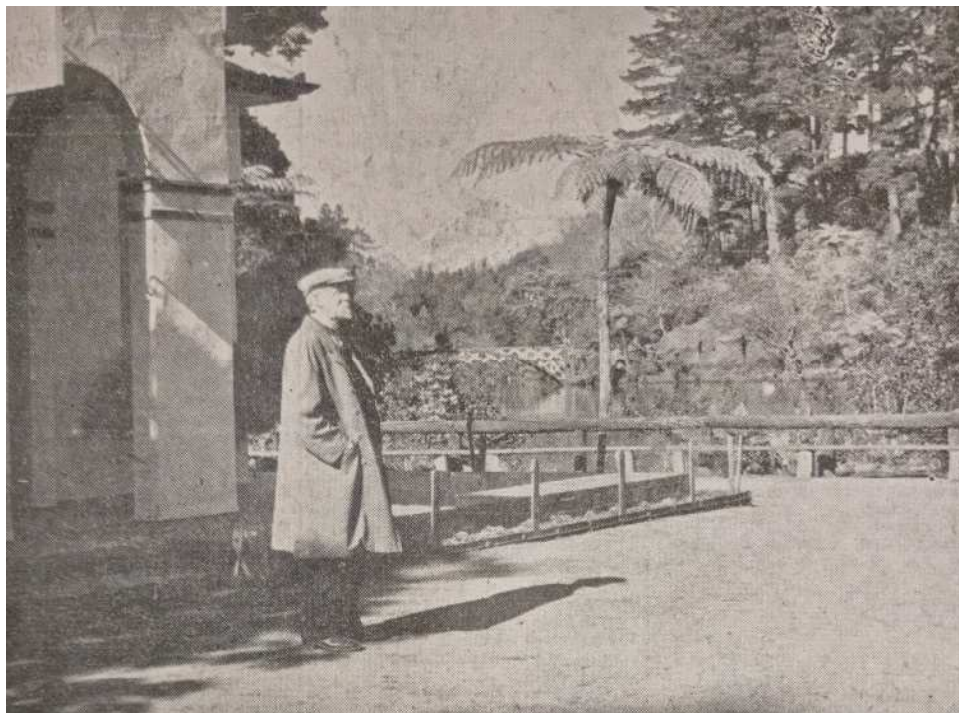
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William Walter Smith

1852–1942



W.W. Smith in Pukekura park. (*Taranaki Herald*, December 17, 1932.)

Taranaki Herald December 17, 1932 Christmas Supplement

A Student of Nature

Mr. W. W. Smith, New Plymouth. World-Wide Recognition.

Valuable work for Dominion. Life-Long Labour of Love.

Many a time before to-day a teachers, Mother Nature.

wanderer from the beaten track in North Taranaki has been surprised to meet, perhaps in the cool of a patch of bush, perhaps on a wind-swept beach, an old man, grey of hair and beard. This could be none other than Mr. W. W. Smith, of New Plymouth, a naturalist known the world over and a true Nature lover if ever there was one.

It is this love of animals, birds and trees, that leads him at the great age of 81, to continue the tripe that make him happiest and to add ceaselessly to his vast store or knowledge from the treasure-chest of that greatest of all

There are those who say that the town in which he has lived for the past 24 years hardly realises his worth. That is not surprising, for W. W. Smith would be the last one to court publicity. But whenever some plant or insect rarity requires identification the cry is "Ask W. W. Smith," and a reporter intrudes upon his work to secure the answer he is so sure of receiving. Those privileged to know this remarkable man have for him a great respect. His is a nature that could never do harm to man or beast. Children love him just as much as he loves to initiate those interested into the

ways of those forms of life on this earth that are not human. No child, it is certain, ever thirsted in vain for the knowledge he could impart.

Correspondence with Other Countries.

This man has done much for posterity in adding to our store of knowledge. An extensive and broad reader, a painstaking student of New Zealand botany and zoology, he has for many years been a regular contributor to New Zealand and English scientific journals. On good authority he has been described as the man who knows most about the extinct moas, while his writings have also dealt with such subjects

as native ants, earthworms, birds, insects, and plants. Nor is this all. For many years, and still today, he has had extensive correspondence with English, American, French and Italian naturalists inquiring for specimens or information. To them he has been able to send many new species of plant or insect life. Even to-day this correspondence is voluminous, and the veteran naturalist, who had received 14 letters on the day on which our representative called, finds that the demands made in this way are almost beyond him.

Right from his boyhood in Hawick Roxburghshire (Scotland), Mr. Smith found an absorbing interest in the plant and animal worlds. On leaving high school he became apprenticed to the Forestry Department, after which he worked in big private gardens in England for some three years. He then spent about eight months in France, where he learned the language and later, attracted largely by the novelty of its plant life, came to a decision to take his passage to New Zealand.

Years in the South Island.

His first position in New Zealand was on the estate of the late Hon. J. B. Acland, on the Rangitata River, in Canterbury. Five years with this great planter of trees were very happy ones, and the years that have passed have served to enhance rather than dim the esteem which, he has for his late employer. "He lives in my thoughts as much as any other man," he said. It was while on this estate that he devoted much time to the study of moa remains, many of which were to be found in the Albury district. Investigations were also made by him into the life history and habits of the kea.

His next move was to Windsor Park, Oamaru, after which he became curator of the botanical gardens at Ashburton, a position he held for 10 years. During this time anxiety at the wholesale destruction of native bush led him to advocate vigorously the preservation of the country's scenic wealth. Partly as a result of these writings he was approached by the late R. J. Seddon, at whose request he

became secretary of the newly set up Scenery Preservation Committee, which travelled for three years in both islands. Its business was to select for preservation areas including all classes of scenery, also ancient Maori pas, and to procure about the latter all possible data respecting their history. As the result of the commission's recommendations to the Government many scenic and historic places in Taranaki were proclaimed as reserves.

Thus it comes about that the parts of New Zealand he knows best are the ones many people never see in a lifetime. Well might he call himself the last of the old school of field naturalists. He was associated with the late T. H. Potts, of Governors' Bay, Canterbury, for 15 years. With him, Sir Walter Buller, Guthrie-Smith and Dr. Petrie, he has penetrated into the remotest districts of both islands on ornithological and botanical excursions.

Now, in the evening of his life, what he misses most is the congenial companionship of those kindred spirits who have gone before him. Some of these expeditions, for instance, took him up to the upper reaches of many Canterbury rivers in the bird-nesting season, but no more than one egg was ever taken from a nest. He believes that he is the last man to report seeing a huia alive. He came across it in the bush at the back of the Tararua Range in 1907.

In New Plymouth for 24 Years.

It was in 1908 that Mr. Smith came to New Plymouth as curator of Pukekura Park, a position he held for 12 years. In his little cottage overlooking the park he lived what might to others have seemed very lonely existence, but that loneliness was banished by his interest in his pets and studies, while a warm welcome always awaited his friends. As a small boy the writer used to visit him, and can well remember how the mantelpiece in the living-room was loaded with a great variety of rare insects, butterflies, and other specimens.

For 12 years Mr. Smith cared for the beauties of the park, and since

then he has been living quietly in retirement in New Plymouth, pursuing the studies without which his life would seem empty. Still he undertakes his little expeditions into the country. Many a night has he spent in farmhouses, and he gratefully states that in the course of 25 years of wandering over North Taranaki he has never been hindered or prevented by a farmer from going where his will took him. W. W. Smith is also one of the original members of the Polynesian Society, founded by the late Mr. S. Percy Smith, with whom were connected in its early life Messrs. J. Parker, W. Newman, R. H. Rockel, M. Fraser, W. H. Skinner, P. J. H. White, and Captain Wm. Waller. For 10 years he was secretary of this society, whose work is well known.

Fairly recently Mr. Smith worked out the history of the ants of Mt. Egmont, 17 known species, some being remarkable forms. Later he intends to publish a work on the history of native ants. He considers that Mt. Egmont is the most magnificent region in New Zealand for the study of Nature.

REARING YOUNG KIWIS. SUCCESS IN NEW PLYMOUTH.

It was in New Plymouth that W. W. Smith made his exhaustive study of the kiwi, continuing a work that he had previously started. In July 1908, the late Mr. Newton King gave him a large female kiwi which had been captured by some Maoris. Mr. Smith set to and built a house, but when he introduced a mate the lady proved to have ideas of her own on the matter. So fiercely did she attack her unwilling suitor that she nearly killed him. A second male was subjected to the same drastic treatment before the termagant finally admitted him to her good graces. Experiments in the years following proved it to be the rule with Madame Kiwi that when a strange male was introduced to her he had to take his "degrees" in the order explained before being accepted by her. When reconciled and mated, however, no birds pass a more peaceful life than do kiwis.

Painstaking Study

After the pair had been mated for three months the female laid two eggs, with an interval of 10 days. Then the male took possession of the nest and commenced to incubate the eggs. As Darwin used to stand in the woods and let the baby squirrels gallop up and down his back, so in the evenings Mr. Smith would sit or be motionless in the gloom of the place where the kiwis were, observing their habits and enjoying their sniffing at him and prodding him with their beaks.

For four whole weeks the luckless male sat on the eggs before the chicks appeared, the mother taking no interest in the task at all. When his long wait was over he had been reduced to a bag of bones, and it was just as well for him that the female then took the babies in hand, for it took the father all his time to feed himself back to prosperity.

"Of all the beautiful things in Nature nothing appeals to me like a young kiwi," Mr. Smith confesses. They are little fluffy birds, pure white, and with preposterously long pink beaks. Mr. Smith found that the two babies being reared in captivity could run about and feed as soon as they were hatched.

When they were half grown one fell a victim to an English murderer, the cordially hated weasel. This particular one expiated his crime a day or two later, and the other young kiwi in five months grew to maturity. Mr. Smith had thus achieved the feat of raising the first kiwi in captivity.

Kiwis Fierce Fighters.

For its size the kiwi is tremendously strong bird, and with a blow from its powerful leg could rip open the flesh of a big dog. On several occasions Mr. Smith placed a full-grown Game cock in the yard in the evening. The female kiwi lost no time in assailing him and, before the melee was stopped, had kicked half the feathers off his back and breast, wounding him severely. When they were fighting, the ferocity and rage of the kiwis seemed unsurpassable. They rushed furiously at one another, striking rapidly with the right foot, and the impact generally caused both to roll

over. Of the 15 kiwis which Mr. Smith had in captivity at different times, all remained irreconcilable to their confinement and unrelenting in their efforts to escape. No birds ever worked more persistently or determinedly to gain their freedom.

And now, to-day, it would hardly be an exaggeration to say that W. W. Smith knows the whereabouts of every family of kiwis within a large area in North Taranaki. In his keeping their secret is perfectly safe. Wild horses would not drag from him the information as to their haunts unless he were absolutely certain of the inquirer.

HISTORY OF THE MOA.

TIME OF EXTINCTION.

Passing from the kiwi to its much more imposing relative, the moa, we find that W. W. Smith is one of the greatest authorities on that extinct giant among birds. In 1890 the late Sir Walter Buller sent him to explore the Albury district (Canterbury) for moa bones. At that time ploughmen on the estate every day turned up large quantities of the bones, and he was able to make a large and valuable collection. There were among these bones six or seven species, including bones from the elephant-footed moa, a species of massive structure.

Probably the most interesting phase of moa history, and that which has caused much speculation, is the question of when it became extinct. This problem has interested Mr. Smith for half a century. Seven years ago he published a series of articles on this aspect of moa research, and he states that all unbiassed students of moa history who have studied moa remains and their condition in the haunts of the bird know that no other decision could be accepted than that, in both islands, the bird was alive, in limited numbers, down to a comparatively recent period.

The large collection of bones which Mr. Smith secured in Canterbury were of various ages and stages of decay. Most of them lay on the surface, while others were half embedded in the soil. Observing the fresh condition of the bones, he realised that Mr. H. Hill's theory and that of Sir Julius von Haast were incompatible with reason and

fact. Mr. Hill, writing on the extinction of the moa in the North Island, stated "the history of the moa is the history of a race of birds that disappeared long anterior to the coming of the Maoris to New Zealand," while Sir Julius also contended that the ancestors of the Maoris knew not the moa.

Lived Early Last Century.

According to the highest authorities, the Maoris have occupied New Zealand for some thousands of years. There can be no doubt, according to Mr. Smith, of moas having lived in the early years of last century. The late Mr. Taylor White, of Wimbledon, Hawke's Bay, discovered the skeleton of moa lying on the surface in the bush. It was not in the least buried and, to the finder, the bones had not been there more than 15 years or so.

"Years of patient research and observation in the last haunts of the moas in South Canterbury profoundly impressed me long ago with the contemporarity of the Maori and the moa in all the districts explored," said Mr. Smith. "The vast quantities of well-preserved bones and small heaps of gizzard stones lying on the tussock lands, and those being unearthed by the ploughs, likewise impressed me with the recent occupation of the district by both moa and Maori. I have little doubt that for many years before the Ngai-Tahu invasion of the South Island the peaceful Ngati-Mamoe, living in their primeval painted caves and rock shelters in the warm, secluded inland valleys, would draw on the moas for food, if they did not actually farm the birds. All evidence obtained by digging and examining the floor and inelegantly painted walls of their primitive homes, camps and cooking places prove unmistakably that the Ngati-Mamoe tribe occupied the whole area of Canterbury for an exceedingly long period. The occurrence of identical chips, flake-knives, rude and polished adzes on the upland moa-hunter encampments, as those found in the Albury and Opihi caves and rock shelters, determine the periodical visits by Ngati-Mamoe to the remote nesting haunts of the moa.

Comparison with Ostrich Bone.

Mr. Smith states 'that no evidence is offered by advocates of pre-Maori extinction to explain the presence and fresh condition of the skeletons and numerous detached bones of birds of all ages and species lying exposed on the surface on innumerable sites when English settlement began.

Ferdinand von Hochstetter, the geologist of the Novara exploring expedition who collected moa bones in both islands, stated in "New Zealand" that "most moa bones still contain 10 to 30 per cent of organic (gelatinous) substance, and are not even in the state called semi-fossil. Fresh ostrich bones usually contain one-third organic and two-thirds inorganic substance." When writing some years ago on the age of moa bones, Mr. Smith said "assuming that the dead body of an ostrich or emu could be procured and placed in a similar situation where the skeletons were found and left to decay and disappear, it would prove precisely the time required for such." A year or so ago the femur of a full-grown ostrich was brought, to the New Plymouth Museum. The bird had died 18 years previously on Mr. John Wheeler's farm, near Inglewood, and was left lying on the bank of a stream. The bone was honeycombed and in an advanced state of decay and would, from its condition have become assimilated in the soil in 18 more years. Naturally all bones would decalcify and decay more rapidly in the drier climates of Canterbury and Hawke's Bay than in the humid climate of Taranaki.

"Canterbury has yielded the largest number of species and the largest quantity of well-preserved bones of the moas," concluded Mr. Smith. The great concentration of species of those extinct birds, and the fresh condition of their bones lying on the surface when settlement began, has long convinced me that the Albury and Opihi districts in South Canterbury were the last haunts of living moas, with four exceptions, 125 years ago."

ENGLISH WRITER'S TRIBUTE, "TRULY WONDERFUL MAN."

Sixteen years ago, during the war, a

well-known English writer who visited New Plymouth, contributed the following in a newspaper article afterwards:-

"I discovered him working away in Pukekura Park, of which he is curator. The morning sun was shining down on all sorts and conditions of men in New Zealand, but I am confident that the Dominion does not contain a more observant or reverent student of nature than W. W. Smith. As modest as the great Sir Isaac Newton; as gentle and thorough as Gilbert White of Selborne; as truthful and painstakingly accurate as Richard Jeffries; as wide in the scope of his interests as Professor Owen, and valued by New Zealand so little that he, with all his erudition, with all his painstaking first-hand work, with all his accumulated stores of personally ascertained fact, is actually employed in doing work which an illiterate muscular labourer could probably do as well. Not only so, but his careful scientific research and experiments are allowed to lapse or be but strugglingly maintained because, forsooth, the small means necessary to continue them are not forthcoming.

"Yet how New Zealand can shout over what she means to do in the future in the cause of science that she may be advanced to a place among nations! Here, in New Plymouth, is a truly wonderful man—one to whom many secrets of Nature are revealed; a man, moreover, with whom to spend an hour is to receive such an insight into the heart of Nature's workings that one realises that, having eyes, there has hitherto been no sight; that having ears there has yet been no hearing until this hour came.

"The World Was Not Worthy."

"In a poor, mean little cottage in the park this reverent scientist and naturalist works. He has none to help him, for the day labourer and the lad who constitutes his 'staff' have enough to do and are fittingly employed working in the grounds. It is a folly over which the angels might well weep that sees wasted on this work one who should be honoured, esteemed, and placed in a position where he would at least be

free to observe, reflect, and put before the humble-minded, who are worthy to sit at the feet of Wisdom, his impressions. 'Of whom the world was not worthy' is the epitome I, at least, select for this man's life character and achievements.

"Bear with me, oh dear, short-sighted New Zealand, if I point out that in any other country under the sun Mr. W. W. Smith would long ago have been recognised as a man of mind, a man of power, a wonderful observer, a scholar, and a Gentleman, a leader in scientific discovery and of advanced thought. This man should be treasured as one of New Zealand's greatest assets, and truly his fame has gone out to the end of the earth. In the world's great capitals the name and labours of W. W. Smith are well known. Letters come to him from eminent scientists and naturalists in all lands asking his opinions on hundred and one moot points. He replies, but his careful and scholarly answers must needs be written while others sleep, for our great man is paid the wage of a labourer, and works with spade and for his daily bread.

"Among the seven abominations that Solomon, the wise Eastern sage, saw under the sun was of "beggars on horse-back and princes walking." There are to-day many impoverished minds whose owners drive about in motor-cars and spend money freely, while a prince among men, such as W. W. Smith is hard put to it to buy materials to enable him to carry on his invaluable work for the benefit of mankind.

The Most Interesting Man.

"The true history of the progress of a nation has ever been the history of her great men, her individualists, and it is via such men as this that a nation arrives. When I return to the Homeland and am asked to name one of the men who has most interested me in this country during my stay of some 18 months, my answer will at once be 'Mr. W. W. Smith, of New Plymouth,' and if I were an autocrat for but an hour, possessed of autocratic power and wealth, I would immediately exercise my autocracy to levy the sum of £10,000 which I would place in the hands of Mr. W. W. Smith

that he might use it as his wisdom and judgment should dictate for purposes of research and otherwise, but absolutely as he thought best. It is no secret that Mr. W. W. Smith has in his possession manuscripts which he has written, diaries through long years of trained and scientific observation which would be given to the world were the funds for publication available. With £10,000 at his

disposal and a free hand, Mr. Smith would be able to give his undivided attention to observation and experiment and to secure for the Dominion and the civilised world incalculable wealth of the highest kind. Nor would the money be other than a wise investment. There would be nothing of a speculative nature about it; the yield would be sure and certain. It is to our men of science that we are indebted for the

millions secured by commerce which they have made possible, and industrial New Zealand would find that in Mr. Smith's soundly-based theories there is unlimited gold." Doubtless Mr. Smith himself would contend that this is a gross exaggeration. Those who know him best, however, could not agree with him on that point.

Following are some selected articles about Smith's experiences with Kiwi

EVENING POST
NOVEMBER 13, 1923

UNTAMEABLE KIWI OBSERVED AS CAPTIVE NOCTURNAL PRANKS UNDER COLOURED LIGHTS WHY NOT GRAMOPHONE AND "MOVIE" RECORDS.

In "The Young Citizen," an Auckland monthly devoted to the interests of young people, Mr. W. S. Smith, R.A.O.V., writes concerning the kiwi a series of articles that ought to be read by every lover of Nature. We quote a portion. The nocturnal, raucous-voiced, grub-eating, untameable kiwi, now a very rare New Zealander, has been specially studied in captivity by Mr. Smith, who took observations while lying in the kiwi house at night, sometimes using coloured lights to illuminate the bird's movements. The birds fed well—one could eat a pint of huhu grub in a night—but never ceased trying to escape, and always fought the hand that fed.

FEMALE OF THE SPECIES STRONGER.

When lying on the floor, in the darkness, in the kiwi house, and having the kiwis wandering over me, I began and conducted a series of experiments to test the hearing, scent, sight, and feeding habits of these remarkable birds. I had long been impressed that much remained to be known of their general and nesting habits which could be ascertained approximately by supplying conditions near to those of their forest home. The sexes vary much in size and condition, according to the nature and food supply of the area of bush that they inhabit. When the kiwis attain maturity, under favourable conditions—which requires from two to three years—they are then very muscular and strong birds for their size. They are voracious feeders, and consume much solid food nightly when supplied to them. The females being larger and stronger than the males require more food. Owing to the difficulty in obtaining a sufficient quantity of their natural food, including earthworms, huhu, and other large beetle grubs, slugs and larvae of the several large and splendid root-feeding species of Porina moths, I continued to feed them on beef, mutton, and the flesh of healthy rats when

my dog caught them. They partook freely of liver, and the cleaned and washed intestines of cattle and sheep. All these foods had to be cut in small pieces swallowable by the kiwis, otherwise they could not have eaten them.

I may mention that the larvae of the Porina moths are the so-called "vegetating caterpillars" and the hosts of the remarkable fungus, the *sphaeria robertsii* of mycologists. The fungus grows from the back of the larvae's head and, continuing to draw its sustenance from the body, it consumes the viscera when the larva dies, leaving little more than its skin with the mature fungus attached.

A PINT OF HUHU A NIGHT.

The kiwis' sense of scent and hearing are probably more highly developed than in any other known species of bird. When strange birds from their wild haunts were placed in the house, and they had all become reconciled, they sharply recognised each other's sniffing and scenting as they emerged from their dark recesses in the evening. The first bird to begin sniffing generally awoke the others, when they all soon appeared on the floor of their house to feed and drink amicably together. The food-vessel and drinking trough were placed on each side of the 10-inch square door giving access to the grass yard. On emerging in the evening they generally ruffled their feathers, stretched their necks and legs, then walked direct to the food dish. It required two or three nights for some of the birds to acquire a taste for fresh beef and mutton, but they soon afterwards began to consume large quantities of fat and lean of both meats. When hungry they feed rapidly, and produce a loud gobbling sound when swallowing their food. They prefer earthworms and huhu grubs to any other natural food. A healthy female would consume a pint of huhu every night if procurable. They relished half-boiled rice, and, when placed in a shallow dish of water, they would pick out every seed. They liked hard-boiled eggs and cheese, but would not eat bread, porridge or potatoes. I occasionally put young birds, lizards, and mice alive into their food dish, but in no sense did they ever injure one of them. On the highly sensitive bill touching these small living animals they startled and sniffed aloud, and occasionally kicked savagely at the moving object, excepting its mates, the kiwi utters a harsh, angry hissing sound, and strikes vigorously with its right foot.

LIGHT THROUGH COLOURED GLASS.

When conducting experiments and observing their habits, I used a dim light with several shades of coloured glass, including blue, green, red, and yellow. I used only one colour on each night. All the colours used did not seem to affect their eyesight appreciably, or disconcert them in any sense. On the nights devoted to experiments with various foods, I sat on a folded sack in the corner behind the lamp, which cast its dim light over the whole floor where all the birds could be seen feeding, drinking, and disputing themselves. The drinking trough was 18in square by 12in deep, and was daily filled with clean water. When drinking, the birds often dipped their head under water and produced a bubbling and gurgling sound. On withdrawing the head from the water they raised the long bill to an angle of 50 degrees to 65 degrees, and, forcing the water from the mouth and throat, caused it to run down the neck to wet and wash the body. The process was continued from five to ten minutes or more, until the body and feathers were well-wetted. After a vigorous ruffling of the feathers and shaking of the body, they would go out to the grass yard, and almost immediately attack the wire-netting work to escape and be free. No birds work more determinedly and persistently than the kiwi to gain their freedom. When attacking the wire-netting they frequently paw at it with the right foot, and occasionally endeavour to sap under it. This has to be safeguarded by sinking the wire-netting two feet deep in the ground. On tiring of attacking and sapping, as explained, they would wander to and fro on a narrow path in the yard for an hour or more, and again renew the attacks on the wire-netting. Of the fifteen birds that I experimented with all remained irreconcilable to captivity and unrelenting in their efforts to escape.

FIGHTERS: A DUEL WITH A GAME-CHICK.

Notwithstanding frequent careful handling and fondling the birds of various ages to tame them they were wholly untamable. The snow-white chicks, only a few days old, used their feet freely, and angrily snapped the soft tender bill when molested. On several occasions I placed a full-grown domestic game-cock in the grass yard in the evening to observe his reception, and test the kiwi's eyesight. On entering

the yard in the dusk the kiwi—a large and vicious female—assailed him, and would have killed him had I not intervened. The kiwi had kicked half the feathers off his back and breast, and had wounded him severely when I stopped the melee. The sparrow-hawk is extremely violent when its nest is approached or disturbed, but the kiwis' ferocity and rage, when fighting, quite surpasses it. When two kiwis engage in combat they rush furiously at each other striking rapidly with the right foot. The impact generally causes both to roll over each time until they are exhausted.

The call of the kiwi somewhat resembles that of the weka, but is harsher, and not so loud or far-reaching. While sitting on the floor of their house observing the birds one or other would call, for a few seconds, within three or four feet of me. When calling, the head is held at a slightly upward angle with the bill wide open. The call thus heard so near is raucous and discordant. On hearing a responsive hail from other kiwis in the bush in Pukekura Park the caller would listen attentively until the response ceased.

Moving picture films should be obtained showing these remarkable birds not only in their native haunts, but also in other places under conditions where artificial light could be used for the purpose of observing their peculiarities. Gramophone records of their calls should, in addition, be preserved for bird lovers of the future.

under the water, but rose again each time determined on self-defence. On rising, they blow the water taken in from the nostrils, and are indifferent to submersion. They are capable of remaining in the water for an hour or more without any apparent exhaustion or inconvenience. All such experiments were tried with birds that showed no sign of pairing or nesting, and which were also in robust health.

WAIKATO INDEPENDENT

NOVEMBER 8, 1927

KIWI IN A SHED

A Urenui farmer caught a kiwi on his farm recently, but on learning that the bird is protected he let it go (states the Taranaki News). As a matter of fact, kiwis will not live in captivity for long and will not breed. The exception is the case of some kiwis that had their habitat in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, some years ago. The then curator (Mr W. W. Smith) had two of them in a shed near his cottage, and they reared a young one. The egg of the kiwi sometimes attains five inches in length.

WAIKATO TIMES,

JANUARY 1, 1924

KIWI AS A WATER WARRIOR

During the years that we experimented with kiwis we occasionally submitted them to certain tests to enable us to observe and ascertain some of their more obscure habits. We tried their swimming powers. We took them in a boat, on dull days, during mild weather, and dropped them gently in the middle of the lake in Pukekura Park. We tried them on both calm and stormy days. Though not such active or rapid swimmers as wekas are, kiwis are good and strong swimmers alike in rough or smooth waters. On placing the birds in the water, they generally swam in a little circle for a few seconds, and would then swim direct for the shadiest and darkest side of the lake. When propelling themselves through the water, the shoulders and neck are well clear of the surface. Their slower motion is more a walking in the water than a swimming stroke. The birds being naturally endowed with powerful legs and big feet, should enable them to swim faster than they do. They are quite indifferent to a fast or slow pace when swimming, and are as pugnacious afloat as they are ashore. On being touched on the bill or neck in the water, they would hiss and snap the bill, and strike vigorously with the right foot at the offending object. Occasionally, when kicking, they went

1908

At the start of this period of the Park's history, the Board consisted of: Chairman, F. P. Corkill; Messrs R. C. Hughes, S. Percy Smith, C. W. Govett, W. L. Newman, H. Ford and R. Cock and three representatives from the council. Hughes and Ford had been on the Board of the Recreation Ground since its inception in 1875.

1908 was an important year for the Park. The name Pukekura Park had been adopted just prior to the new year with little fanfare. The name was promoted by Percy Smith suggesting that Pukekura was the Maori name for the valley in which the Park was formed.

New Years Day saw the official opening of the newly revamped Sports Ground. The ground had undergone major improvements since November 1906. The playing area had been lengthened and widened by more than twenty yards in each direction. The ground level had also been raised by approximately four feet and an improved drainage system installed. The original terraces were cut back and bigger terraces cut into the hills, increasing the seating capacity dramatically. The Sports Ground Committee was rewarded for their effort by hosting the New Zealand athletics championships in late February.

William Walter Smith was appointed curator and held the position until 1920. His influence on the Park was noticeable and still is to this day. He was instrumental in replacing a lot of the original pine trees in favour of natives. He had many interests, being a keen amateur ornithologist, entomologist, meteorologist and as became apparent in 1920, astronomer. He is famous for being the first person to breed kiwi in captivity, which he did in the early 1910s. Later in the decade he also successfully bred weka. At the time, his kiwi breeding was not well recognised. Where he bred the kiwi is debateable. It is the writer's belief that Smith made a purpose-built building near the curator's house on Victoria Road where he was living.

Percy Smith made his mark on the Park this year. The Serpentine which he designed was completed and the beautiful wisteria next to the Tea House was his handy work. He designed and built the original mamaku pergola (bower) for wisteria and other creeping flowers.

A start was made to the construction of a swimming pool for the Central School students. It was located between the present Tea House and the Fred Parker Lawn. Unfortunately, it was never used as the spring which was to feed the pool dried up.

Donations:

Mr J. W. Wilson, Rob Roy canoe; Mr Wittle, horse mower and horse roller; Mr Crozier, Frankley Road, kiwi.

Plant donations included:

From an anonymous donor in New Plymouth, Japanese cherries as follows: 3 Flore Pleno Alba, 6 Ukon, 6 Hizakawa, 6 Thirs-Fugen, 6 Amanogawa, 6 Hoso-kawa-beni, 6 Yoshina, 6 Oku-mizako, 9 Kofugen, 6 Bijokau, 6 Beni-Fugen, 9 Takysau, 2 *Rhododendron ponticum alba* and 2 *Genista andreana*; Mr W. Park, FRHS, Palmerston North, 2 *Adiantum formosum*, 2 *Asplenium cuneifolium*, 2 *Lomaria lucida*, 2 *Clematis afoleata*, 1 *Exochorda* sp, 1 *Helianthus florepleno*, 1 *Oxalis alba*, 2 *Funkia subcordata*, 1 *Heuchera alba*, 1 *Cineraria maritima*, 12 *Cineraria* hybrids, 1 *Bignonia glandra*, 1 *Dracophyllum longifolium*, 1 *Senecio laxifolius*, 1 *Convallaria maplis (majalis)* and 1 *Akebia japonica*; Mrs Humphries, 5 bags of mixed bulbs including narcissus, *Lilium grandiflorum*, gladioli, 2 *Alstroemeria* and 2 *Kerria japonica*; Mr Fraser (New Plymouth) and Mr Harold Hursthouse (Greymouth), rare *Olearias* plants; Dr Walker and Mr Bereton: pomegranate plants; Mr Codd of Ngatoro, Inglewood, a collection of cactus dahlias, lilies and amaryllis; Mr R Davies, from the Coromandel ranges near Paeroa, collection of native plants; anonymous donor, 75 *Prunus pseudo cerasus*.

Summary of significant events

- Opening of Sports Grounds, January 1, 1908
- Robert Mace resigns and William Walter Smith is employed as curator
- Powerful Electric Arc Lamps installed at the Sports Ground
- The Sports Ground hosted the New Zealand Championship Athletics Meeting
- Serpentine Constructed
- W. W. Smith starts developing the Gilbert Street Entrance area
- Sports Ground Committee purchased new roller
- New bridges constructed at waterfall near Glibert Street entrance (now the waterwheel)
- W. W. Smith starts developing a fernery on Manhattan Island
- Wisteria pergola (bower) next to Tea House constructed by Percy Smith
- Work starts on Central School swimming pool behind the Tea House
- Borough Council increase subsidy so the Board can increase W. W. Smith's wages
- Taranaki ruby team beat a touring British side.



A PORTION OF THE FINE NEW SPORTS GROUNDS OPENED AT PUKEKURA PARK, NEW PLYMOUTH, ON JANUARY 1, 1908. W. A. Collis.

(Auckland Weekly News, January 16, 1908.)

TH, JANUARY 2, 1908
OPENING OF SPORTS GROUND

OFFICIAL OPENING.

The New Plymouth Recreation Sports Ground was officially opened yesterday, the event being marked by a monster Garden Party. The climatic conditions were ideal for an al fresco gathering, with the result that there was a record attendance for a garden party. Pukekura Park (or as it was until recently known the Recreation Grounds) is looked upon as one of the most convenient beauty spots of the Dominion and has always been held in high estimation by visitors, even more so perhaps than the townspeople themselves. The improvements that have been effected, reforming more particularly to the sports arena, will no doubt add considerably to its popularity. The work of improvement was undertaken some eighteen months ago by an energetic committee—Messrs A. L. Humphries (chairman), J. Clarke (secretary), J. Griffiths (treasurer), Ford, Perham, George Southam, Stocker, Tribe, and Hobbs. The work actually begun in November, 1906. At that time it was barely possible to obtain a track of 300 yards, and the accommodation provided for spectators at football and cricket matches was inadequate. These two points were always kept in view, and the course of action was so judiciously thought-out that to-day a track of 440 yards can be obtained and the twenty-two terraces made, not including the commodious promenade immediately encircling the playing arena, are capable of seating 2000 people. These improvements have naturally incurred a large expenditure, but the appeals for funds by the committee have been liberally responded to. To date a sum of over £1200 has been expended, and to complete the work the committee have in view a further £800 is still required. Then the grounds will once more be handed over to the charge of the Park Board. The playing field has been well drained, as was evidenced yesterday, for although there had been heavy rains only a few hours before, the turf was quite dry.

The opening ceremony was performed by the Mayor (Mr E. Dockrill), who addressed the throng from the lower of the terraces immediately facing the main entrance. He said the committee desired him to heartily thank the public for the generous financial assistance they had accorded, without which the improvements could not have been accomplished. Of the £1200 expended £800 had been raised by means of subscriptions and entertainments and the remaining £400 had been borrowed from the New Zealand Rugby Union through the Taranaki Union at the very low rate of interest of 2½ per cent. This amount of £400 had been guaranteed by residents in sums of £20. The committee desired approximately a further £800 to complete their scheme and trusted the public would extend to them liberal patronage in the future as in the past, in order that it may be given effect to. Among other things they required was a grand stand, and it was intended in those places where terraces could not be provided to plant flowering shrubs, so that the surroundings would be made even more delightful than they were at present. The moving spirit in the whole of this matter had been Mr A. Humphries, and to this gentleman they owed

more than to any other what they saw around them. The secretary (Mr Clarke) had been unremitting in his exertions and had done a Trojan's work. In conclusion he would like to take that opportunity of thanking on behalf of the public the members of the committee. (Applause.)

His Worship then declared the grounds open amid applause.

Numerous attractions were provided for the visitors. Messrs W. Bewley and Sorrenson (Palmerston North) kindly placed their motor cars at the disposal of the committee and ran trips around the course. During the whole afternoon there was a great rush for rides by the youngsters and nearly £10 was taken by this means. A team from the Taranaki Guards under Captain Mills gave a capital exposition of physical drill, their movements being gone through with wonderful precision and neatness. The Fire Brigade events, carried out under the supervision of the following officials, were full of interest:—Starter, Mr J. Harvey; time-keepers, Messrs J. Bennett and W. Roberts; judges, Messrs T. R. Ford, F. Carrington, F. C. Griffiths, and T. Parker; director, Mr F. Bellringer. Decorated bikes and go-carts were wheeled about the enclosure, and the Te Rappi Band created roars of laughter. Peddie Bros. gave a display, this proving a popular item. The pillow-fighting on the spar by the youngsters was at times rather exciting and always amusing. Among other items in a varied programme were throwing the cricket ball, tilting the ring, obstacle races, etc. Fruit and lolly stalls did good business, also the afternoon tea and ice-cream booths. The Garrison Band added much to the afternoon's enjoyment by the excellent programme of music rendered. The following are the results:—

Five men Fire Brigade event: New Plymouth A (Lieut. Boon, Foreman Clark, Secretary Ford, Firemen J. Way and Hardwick) 39 1-5secs. Fitzroy (Foremen Parkins and Griffiths and Firemen Lamb, Old, and R. Bellringer) 40 2-5secs. Eltham A (Foreman Murray, Firemen Cooper, Cook, Potts, and Scoon) 42 4-5secs., with 2secs. penalty added. Eltham B and New Plymouth B also competed, their time being 45 and 46 4-5secs. respectively.

Three men Fire Brigade event: New Plymouth A (Lieut. Boon, Foreman Clarke, and Secretary Ford) 39 4-5secs. New Plymouth B (Firemen Hardwick, W. Way, and J. Way) 43secs. Fitzroy A (Foremen Parkins and Griffiths, Fireman Lamb) 49 1-5sec.

Tug-of-War: After a number of stubborn pulls Star Football Club's team were declared the winners. Teams competing were as follows: Maoris, Star, Borough Council, Fire Brigade, and Garrison Band (2).

Tilting the ring: A. Garner, 58 secs.

Throwing the cricket ball: A. K. Blundell and M. Robertson, dead heat. Obstacle race: W. Chong was the only competitor complying with regulations.

Pillow-fighting on spar: Boys under 12, A. Mumby 1, D. Fox 2, H. Pater-son 3; Boys under 15, J. McCracken 1, A. Mumby 2, D. Fox 3.

Best decorated bike and trailer: Mr Frethy (decorated by Miss Ivy Blyler).

Best decorated go-cart: Mrs Kébbel (decorated by Miss K. Hamerton). (Judged by Mesdames Dockrill and Day).

The arrangements were carried out without a hitch. Altogether about £160 was taken, £130 of which was received at the gates.

TH, JANUARY 3, 1908
LETTER OF THANKS TO SPORTS
COMMITTEE FROM BOARD

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—To-day's Herald records the successful opening of the new Sports Ground in Pukekura Park, a work which reflects the greatest credit upon the energetic few who have had the matter in hand. When, some two years ago, the trustees of the Park agreed to grant the lease which would give these enthusiasts a legal standing and enable them to inaugurate the bold scheme of improvement, there were many who prophesied failure and twitted the members of the Board with the dismal prospect of a half-finished work thrown on their hands as the result of misguided zeal and inadequate means. These forebodings have not been realised and as the fruit of the labours of the Sports Committee we now have a ground which cannot be approached in this Dominion. On behalf of the trustees I would like to express to Mr Arthur Humphries and his associates our satisfaction with their fulfilment of their obligations to us and our hearty congratulations on the splendid result of their efforts.—I am, etc.,

F. P. CORKILL,

Chairman Pukekura Park Trustees.
 January 2nd, 1908.

TH, JANUARY 3, 1908
25 LB EEL FOUND IN LAKE

The Maoris engaged on the work of making the new pond at the Recreation Ground made a fine haul from the swamp yesterday in the shape of an eel which turned the scale at over 25lbs.

TH, JANUARY 7, 1908

NEW PLYMOUTH CALEDONIAN
SOCIETY.

NEW ZEALAND CHAMPIONSHIP
ATHLETIC MEETING.

To be held in the
 RECREATION SPORTS GROUND,
 NEW PLYMOUTH,
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26,
 1908.

Under the Rules of the N.Z. Athletic Union and N.Z. League of Wheelmen.

PROGRAMME.

Running.

Provincial Maiden Race, 150 yards, 1st 30s, second 10s; nomination 2s
 Half-mile Handicap, 1st 100s, 2nd 30s; nomination 3s, acceptance 2s.
 One Mile Handicap, 1st 100s, 2nd 30s; nomination 3s, acceptance 2s.

GRAND CALEDONIAN HANDICAP,
 of £50 cash (three distances).—120 yards, 1st 100s, 2nd 40s, 3rd 20s; 220 yards, 1st 100s, 2nd 40s, 3rd 20s; 440 yards, 1st 100s, 2nd 40s, 3rd 20s; with added points prize of 1st 340s, 2nd 120s, 3rd 60s; nomination 10s, acceptance 5s.
 Forced Handicap, 220 yards, 1st 40s, 2nd 10s; winners 2s, losers 1s.

Championship Events.

CHAMPIONSHIP OF NEW ZEALAND
—100 yards, 1st gold medal and 40s,
2nd 20s; nomination 2s.
CHAMPIONSHIP OF NEW ZEALAND
—440 yards, 1st gold medal and 60s,
2nd 20s; nomination 3s.
CHAMPIONSHIP OF NEW ZEALAND
—880 yards, 1st gold medal and 60s,
2nd 20s; nomination 3s.

Cycling.

Novice Handicap, one mile, 1st 30s, 2nd 10s; nomination 2s.
One Mile, open, 1st 80s, 2nd 20s, 3rd 10s; nomination 2s, acceptance 2s.
One Mile and a-half, open, of £9 14s, 1st 80s and Messrs E. Reynolds and Co.'s £4 4s trophy, 2nd 20s, 3rd 10s; nomination 3s, acceptance 2s.
DOMINION WHEEL RACE, 2 miles, of £20 5s cash, 1st 280s, 2nd 80s, 3rd 35s, 4th 10s; nomination 10s, acceptance 4s.

Highland Events.

Bagpipe Music, marches, 1st 60s, 2nd 20s; nomination 2s.
Bagpipe Music, Strathspeys and Reels, 1st 60s, 2nd 20s; nomination 2s.
Highland Fling in costume, open, 1st 40s, 2nd 10s; nomination 2s.
Sword Dance in costume, open, 1st 40s, 2nd 10s; nomination 2s.
Highland Fling for boys under 16, 1st 20s or gold medal, 2nd 5s; nomination free.
Highland Fling for girls under 16, 1st 20s or gold medal, 2nd 5s; nomination free.
Sword Dance for boys under 16, 1st 20s or gold medal, 2nd 5s; nomination free.
Sword Dance for girls under 16, 1st 20s or gold medal, 2nd 5s; nomination free.
Reel for boys and girls under 16, 10s for best boy dancer and 10s for best girl dancer; nomination free.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE on FEBRUARY 5th, 1908; Handicaps appear about **FEBRUARY 17th.** Winners after declaration may be re-handicapped.

Last two years' performances to accompany each nomination, and to be made on the New Zealand Athletic Union forms. If no performances for the last two years, the last five performances to be given. Competitors for all, except boys' and girls' events, must be registered with some centre or Society affiliated to the New Zealand Athletic Union, or reciprocal body in Australia.

Every competitor must be registered by New Zealand Athletic Union.

No entry will be received from any person disqualified or suspended by the New Zealand Athletic Union, or from any defaulter.

Points in the Caledonian Handicap to count 3, 2 and 1. In the event of a tie, run-off to be over 220 yards.

Handicappers Mr Ulic Shannon, Wellington, assisted by Mr W. McDonald, Dunedin.

JAMES McLEOD,

Secretary.

P.O. Box 87 New Plymouth.

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TH, JANUARY 11, 1908

FILLIS ST BOUNDARY FENCE

The Recreation Sports Ground Committee wishes to thank the following gentlemen for assisting to erect gratuitously the iron fence on the boundary facing Fillis Street:—Messrs. Coleman senr., F. Coleman, C. Coleman, L. Bullock, W. Chong and G. Stokes. Ben Tippins

TH, JANUARY 14, 1908 PARK UPDATE

The new arrangements at the Tea Room are proving quite satisfactory. Mr. Legg has sent the Board a New Year's gift of £1.

The bridges above and below the waterfall at the town end of Pukekura Park have been rebuilt and made perfectly safe with wire netting, so that nervous mothers need no longer fear to take their children to see the pretty cascade.

The water lily pond in the park is now looking at its best, the dense mass of foliage being studded with myriads of lovely blooms.

The decayed vegetable matter which is being removed from the raupo swamp at the head of the large lake and deposited round the banks, will make a first-class soil for the cultivation of masses of iris and other bulbs and tubers. The Board will be very glad to hear from any good citizen who can spare a few pounds for outlay in this direction.

The Chairman of the Board desires to acknowledge with thanks the gift of a Rob Roy canoe with paddles, etc., from Mr. J. W. Wilson.

The last of the male swans from the Royal Swannery on the Thames was found dead in the park the other day. The surviving cygnet is making good growth, but has one leg crippled. Both these mishaps are attributed to dogs.

Good progress is being made with the extension of the large lake, and it is expected that the excavation will be completed by the end of the present week.

TH, JANUARY 18, 1908 PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in the Park on Tuesday. Present: Messrs. F. P. Corkill (chairman), C. W. Govett, S. Percy Smith, W. L. Newman, R. C. Hughes, R. Cock, H. Ford, W. A. Collis, and F. Bellringer. The continuance of bicycle riding in the park was again brought before the Board, and it was resolved to enforce the by-law by prosecuting. It was decided, before filling the lake with water, to erect a concrete dam near the tea-rooms. It was resolved to procure a further shipment of fireworks in England. The Board also resolved that steps should be taken to let the 2½ acres of land on the Brooklands Road on lease upon the same terms as the School Commissioners' leases. Mr. C. W. Govett was granted leave of absence during his visit to Europe, and the Board cordially wished him a pleasant trip. A vote of thanks was passed to Messrs. Boon Bros., builders, for lending the Board a winch, and to Mr. J. W. Wilson for gift of a canoe. The park was placed in charge of Mr. S. Percy Smith for the ensuing period. It was stated at the meeting that the lake would be filled up again to its original level in about four weeks' time. The Board regrets that some visitors to the park have been damaging some of the shrubs and tree ferns by breaking off branches. The Board will feel indebted to anyone giving the names of the offenders.

TH, JANUARY 27, 1908 PARK UPDATE

During the past few weeks a notable transformation has been effected by the Pukekura Park Board. Some little time ago the Board had placed at its disposal a sum of £300 through the large-heartedness of members of a well known local family, and it was decided that this very acceptable sum should be devoted to a permanent improvement in the form of an extension to the large lake. Plans were prepared by Mr S. Percy Smith, F.R.G.S., and under this gentleman's supervision the work has been successfully carried out. It has involved the excavation of the long narrow swamp extending from the upper bridge near the boat-house to the boundary of Brooklands, Mr Newton King's property. A beautiful waterway with an average depth of three feet has been created. It will be available for boating. The length of the course over which boats can be rowed has been doubled. The silt and vegetable matter taken out in the process of excavation has been used to form the banks and a wide pathway around the lake. The Board hopes to be enabled to plant the margins with a fine display of bulbs, etc. Only lack of funds can prevent the trustees from making the surroundings of the new sheet of water very attractive. Most of the labour has been done by Maoris working under the control of Mr A. Cole, who, we are informed, has proved himself a very capable and tactful overseer.

The Chairman of the Board hopes during the present summer to procure a number of cygnets or grown swans, both black and white, from lakes in the Waikato district. It may, however, be mentioned that the Board is much embarrassed by people persisting in taking dogs into the Park, in contravention of the bye-laws. The members hesitate to prosecute, but the fact remains that for years past all their efforts to stock the waters with birds have been largely frustrated by the depredations of dogs. It will probably be necessary to make an example of someone, unless the practice ceases.

At the lower end of the large pond Messrs Boon Bros. are now building a new outlet with concrete sills. When this is complete it is intended to raise the water in the lake to twelve inches higher than its former level.

TH, JANUARY 29, 1908 PRAISE FOR SPORTS GROUND

The Sydney Telegraph's correspondent who accompanied the New South Wales teachers to New Plymouth, writing of the Recreation Sports Ground, says "the ground is absolutely unique in its picturesque aspect and its natural conveniences. Several beautiful trees must be yet sacrificed to the gods of cricket, and the outfield still requires attention, but the ground is a monument to the untiring and unselfish work of the football and cricket sports of Taranaki.

TH, JANUARY 30, 1908
IMPROVEMENTS FOR SPORTS
MEETING

The sports oval at Pukekura Park is being greatly improved. The work is being carried on under the superintendence of Mr A. Humphries (Chairman of the Sports Ground Committee), assisted by Mr W. Perham. The tracks should be in excellent condition for the championship meeting.

Yesterday, the 120 yards, Sheffield, track (which is also the marching course for the Band Contest) was top-dressed and sown in quick-growing Italian rye. In the evening it was rolled with a two-ton roller.

Four men will be constantly employed on the track from now till the time of the meeting. The improvements already made are vast.

The circular track is to be on the scale of five laps to a mile.

Entries are coming in well for the championship meeting. Six entries for cycling events were received last night from as far afield as Auckland and Blenheim. Entries do not close until February 6.

TH, FEBRUARY 4, 1908
SPORTS GROUND LIGHTING

Electric light poles have been erected around the Recreation Sports Ground. Four powerful arc lamps will be used in addition to several smaller ones. An admirable effect will be realised in future at all evening entertainments in the grounds, the lamps having been fixed in such a manner that not only the sports arena but the whole of the terraces are admirably illuminated. An arc lamp is also being fixed at the main entrance to the grounds.

TH, FEBRUARY 5, 1908
OFFER TO FUND ROLLER

A sportsmanlike offer in the interests of cricket has been made by Mr E. Whittle, one of the most enthusiastic of local cricketers. Recognising that a roller and a mower were needed for the New Plymouth ground, Mr Whittle brought the matter up and then generously guaranteed to provide a horse mower and a horse roller (to cost about £100), the Sports Ground Committee to repay him as soon as finances would permit.

TH, FEBRUARY 6, 1908
SPORTS GROUND SEATS REQUIRED

The Recreation Sports Ground Committee is anxious to complete the seating of the terraces in time for the Band Contest, and so will be glad to receive any donations. It may not be generally known that 25s will provide the material for one set of seats, while the cost of erection has been provided gratuitously by Mr George George. We have to-day to acknowledge an anonymous donation of 25s for this object, which will be duly handed to the committee.

TH, FEBRUARY 17, 1908
PARK IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

During the past fortnight the water in the large lake has been rising slowly and has covered the bed of the extension sufficiently to enable the whole length to be roved over by the hon. secretary, Mr Tribe, who thus earns the distinction of being the first circumnavigator.

Mr Newton King has an extensive work in progress in that part of his Brooklands property which immediately adjoins the Park. The Maoris who did such excellent work for the Board are now employed by Mr King in forming a large sheet of water which will stretch from the Park boundary for a long distance into Brooklands and, when finished, will add greatly to the charms of the domain.

Under the supervision of Mr S. Percy Smith, F.R.G.S., the crumbling bank opposite the bathing house has been faced with solid mamaku (tree fern) trunks secured with steel rails, making a very substantial and permanent job.

Messrs Boon Bros. have completed the concrete sill which will form the outlet for the overflow of the water from the large lake.

It is suggested that the swimming bath for the Central School should be constructed immediately behind the bathing house, at the lower end of the valley leading up to the Racecourse. It is believed that at this point a fine sheet of water can be created with a good hard bottom and nicely graduated depth.

Mr Percy Smith has planned and is about to construct a pergola or open arbour along the eastern side of the little lawn by the Tea House. This will be formed of mamaku trunks with a roof of wire netting, and the structure will be covered with flowering creepers—wistaria, bignonia, passion flower, solanum, and such like.

On Sunday there were hundreds of visitors in the Park. The cygnet has grown amazingly of late and is now a fine looking bird.

Considering the dry weather we have had, the Sports Committee has the Oval in capital order for the coming events.

TH, FEBRUARY 18, 1908
SPORTS GROUND SEAT DONATION

The Recreation Sports Ground Committee has received a donation of a row of seats from Messrs P. Hopkins and Tunbridge, also a row from the staff of the Taranaki Herald.

TH, FEBRUARY 24, 1908
PARK UPDATE—MACE RESIGNS

Visitors to the Park should notice the beautiful scarlet blossoms of the eucalyptus ficifolia, which are now expanding. There are two nice trees about half-way between the boat-house and the head of the lake, another between the tea-house and the Oval, and another on the higher level behind the racecourse.

It is suggested that the Board might allow the lifeboat to make trips on the lake for the pleasure of country visitors who will be in town for the events of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Threepenny voyages would doubtless prove a great attraction.

During the past week the growth of aquatic plants which was taking possession of the lower lake has been dredged out, and there is once again a nice clear sheet of water. A few days ago one of the wild ducks brought out a brood of ten, but the rats and eels have already reduced the number by one-half.

The custodian, Mr. Mace, has intimated his desire to be relieved of his appointment in consequence of increasing hardness of hearing. Since he has been in charge Mr. Mace has done excellent work, and his retirement is regretted by his employers.

The Maori encampment in the Park was a centre of interest to the many visitors on Sunday. During the afternoon preparations were being made for the evening meal, and the bill of fare included a large dish of the poro-iti, an excellent native substitute for cabbage or spinach. A kapa Maori was used to cook potatoes and kumikumi.

A good deal of cleaning up has been done with the object of lessening danger from fire, and the Board has caused notices to be posted up, asking smokers to be careful in the use of matches.

The Board is anxious to make further considerable improvements which should necessitate an outlay of about £100, but exhaustion of funds and an overdraft nearly up to limit will probably necessitate a policy of economy for the next couple of years.

TH, FEBRUARY 25, 1908
ROLLER FOR SPORTS GROUND

The Takapuna arrived from the South at noon to-day. She brought 120 tons of general cargo, including the roller for the Recreation Sports Ground committee.

TH, FEBRUARY 28, 1908
NZ ATHLETICS CHAMPS

NEW ZEALAND CHAMPIONSHIP
MEETING.

Almost as though obedient to the wishes of the public the heavy rain of Tuesday ceased in good time for Wednesday's sports meeting. A glorious day, sunny and fresh, was experienced. The meeting was the Championship Caledonian meeting of the Dominion, run in connection with the New Plymouth Caledonian Society's annual meeting and under the auspices of the Society. There were nearly 4000 people present. That beautiful natural amphitheatre, the sports oval at Pukekura Park, with its numerous terraces animated by gaily dressed humanity, was a rare spectacle. The ground, undoubtedly the most beautiful in New Zealand, was more charming than ever with the added attraction; visitors were enraptured. Owing to the untiring efforts of Mr James McLeod (the secretary) and an energetic committee, the arrangements were comprehensive. The meeting was attended by some of the leading officials in professional running control, all of whom were delighted with the management of the meeting. Regrettably, the championship events brought forth small fields. Only Shivas and Morris were on the mark in the 100 yards, but several other runners generously went out to make a bigger field. Morris retained his title as the recognised premier sprinter of New Zealand, though he had not such a hollow victory that he "made hacks of the field"; the time shows that he was extended. The cycling was a treat. The New Zealand back markers were seen out and some of the middle and limit men were worthy opponents. The running of A. Campbell in the mile handicap should have been inquired into. The track was a bit heavy, but some good times were registered. All day long the music of the Scot floated up from the oval and ever and anon the crowd on the end terrace was heard applauding the dancing or the playing of some kilted being. The Scotch competitions were of very high grade. Following

TH, March 10, 1908

W W SMITH APPOINTED CURATOR

The Trustees of the Pukekura Park (late Recreation Grounds) have appointed as curator Mr W. W. Smith, lately in charge of the municipal reserves at Palmerston North, but best known by his long and successful connection with the Ashburton Domain.

TH, March 13, 1908

W W SMITH ACCEPTS POSITION

Telegrams have been received to-day from Mr W. W. Smith, F.R.H.S., stating that he accepts the position of custodian of the Pukekura Park and will take up his duties about the end of next week. We notice in the Palmerston North papers the fact recorded that a public meeting is being held in Palmerston North to-night for the purpose of endeavouring to retain the services of Mr Smith.

TH, March 17, 1908

**PALMERSTON NORTH RESIDENTS
WANT SMITH TO RETURN**

The strong feeling of the ratepayers of Palmerston regarding the resignation of Mr. W. W. Smith curator of reserves, culminated last Friday evening (says a local paper) in a largely-attended public meeting held at the Municipal Hall, at which resolutions were carried asking the Borough Council to retain Mr. Smith's services. Mr. Smith was recently appointed custodian of Pukekura Park.

TH, March 19, 1908

WORK STARTED ON SCHOOL POOL

The monthly meeting of the High School Board was held last night. Present: Messrs. J. E. Wilson (chairman), Smith, Glasgow, Fraser and Dockrill. Mr. MacDiarmid and Dr. Fookes were granted leave of absence.

Mr. Smith reported that the Maoris employed had commenced the formation of the bathing-pond at the Park.

TH, March 21, 1908

W W SMITH STARTS WORK

The new curator of Pukekura Park, Mr W. W. Smith, F.R.H.S., arrived on Thursday night and has taken charge of the grounds.

TH, APRIL 4, 1908

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Board was held on April 1 at the office of Mr F. P. Corkill. Present: Messrs F. P. Corkill (chairman), S. Percy Smith, W. L. Newman, R. C. Hughes, Harris Ford, W. A. Collis, and F. Bellringer. Mr W. W. Smith, the new curator, was also present. It was resolved that a committee consisting of the chairman, Messrs S. Percy Smith, and W. L. Newman should take into consideration the question of erecting a cottage for the curator. A vote of thanks was tendered to the anonymous donor of Japanese cherry trees. The Board considered the question of finance and the necessity of in some way raising sufficient funds to keep the grounds in good order. It was resolved to wait upon

the Borough Council at their meeting on April 13 with a view of obtaining an increased subsidy. The grounds were placed in charge of Mr S. Percy Smith for the ensuing period. It was decided that endeavours should be made to ascertain the names of the person who wilfully damaged some of the trees in the grounds and that upon the name being found immediate prosecution should be instituted.

TH, APRIL 8, 1908

BOARD TO SEEK BIGGER SUBSIDY

At a meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board the other evening it was decided to wait upon the Borough Council with a request for a more substantial subsidy from the borough funds towards the maintenance of the grounds. In supporting the request we may point out that while the needs of the Board are growing greater year by year its funds have suffered during the last year or two by the diversion of public support to the sports ground and to Western Park. It has been the endeavour of the Board every year to carry out some permanent improvement to the grounds, sometimes with the assistance of special donations for a specific purpose. Even if such works are carried out—as, for instance, the recent extension of the lake—without trenching upon the ordinary revenue they necessarily add to the cost of general maintenance afterwards. Every new pathway that is cut requires afterwards to be kept in order; every young tree planted requires attention until it becomes thoroughly established and safe from the risk of being smothered by ranker vegetation; so that it is now necessary to employ more labour than was required when the reserve was chiefly in a state of nature. A generous donor has presented a large number of Japanese cherry trees, and the Board has to plant them and tend them; and as with all such places as public parks the more there is done the more requires doing. In the past the Board has managed wonderfully to carry out improvements with the very small means at its command. It has been fortunate in its caretakers, who have not spared themselves in their efforts to beautify the grounds and make them what they are—the most beautiful public domain in New Zealand. In Mr. W. W. Smith the Board has secured a curator who is facile princeps in the art of landscape gardening, who is competent to advise, as well as to direct and carry out further beautification

of the grounds. The time therefore seems opportune for an effort to place the finances on a sounder footing. What is required is a steady assured income of at least £300 a year, which would enable the Board to properly maintain the grounds. Special donations which come in the way and occasional sums from other sources would enable the Board as now to do special work, but the first essential is a steady assured income for maintenance. No fairer way of securing this can be named than by subsidy from the borough funds, for then all would contribute. At present the burden is unequally divided, for the subscribers' list is a very limited one, and it is usually the same list year after year. It is very little, after all, that is asked for. A single shilling per head of the population of the borough, paid annually, would remove a load of anxiety from the shoulders of the Board, and few would miss a shilling a year. The best way, however, to distribute the cost seems to be to collect it through the rates, and we do not think there will be any objection to the Council substantially increasing the subsidy for the current year.

TH, APRIL 13, 1908

SPORTS GROUND FUNDRAISING

The members of the Recreation Sports Ground Committee, with characteristic enterprise, are endeavouring to raise sufficient funds to enable them to carry out the scheme of fully lighting the sports ground. For this purpose they have arranged with Mr. Perry's orchestra to give a series of night concerts, the first of which takes place in the grounds on Wednesday next. Reference to our advertising columns will show that the programme arranged is something above the ordinary. Owing to the lateness of the season, this will be the only concert held until after the winter.

TH, APRIL 14, 1908

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The annual meeting of the Recreation Grounds (Pukekura Park) Board was held last night. Present: Messrs F. P. Corkill (chairman), S. Percy Smith, W. L. Newman, R. C. Hughes, H. Ford, and Fred. Bellringer. The chairman's annual report and the statement of receipts and expenditure were adopted. Mr. Corkill was re-elected chairman. In view of the projected departure of the hon. secretary, Mr E. H. Tribe, for Britain, the Board passed a resolution of appreciation of his energy and zeal in the work, and wished him a pleasant trip. Mr Tribe was granted leave of absence to make the trip.

CHAT WITH THE NEW CURATOR.

Passing through Pukekura Park the other day, one of our representatives came across Mr W. W. Smith, the new curator, busy tidying up the walks, etc., and generally preparing for the approaching planting season. Mr Smith is one of the greatest authorities on botany in the Dominion, and a great admirer of New Zealand foliage.

"What do you think of the grounds?" queried the reporter.

"Well," said Mr Smith, "on entering them some years ago I was very earnestly impressed with their naturalness and the excellent work done in modelling and planting them. Allowing full scope for our various tastes and styles in the art of landscape work, and all circumstances and difficulties no doubt experienced in the early days, I do not think it could have been carried on on much better lines. The difficulty of obtaining suitable trees and other plants during the earlier years of the Park probably explains the presence of many pines, but these, I may say, have served their purpose well, whilst among them are some of the best *Pinus insignis* I have met with. Several have clear, straight trunks over 100 feet high, and over four feet in diameter at the base. These should yield excellent timber for building outhouses, etc. Although a despised tree in some districts, I am of opinion, in view of the increasing scarcity of timber, that it will yet be planted extensively in the Dominion for the purposes I have named. There are also some large trees of *Pinus maritima*, which yield a more compact and durable timber than that of the *Insignis*, but is a little slower in growth. The quality of these timbers, when tested, should form a safe guide to those settlers who intend planting trees for building purposes. There is no doubt the Park has been worked on admirable lines. The recent extension of the upper lake has also much enhanced the beauty of the Park. When the banks and open spaces near it are planted with tree ferns and other suitable native trees, and beneath them low-growing ferns, it will prove most picturesque when viewed from the low hills overlooking it. Considering the limited means at the disposal of former Boards, and other difficulties experienced, the Park is highly creditable to them and to former curators, who have raised it to its present state and status among the public parks of the Dominion."

Mr Smith is a lover of Maori names, and fully approves of the recently-proclaimed new name, Pukekura Park, as being more appropriate and euphonious than that of Recreation Grounds.

"Judging from the number I have seen here," Mr Smith jocularly remarked, "Pukekura Park appears to be a very popular place with honeymoon couples. And so it is," he added, enthusiastically. "It is a charming place for young and old. People of Taranaki have something to be really proud of. There is not a finer scene in the whole Dominion than the view across this lake, from where we are standing and beholding Mount Egmont—the chief scenic attraction of Taranaki—in the background."

Our representative casually referred to the natural beauty of the grounds.

"Yes," said Mr Smith, "you may have artificiality in gardens and a brilliant display of colour in flowers, but they don't come up to the true level of Nature as a place like Pukekura Park. It is the naturalness of the grounds that gives such a charm to them."

"And how do you intend to proceed in the future?"

"It is impossible at present to outline any particular scheme," said Mr Smith, "to adopt and follow in the future for the further beautification of the Park or for enhancing its value for educational purposes, or as a pleasure resort. Much will necessarily depend on the Board's means to be applied to the work in developing it on these lines. With care, of course, much can be done. Besides the ordinary and daily work of maintenance, the Board intends to continue planting native trees extensively, and thus strictly preserve the natural features of the grounds, for which they are now invariably admitted to be the best in the Dominion. But the finer classes of exotic plants will also be allotted several spaces to encourage the tastes of those who admire them."

"Nothing definite has been arranged by the Board at present as to the clearing, re-modelling, and planting of several small valleys in the Park, notably the two near the tea-house, now covered with coarse, unpicturesque vegetation. The Board fully recognises the improvement to be made by clearing and planting them well with native trees and shrubs. It is, however, intended to deal with these valleys at an early date. On the shady lower parts near the lakes, and on the island at the head of the large lake, groups of the dwarf-growing native ferns are to be planted and accurately named for the convenience of study by visitors. Fresh humus could well be added to these sites to enable the plants to produce a vigorous growth."

Speaking of New Zealand's native flora, Mr Smith declared that there was no place in the whole Dominion where it might be seen growing to such perfection as in Pukekura Park. The group of young native trees growing on the island affords an excellent practical lesson in the planting of new bush, and illustrates how easy it is, and how rapidly in some districts, to regenerate native bush. They have been planted several years and have made remarkably fine growth—so much so, indeed, that they will require judicious thinning and transplanting to enable the stronger and larger trees to expand and develop perfectly. It is proposed to form large beds of good mould in which to plant and display the growth of as many of the beautiful varieties of native flax as may be procurable. Of these there are about forty, many of them being still in the hands of the Maoris. We have already been promised some fine varieties, which will make a good bed for a beginning. Large beds each of the native veronicas (*koromikos*), oleasias, coprosmas, *carmichaelias* (native brooms), *aciphyllas* (speargrass), *Dracophyllums* (grass-tree), *pittosporums*, *senecios*, and other beautiful and conspicuous genera of plants, will be added as they are procurable. In these several genera many species exhibit great variability in different habitats. By grouping them into separate beds and botanically naming them accurately, they could then be conveniently studied, and would be of ready service to young botanists and school teachers.

TH, APRIL 22, 1908
ANNUAL REPORT

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT.

The report of the Trustees of the New Plymouth Recreation Grounds for the year ending March 31, 1908, stated that the Board had endeavoured with the modest means at its command to maintain the Park in a creditable condition, but it had been no easy matter to do so, and once again a bank overdraft (guaranteed by certain of the Trustees) had to be disclosed in the balance-sheet. As would be seen from the statement of accounts the annual subscribers were now few in number and the Board had had to depend main-

ly upon the subsidy from the Borough Council supplemented by the proceeds of a fireworks display and some minor items. Revenue from the sports ground had ceased to be a feature in the receipts, but the Board appreciated to the full the splendid work done within the borders of the ground by the committee which had made itself responsible for that portion of the Park. They were assured that these gentlemen, recognising their financial difficulties, intended very shortly to render substantial aid by promoting an entertainment of some kind for their benefit. Commencing the year with a credit balance of £39 16s 11d, they ended with a deficiency of £64 8s 6d, showing a loss of £104 5s 5d, despite the most rigid economy. Thanks to Mr C. W. Govett, the executor of the estates of the late Mr Robert Govett and his sister Mrs Broham, the Board had at its disposal two sums of £100 each with an intimation of the donors' desire that the money might be expended in some work of permanent improvement. After careful consideration the Trustees, with the concurrence of the executor, had determined to apply these generous gifts in carrying out the long contemplated extension of the large lake. This work had been completed under the most favourable conditions during the past summer, there being now a continuous waterway from the band rondunda to the boundary of the Brooklands estate. Their co-trustee, Mr S. Percy Smith, F.R.G.S., had kindly co-operated with Messrs Sladden and Palmer in designing the extension and subsequently assumed the supervision of the operations, which had been carried out by day labour (largely Maori) at a cost considerably less than the estimate. His fellow members of the Board felt that Mr Smith's notable services in this connection could not be too cordially acknowledged, for he had given ungrudgingly of his ripe professional experience and of his time. In the control of the work Mr Smith had a most reliable and capable lieutenant in Mr Andrew Cole, and it afforded the Board much pleasure to express its satisfaction of his services. Towards the end of the year Mr R. H. Mace, who had long been employed in the Park and had been custodian for three years, had resigned his position owing to an infirmity, and the Board had placed on record its appreciation of his faithful and efficient services. The Board had been most fortunate in engaging as curator Mr W. W. Smith, F.R.H.S., for many years in charge of the beautiful Domain at Ashburton, and recognised throughout the Dominion as an expert in his profession. It might be mentioned that Mr Smith had resigned his appointment at Ashburton at the request of the Government in order to act as secretary to the Scenery Preservation Commission. Last year, in conjunction with Mr Newton King, the Board sent collectors to the Raglan and Aotea districts, who, notwithstanding most unpropitious weather, obtained an excellent assortment of native trees and shrubs, which were now doing well in the nurseries and elsewhere in the Park. They had to thank all the friends who had assisted them with donations, both money and plants, and also to express their obligations to the Northern S.S. Company for the free passage to Raglan of the Board's collector, to Messrs Sladden and Palmer for their valuable aid in connection with various works, and to Mr T. O. Kelsey for auditing the accounts. The report would be incomplete without a word about the energetic and painstaking honorary secretary, Mr E. H. Tribe, who would leave the Dominion in a few days on a visit to the Old Country. In acceding to Mr Tribe's request for leave of absence, the Board gratefully acknowledged his valuable assistance in carrying on its work and the members united in wishing him a pleasant trip and safe return.

THE BALANCE-SHEET.

The balance-sheet for the year was as follows:—

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1907.							
To cash in hand April 1st	...	0	1	4			
Bank of New Zealand balance	...	39	15	7			
Annual subscriptions	...				39	16	11
Donations—							27
Estate late Mrs. Broham	...	100	0	0			
Estate late Mrs. Broham	...	5	0	0			
C. W. Govett	...	5	0	0			
G. F. Bayly	...	5	0	0			
Isaac Bayly	...	5	0	0			
J. Legg	...	1	0	0			
Borough Council subsidy	...				121	0	0
Boat license	...				0	10	0
Acclimatisation Society	...				10	0	0
Rents	...				18	15	0
Donation Box in grounds	...				5	10	9
Sale of shrubs	...				0	5	0
Fireworks display	...				40	0	5
Bank of New Zealand overdraft at March 30th, 1908	...				65	18	6
					£429	13	7

EXPENDITURE		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Wages	...	138	43	0			
Wages—Acclimatisation money	...	10	0	0			
Ironmongery—Tools and Repairs	...				168	13	0
Timber	...				9	16	1
Ploughing	...				6	0	0
Insurance	...				1	0	0
Expenses sending man to Raglan collecting shrubs	...				0	15	3
Fencing posts	...				9	17	6
Bird food	...				2	12	6
Advertising	...				5	1	2
Law charges	...				1	0	3
Sign writing	...				2	16	6
Carting 16/9, stps and tele's 6/3	...				1	16	0
Rent	...				1	3	0
Cottage repairs	...				0	5	0
Advertising fireworks	...				2	6	10
Sent to England for fireworks	...				6	10	6
Lake Extension—					30	0	0
Wages	...	159	7	9			
Sundries	...	17	10	6			
Bank interest and charges	...				176	18	3
Cash in hand	...				1	10	6
					1	10	0
					£429	13	7

TDN, APRIL 29, 1908

STEPS ERECTED TO TERRACES

Work still proceeds apace at the Recreation Sports Ground. Men now engaged in the construction of flights of concrete steps to the various terraces, and in building up portions of the roadway which gather the water in wet weather. The playing field is showing beautifully green and some of the worst depressions have been leveled up.

TH, MAY 12, 1908

COUNCIL PROPOSING SUBSIDY INCREASE

At the meeting of the Borough Council last night Councillor Bellringer referred to the possibility of Mr W. W. Smith, curator of the Recreation Grounds, returning to Palmerston North. He thought the Council and the citizens would be acting in their own interests in making a special effort to retain the services of Mr Smith, for he contended that if Mr Smith's services were considered to be worth a certain salary at Palmerston, then surely they were worth the same here. Councillor Collis suggested that the Council might, in increasing the subsidy to the Recreation Board, stipulate that a certain portion of the increase, whatever it might be, should be added to the curator's salary, and that a provision should be made that he should be allowed to act as "advisory" to the Council in carrying out borough repairs.

TH, MAY 13, 1908

ADVERT FOR CURATOR ASSISTANT

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES of Pukekura Park have an opening for a Smart Young Man to assist the Curator, Mr W. W. Smith. This is an excellent opportunity for an intelligent and industrious youth to learn landscape gardening under the most favourable conditions. Applications will CLOSE on SATURDAY next at my Office.

F. P. CORKILL,
Chairman.

TDN, MAY 26, 1908

DUCK SHOT IN PARK

The Inspector of Fisheries, Mr. A. Hooker informed a news reporter that as he was strolling through the recreation ground yesterday morning he heard the sharp report of a pea-rifle and turning quickly saw the smoke of the gun issuing from the bathing-house and at the same time a "winged" duck falling to the ground. Then the head of a prominent resident made its appearance and stealthily he made his way to the duck conveying it to the privacy of the building. Mr. Hooker said it was his intention to search the bathing-house and upon finding the bird, to report the matter to the secretary of the Acclimatisation Society.

TH, MAY 27, 1908

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met at the office of Mr F. P. Corkill yesterday afternoon. Present: Messrs Corkill (chairman), S Percy Smith, W. L. Newman, R. Cock, H. Ford, and R. C. Hughes.

Applications for the position of assistant curator were considered and Mr T. S. Compton eventually appointed.

The Chairman reported that overtures had recently been made to Mr. Smith to accept an appointment at Palmerston North and that a still better engagement was open at Christchurch. He urged the Board to endeavour to retain Mr Smith's services. In view of the emergency which had arisen he had written to the Borough Council earnestly asking that the subsidy payable to the Board be increased to £200. He had subject to approval of the Board made mutually satisfactory arrangements which would ensure the retention of Mr Smith's services.

The chairman's action was confirmed. The curator drew the attention of the Board to a paragraph in the Daily News which gave an entirely misleading report of an incident in the Park.

The Chairman explained that through the good offices of the curator the Board would shortly receive some valuable specimens of water fowl from the South and in view of their arrival he had authorised Mr Smith to cull out several cross-bred and faulty birds at present on the lake. While doing this the curator had been interviewed by the Acclimatisation Society's Inspector, who had apparently supplied a distorted account of the occurrence to the newspaper reporter.

Several members of the Board resented the interference of the Inspector and the instructions given by the chairman were confirmed.

The chairman reported that the cottage hitherto occupied by the assistant was now being renovated inside and out for the use of the curator, and that a generous friend, whose name he was not yet at liberty to disclose, had undertaken to bear the entire cost.

TH, MAY 30, 1908

CENTRAL SCHOOL POOL

The Central School Committee met at Pukekura Park on Thursday afternoon to confer in connection with the proposed swimming baths. There were present Messrs F. P. Corkill (chairman), Rev. Osborne, McGahey, Catran, Frethy, and Way. Mr Dempsey (headmaster) and Mr S. Percy Smith, who had formulated proposals and prepared a sketch of the proposed site, were also present. After viewing the site it was decided that the committee take the necessary action in approaching the Park Board with a view to arranging for the necessary permission to construct the baths.

TH, MAY 30, 1908

SWAN GETS RETURNED TO PARK

The chairman of the Pukekura Park Board this week received a telegram from a gentleman at Pungarehu, stating that a black swan was being forwarded by the coach for the park. The bird duly arrived and was liberated on the lake. A further telegram was received from a native at Parihaka, stating that the swan belonged to him, and would Mr Corkill please return it. It turns out, however, that the swan is the old one belonging to the park, and which has been away for about twelve months. Immediately on being liberated she went to her old haunts and visited the feeding-place, making herself quite at home. It is unlikely therefore, she will return to the native village.

TH, JUNE 6, 1908

WORK STARTS ON SCHOOL POOL

A gang of Maoris is now busily engaged in the preliminary work of preparing the site for the new swimming bath for the Central School children at the Recreation Grounds. The work is being carried out under the supervision of Mr. S. Percy Smith. The baths will be situated in the low-lying land at the rear of the tea-rooms. The place is well sheltered by large trees. When the work is complete it will form a beautiful corner in the grounds, for the surroundings will be as enchanting as those of the large lake.

TH, JUNE 9, 1908

COUNCIL INCREASE SUBSIDY

The fortnightly meeting of the New Plymouth Borough Council was held last night at the Town Hall. The Mayor (Mr. Tisch) presided, and there were also present Councillors Brownie, Morey, West, Coleman, Boon, Collis.

REPORTS ADOPTED.

The reports of the Drainage, Finance, Abattoir, and Works Committees were adopted.

PUKEKURA PARK.

The Chairman of the Pukekura Park Board wrote expressing appreciation of the liberal manner in which the Council had acted in increasing the subsidy to £200. The Board was confident the new arrangements which it had been enabled to make would prove eminently satisfactory in result. At the present time he had before him a letter from a prominent resident of the borough of Palmerston North, who pleaded that the fact that the New Plymouth Park was already the finest in the Dominion should influence the Board to allow Palmerston to again secure the services of Mr. W. W. Smith.

TH, JUNE 12, 1908

A VISITOR'S APPRECIATION.

An appreciative article on Pukekura Park has been contributed to the Palmerston Times by Mr William Park, F.R.H.S. He says:

The citizens of New Plymouth are justly proud of their beautiful recreation grounds, now known as Pukekura Park, or the "Hill of the Red Parrot"—the Kaka Kura. I recently spent a day there and was delighted and charmed with what I saw.

Our late curator, Mr W. W. Smith, with his whole heart and soul in his work, was planting a new island recently made in a pretty extension at the head of the lake. In the park I met three members of the Board—the chairman, Mr F. P. Corkill, Mr S. Percy Smith, F.R.G.S., and Mr Hughes

—and was courteously shown all over the grounds. One of the principal features of the park is the splendid collection of native flora, many specimens which I had not previously seen. There are about 200 species of native plants in the park, including some of the rarer shrubs and trees, and all are flourishing as if in their native forest. Several collections of native plants have recently been presented to the park, including one from the Coromandel Ranges, which includes about 20 species new to the collection. Mr Smith (who has at present eight men working under him) has commenced to make a large fernery on an island which is already an excellent illustration of successful planting of native trees—now established for about eight years. Mr Smith was also preparing the ground in suitable portions of the park for the planting of 100 of the beautiful Japanese cherry, the gift of a New Plymouth gentleman. The effect of these trees with their beautiful blossoms in the spring mixed with the native foliage will be very pleasing. Another work that is going on under Mr Smith's supervision is the making of a new lake in a secluded and pretty gully, which will be used as a boys' swimming bath. The work is to cost about £100 and is being paid for by the Primary Schools. There are a large number of wild ducks at present on the lakes where they enjoy a safe retreat from the sportsmen's gun. Those that have been bred at the lakes are very tame and come to be fed at the patios round the lake every morning. A start was made last year to collect several handsome birds and these are enclosed with wire netting. The portion of the park, known as the Recreation Ground, has recently been leased for 14 years by the New Plymouth Athletic Association, who are expending about £2000 in improvements, which include seating accommodation on the terraces for 10,000 spectators. It is on this ground that the coming football match will be played.

The Pukekura Park Board numbers seven members and is composed of gentlemen who have shown their practical sympathy and ability to deal with the beautifying work, amongst whom is Mr Percy Smith who, for years past, has given his time and undoubted abilities in connection with the work. The capable chairman, Mr Corkill, has been a trustee for the past 25 years and has done much valuable work. The grounds are, to a large extent, maintained and improved by voluntary contributions from the people of New Plymouth, the amount paid annually being a considerable sum.

I have already said the New Plymouth people are justly proud of their beautiful grounds and are determined to maintain the position of having the premier park of the Dominion—a position I think they will maintain for some years to come. What they have done, and are still doing, is a striking object lesson to the inhabitants of Palmerston North.

TH, JUNE 16, 1908 SCHOOL POOL PROGRESS

The Maoris working at Pukekura Park are making excellent progress in the preparation of the new lake to be used as a swimming bath by the Central School children. The bed of the lake is almost cleared and in a few days the dam near the tea rooms will be finished.

TH, JUNE 24, 1908 PARK SECTIONS FOR LEASE

SALE OF VALUABLE BUILDING LEASES.

NEWTON KING

Is instructed by the Recreation Grounds Board to sell by auction at his Mart, Devon Street, on SATURDAY, June 27th, at 2 p.m.:

PERPETUALLY RENEWABLE LEASES of Outlying portions of Pukekura Park as follows:—

LOT 1.—Parts Sections 1255, 1256, and X, Oa. 2r. 26p. Upset £7 10s per annum.

LOT 2.—Part X., Oa. 2r. 32p. Upset £7 10s per annum.

LOT 3.—Part X., Oa. 3r. 30p. Upset £10 per annum.

These are three very fine sites with frontages to the old Carrington and Brooklands Roads. They command magnificent views of the surrounding country, adjoin the Park, and both electric light and water are available.

LOT 4.—Sections 1047 and 1048, Oa. 2r. 2p. Upset £5 per annum.

This half-acre has frontages to Lizardet and Gilbert Streets and lies in front of the residences of Mr Glasgow and Mrs Coker.

Leases will be precisely similar to those of the School Commissioners, and a draft may be seen at my Office.

F. P. CORKILL,
Chairman.

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TH, JUNE 26, 1908 KIWI DONATED

Mr. H. Crozier, of Frankley Road, has donated to the Pukekura Park Board a fine big kiwi.

TH, JUNE 30, 1908

Improvements to Sports Ground

Owing to the recent drainage operations the Recreation Sports Ground is in excellent condition, despite the late heavy rains. There is not a single pool of water on the ground, which promises to be in excellent condition for the Taranaki-British Rugby match on the 15th prox. The work of extending some of the terraces, erecting stand accommodation, and improving the entrances is being pushed ahead rapidly.

TH, JULY 1, 1908 PLANT DONATIONS

The Board of Trustees of Pukekura Park acknowledges receipt of the following donations:—

From an anonymous donor at New Plymouth—Japanese cherries, as follows:—3 Flori Pleno Alba (double white), 6 Ukou (greenish yellow), 6 Hisakawa (double pink), 6 Thira-fugen (pinkish white double), 6 Ama-no-gawa (pink semi-double), 6 Hoso-kawa-beni (pink medium sized), 3 Yoshina (pink single light), 6 Oku-mizako (pink semi-double late flowering), 9 Ko-fugen (pink double light), 6 Bijokau (pink double large flowered), 6 Beni-fugen (white single large flowered), 9 Takysau (red double), 2 Rhododendron-porticum alba, 2 Genesta Andreana (red and yellow flowered broom).

From Mr W. Park, F.R.H.S., Palmerston North—2 *Adiantum formosum*, 2 *Aspidium culliformu*, 2 *Lomaria lucida*, 2 *clematis afoleata*, 1 *Exichonda* sp., 1 *Helianthus flori-plino*, 1 *Oxalis* alba, 2 *Frinkia subcordata*, 1 *Heuchera alba*, 1 *Cineraria maritima*, 12 *Cineraria hybrids*, 1 *Bignonia gladiata*, 1 *Drocephylum longifolium*, 1 *Sericio laxifolium*, 1 *Convallaria maplis*, 1 *Akebia Japonica*.

From Mrs Humphries—5 bags mixed bulbs, including narcissus, lillium grandiflorum, gladioli, 2 *Alstroemeria*, and 2 *Kerrio Japonica*.

TH, JULY 4, 1908 CURATOR'S REPORT

The following report from the Curator, Mr W. W. Smith, will be submitted to the next meeting of the Pukekura Park Board:—

I have to report for the information of the Board as follows:—After commencing duties as Curator of Pukekura Park on March 23rd last we devoted our time for the first four weeks to mowing and cleaning around the younger and more valuable trees, and to the edging and cleaning of the principal walks. On completion of this work we devoted three days to the planting of five bags of mixed bulbs and other plants presented by Mr Arthur Humphries. On receipt of a large collection of native plants, many of them being new to the collection in the park, collected by Mr R. Davies for, and presented by Mr S. Percy-Smith, it was necessary to form a new nursery for their reception, in which they were planted and there will remain for a year or so. The collection was made on the ranges near Paeroa, Auckland, and forms an interesting and valuable addition to the Park. Several days were given to collecting seedlings of native trees under the parent trees in the Park to complete the work of stocking the new nursery. Seeds of African plants have also been presented by Mr H. H. Ford, and plants by Mr Hoskin and Mr Collis, which have been sown and planted respectively. During the month of May presentations of plants new to the collection in the Park were made by Mr Aldridge, Mr Corkill, Mr Field (Wanganui), and by three local ladies whose names I have not ascertained. During last month native plants were brought to the Park by Mrs Crompton, of Poutoko. A package of interesting plants was also received from Mr W. Park, of Palmerston North. The recent gift of 75 *Prunus Pseudo-cerasus*—the Japan flowering cherry—presented by an anonymous local gentleman, is a very valuable addition to the plant collection in the Park. They have been planted in mixed groups according to their times of blossoming, and with a view to producing an effective floral and scenic display. I have also to report that all the 380 native plants in the old nursery have been planted out. The young totaras were planted on totara hill, while the remainder were planted on the banks of the new extension of the upper lake, and on the island therein. The work of cleaning the large island at the head of the upper lake, and converting it into a large fernery composed only of native ferns is progressing as rapidly as the weather will permit. Being well shaded from the sun and sheltered from the blighting mountain winds the ferns should flourish under the vigorous-growing young native trees. We have also outlined the large bed near the peacock enclosure, proposed to be planted with all procurable varieties of native flax. In addition to the half-dozen varieties we already possess, about a dozen others are to come to hand from several gentlemen, with which we hope to make a good beginning. The past three weeks of boisterous and wet weather has retarded our work considerably. The only injury to the Park worth noting is a small landlip near what is known as "the Caves." It will show a slight disfigurement for some time until it is again overgrown with ferns or other mixed shrubby growth. I would mention that after taking charge here my predecessor Mr Mace, has been extremely obliging and has spared no time in showing me everything of importance relative to the management of the Park. He also brought several bundles of seeds and plants to add to the collections. A word of personal thanks is therefore due to Mr Mace for such assistance.

TDN, JULY 7, 1908

FOOTBALL FOOTBALL

BRITAIN v. TARANAKI

RECREATION SPORTS GROUND,
New Plymouth,

WEDNESDAY, 15th JULY.

Kick-off at 3 p.m.

Admission 2s; children half-price.

Reserved seats 3s extra, now procurable.

J. D. AVERY,
Secretary N.Z.R.U.

TH, JULY 16, 1908

TARANAKI'S VICTORY

Taranaki	-	-	5
Britain	-	-	0

THE FOOTBALL MATCH.

Quite a red-letter day in the history of New Plymouth was yesterday, when the whole country-side assembled to witness the football match between the Anglo-Welsh team and the select of Taranaki. The arrival of train after train laden with people from along the railway line, the constant procession of vehicles of every description and horse-men along the icads leading to town, and the thronged condition of Devon Street from eleven o'clock until two, were strong evidence of the tremendous hold football has upon the public of Taranaki. The scene in the Recreation Grounds beggars description, and visitors to the ground for the first time since the improvement scheme was taken in hand must have realised that New Plymouth possesses an absolutely unique natural amphitheatre for spectacular displays of this nature. The terraces on three sides of the ground were densely packed with humanity, most of the occupants being in a state of suppressed excitement, which broke forth spasmodically on occasions during the progress of the game, and burst all bounds of restraint when the home team scored after 75 minutes of strenuous play. The match is fully described by experts elsewhere. Here we need only compliment the contestants upon the admirable temper in which they played the game, the management upon the very excellent arrangements made, and the public for the impartiality of their applause. A word of praise is also due to the public—or perhaps we should say to that section of the public which occasionally loses control of its actions—for the restraint exercised around the banks. We feared that the terraces might suffer considerable damage in so large and excited a crowd, but are pleased to find that very little harm was done. As an arena for sports gatherings there is probably no ground in the Dominion which can compare with this from the spectator's point of view, and now that the improvement scheme is approaching completion the wisdom of the arrangement arrived at between the Pukekura Park Board and the Sports Ground Committee is abundantly proved.

TH, JULY 22, 1908

SCHOOL POOL ALMOST READY

The Central School Committee met in the Borough Council Chambers last night. Present: Messrs F. P. Corkill (in the chair), McGahey, Fretthey, Catran, Rudd, Grant, and Rev. S. S. Osborne.

The headmaster's report was received. The roll now stands at 573 and the average attendance for the month was 500.8. The headmaster asked the committee to assist him in obtaining a larger attendance. The excavation of the swimming baths in Pukekura Park was nearing completion, and much credit was due to Mr. Percy Smith, who had spared no trouble in supervising the work.

TH, JULY 29, 1908

RECOGNITION OF HUMPHRIES ROLE IN SPORTS GROUND DEVELOPMENT

A meeting of persons interested in the proposed presentation to Mr. A. L. Humphries was held in the Town Hall last evening. The Mayor (Mr G. Tisch) presided.

The Mayor explained that the meeting was called to arrange some recognition of Mr. Humphries' valuable services in the borough especially in connection with the Recreation Sports ground. Mr. Tisch outlined Mr. Humphries' efforts and spoke of the large amount of work he had done for which he had never been properly thanked. Mr. Tisch then moved that the meeting should take steps to make some public acknowledgment of Mr. Humphries' efforts in connection with the ground, and that a committee should be set up to make the necessary arrangements.

Mr. E. Whittle seconded the motion. Mr. E. Dockrill also spoke of Mr. Humphries' initiation of the Recreation Sports ground scheme. The arduous labours of Mr. Humphries, ably assisted by the Sports Ground Committee, had resulted in New Plymouth having a sports ground second to none in the Dominion. The ground was of very great credit to everyone connected with it.

Mr. J. McLeod pointed out that several subscription lists for various objects were being carried round the town at present by Mr. Humphries himself. That gentleman would be the first to object to a subscription list for the present object being 'hawked' around the town. The speaker then suggested that as much publicity should be given to the matter as was possible, and that subscriptions be allowed to come in voluntarily within a reasonable time.

The following were elected a committee to carry out the necessary arrangements—Messrs G. Tisch, E. Dockrill, F. T. Bellringer, R. Deane, W. C. Weston, E. Whittle, N. K. MacDiarmid, J. Smith, L. Hill, J. Abbott, jun., J. McLeod, and A. L. Chappell. Mr. McLeod was elected hon. secretary and treasurer.

TH, JULY 30, 1908

SCHOOLBOYS HELP WITH POOL

The senior Central School boys with several members of the School Committee were engaged in Pukekura Park this afternoon in path-making round the school swimming bath.

TH, AUGUST 3, 1908

NEW DRAIN IN SPORTS GROUND

The Recreation Sports Ground Committee is still effecting improvements to the football ground. A new drain is being put in to carry away water from the southern side of the ground—the only portion that has shown any weakness in this respect of late. Wire-netting is being placed over the large drain around the ground, to prevent footballs from dropping into it.

TH, AUGUST 3, 1908

SHOW OF GOLDEN WATTLE

The show of golden wattle in Pukekura Park is very beautiful. It attracted a great deal of admiration yesterday.

TH, SEPTEMBER 8, 1908

CURATOR'S REPORT

CURATOR'S REPORT.

Mr W. W. Smith (curator) reported to the Pukekura Park Board yesterday as follows:—

When submitting my last report on the work being done in the Park I was unable to refer to the "Working Bee" which took place some time ago in not knowing the names of the ladies and gentlemen comprising the party. They were Mr and Mrs Paton, Mrs Cook, Mrs Newman, Miss Curtis, Miss Devanish, Miss Hempton, Miss E. C. Smith, Miss Stephenson Smith, Mr McGahey and Mr S. Percy Smith. To the above I would add that the work done by the "bee" was excellent and very acceptable. . . . The general work of maintenance, alterations and improvements is progressing in the Park. The south-east gale on August 5th and 6th blew down a few trees and disfigured and discoloured the tree ferns. It also strewed the lakes and the Park generally with rubbish . . . but no serious disfigurement or damage was done to the Board's property. Following the recent milk showers and general spring weather the general vegetation in the park is rapidly resuming its seasonal tints and growth, and soon the effects of the gale will have disappeared. I have also to report I have received collections of seeds and plants for the Park from the undermentioned ladies and gentlemen:—Miss Curtis, spring flowers; Miss Devanish, collection of border shrubs, including handsome flax plants; Miss Wood, a collection of herbaceous plants and shrubs; Mr Newman, Australian plant seeds; Mr Saxton, a collection of native plants from Stony River; rare olearias from Mr Fraser (New Plymouth) and Mr Harold Hursthouse (Greymouth), and pomegranate plants from Dr. Walker and Mr Brereton. Mr Codd, of Ngatoro, Inglewood, sent an excellent collection free of charge of cactus dahlias, lilies, and amangellis. The plants were carefully packed by these gentlemen and reached the Park in good condition. Mr Maxwell handed in a number of the rarer native ferns and plants, and today also and other plants are coming to hand from Mr Gordon. Other new plants are also promised by several gentlemen whose names I am not permitted to give. Recently Mr Mace brought a package of seedlings of native trees, and 10s was handed to me by a private gentleman with which to purchase summer-flowering plants. All the above, I would remark, form a good addition to those in the Park and are very acceptable. I much regret to state that picking of flowers was of frequent occurrence a few weeks ago but has now almost ceased. Some visitors will unfortunately bring dogs with them, which at all times menace the aquatic fowls on the lakes. Three Sundays in succession I have had to remonstrate with groups of thoughtless youths sitting on the seats creating a rowdy noise, and importuning young ladies passing by. I duly cautioned them that proceedings would be taken against them should such unseemly conduct occur again in the Park. With the increasingly mild spring weather visitors are becoming daily more numerous to the Park, especially on Saturdays and Sundays.

TH, SEPTEMBER 8, 1908
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Board resolved on the motion of Messrs Ford and Hughes that the following memorandum signed by the Trustees on May 29th last should be confirmed and entered in the minutes of the present meeting: "The Committee of the Central District Schools having selected (with the approval of the chairman and Mr S. Percy Smith) a site for the construction of a swimming bath in the gully between the Tea House and the Racecourse, we are willing that the work shall be commenced forthwith conditional upon the supervision being undertaken by our colleague Mr Percy Smith and also that the school authorities shall make arrangements for the children to be under the control of a teacher when using the bath. This consent to be formally confirmed at the next meeting of the Board."

The Chairman reported that in pursuance of the resolution of the Board the lands available for leasing had been offered for lease at a public auction on June 27. The only lot leased was No. 4, comprising sections 1047 and 1048, New Plymouth, which were taken by Mr L. Hansen at the upset rental of £5 per annum. An application had now been received from Mr C. E. Bellringer for the lease of lots 1, 2, and 3, at the aggregate upset rental of £25 per annum. It was resolved on the motion of Messrs Newman and Smith that the application of Mr C. E. Bellringer for the lease of part sections 1255 and 1256, town of New Plymouth and X New Plymouth Town Belt subject to specified conditions be granted.

A lengthy and interesting report by the curator, Mr W. W. Smith (published elsewhere) was read and discussed.

Mention was made that the grey duck had made themselves at home on the little arm which has been constructed by Mr S. Percy Smith above the Central School lake; also that the Russian geese and other aquatic birds are now nesting.

The Chairman also reported that the curator's cottage had now been thoroughly renovated and that Mr Newman had placed in his hands a cheque for £25 as a donation from Mrs Honeyfield to cover this outlay.

On the motion of Messrs Ford and S. Percy Smith a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mrs Honeyfield for her generous donation and also to the Misses Curtis and Devenish, Messrs Sexton, Newman, Fraser, H. Hursthouse (Greymouth), Brereton, Codd (Inglewood), E. Maxwell (Opunake), W. Gordon, P. R. Mace, and Dr. Walker for welcome gifts of plants, bulbs and seeds.

Mr S. Percy Smith reported further correspondence on the subject of the name "Pukekura Park," and stated that he had received an intimation that the Trustees had full power to make the desired change.

The Chairman reported that the Sports Ground Committee was preparing to give a fete or garden party on the King's Birthday for the benefit of the Board.

It was resolved on the motion of Messrs Newman and Percy Smith that the Board greatly appreciated the good will of the Sports Ground Committee and its members would co-operate in making the proposed function a success.

The Chairman reported that considerable annoyance had been caused through the unruly, and in some instances offensive, conduct of youths and young men frequenting the grounds on Sunday afternoons. The complaints had appeared in the papers and evidence was now available which would enable the Board to take proceedings against a number of offenders.

A letter was received from four youths who voluntarily apologised for their misbehaviour and begged that the Board would overlook it. After some discussion it was agreed that the apology should be accepted and that the prosecution of other offenders should be proceeded with.

It was also decided, on the motion of Messrs Percy Smith and Bellringer, to communicate with the Government with the view to the appointment of the Board's officials and several gentlemen as special constables.

On the motion of Messrs Newman and Ford the Chairman was authorised to make arrangements for the carrying on of the Tea Room during the ensuing summer.

The Chairman suggested that in view of the important work being carried out in the Park it would be well to hold the meetings of the Board on the ground as frequently as possible, so that all the members would be kept in touch with what was going on.

This was agreed to.

TH, SEPTEMBER 9, 1908
POND IN STANTON DELL

The little tarn in Pukekura Park which through a misprint in our report yesterday is made to read "arm" is a lakelet of remarkably clear water which has been formed at the head of the gully just above the Central School swimming bath. It is the intention of the Board to beautify this with lillies and other plants.

TH, SEPTEMBER 17, 1908
PRACTICE WICKETS BEING

The match wicket in the Recreation Sport Ground which has received such careful attention from Mr. Perham, promises to be in first-class order for the season. Practice wickets are being prepared at the Sports Ground under the terraces, Longburn soil being used; and it is probable a representative practice wicket will be constructed at the end of the field opposite to that used by the clubs so as not to interfere with the main wicket. These wickets should be ready for play early in the New Year.

TH, SEPTEMBER 24, 1908
FUNDRAISING

KING'S BIRTHDAY,
NOVEMBER 9.

MONSTER CHILDREN'S PICNIC
MONSTER CHILDREN'S PICNIC
MONSTER CHILDREN'S PICNIC
AND SPORTS.
AND SPORTS.
AND SPORTS.

To be held in the
RECREATION SPORTS GROUND,
To provide Funds for Beautifying
PUKEKURA PARK.

Tea, Hot Water, Milk and Sugar Free.

Special Trains at Excursion Fares.

Full Particulars Later.

F. P. CORKILL,
Chairman Park Board.

H. J. HOBBS,
Hon. Sec. Picnic Committee.

e570

TDN, SEPTEMBER 24, 1908
MISC

The pergula, or bower, in Pukekura Park, which is to be covered with climbing plants, has now been erected. It will, no doubt, form a very charming feature of the grounds in due time.

The Russian goose at Pukekura Park is now setting on five eggs, and the white swan is also nesting. It is to be hoped that none of the birds will be disturbed this season.

Between nightfall on Tuesday and 7 a.m. on Wednesday a female thief gathered and took away all the narcissi blooms in Pukekura Park. There was a nice show of blooms all along the foot of the hillock facing the large lake, and also some good blooms in the garden in front of the tea-house. All were taken. The thief left her footprints in the soil, and it is hoped these may yet be used in evidence against her.

The Recreation Sports Ground Committee, assisted by the Pukekura Park Board, will hold a children's picnic and sports meeting in the Sports Ground on November 9 (King's Birthday), to provide funds for extending the lakes and beautifying the Park. Special trains are being put on by the Railway Department at reduced fares. The committee has decided to provide tea, hot water, milk and sugar free of charge. The programme will include relay races for boys (each school to enter one team only), tug-of-war, and running races for boys and girls. There will be two cycle events for adults—one mile and a mile and a-half. Prizes are also offered for the best-decorated bicycle and go-cart. The full programme will appear shortly.

TH, OCTOBER 14, 1908
SHEEP ON SPORTS GROUND

Last night Mr Fred Tribe, who lives at Vogeltown, not far away from Pukekura Park, hearing a commotion in that direction, got out of bed and rode hurriedly down to the grounds, where he found a dog or dogs among the sheep pasturing on the Sports Ground. It was fortunate that he did so, otherwise serious loss might have occurred among the sheep, which belong to Mr Okey, M.P., who kindly lent them to the committee for a few days to eat the grass down. Owners of dogs which might have a taste for sheep-worrying are asked to keep them under control, otherwise some extreme steps will have to be taken to keep them out of the grounds.

TH, OCTOBER 21, 1908
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met last evening. Present:—Messrs F. P. Corkill (chairman), S. Percy Smith, R. C. Hughes, H. Ford, W. L. Newman, R. Cock.

The chairman reported that he had arranged with Mr Legg to carry on the tea-rooms during the incoming summer on the same terms as before with a proviso that ladies were to have access to the sitting-room at all times.

The Chairman also stated that the Sports Ground Committee had preparations well in hand for the fete on November 9. The Garrison Band had promised its services gratuitously, and a committee of ladies had been formed for the purpose of arranging floral items.

Mr Corkill informed the Board that a leading townsman, who desired that his name should not be revealed to the public, had incurred considerable expense in repainting and regilding the band rotunda.

The Curator (Mr W. W. Smith) reported that the stealing of flowers and small plants had not entirely ceased. Blooms from Japanese cherries had been taken in the last few days. He had received very acceptable donations of plants and shrubs from Mr J. Cochran, of Elgin, Ashburton, and Mr H. Lough, of Linwood, Christchurch.

The Board placed on record its hearty thanks to these gentlemen and to the generous friend who had authorised the renovation of the band rotunda.

The Board inspected the work being done in the Park by the Central School authorities and approved their plan of the proposed bathing house. An inspection was also made of the work done by the Curator in the vicinity of the Gilbert Street entrance. The Curator explained his plans for further improvements in the same locality.

The attention of the Board was called to a shameful act of vandalism which had been perpetrated within the last day or two, some mischievous or imbecile person having picked out the lead from a number of letters on the marble tablet commemorating the names of deceased benefactors. The Board resolved to offer a reward of £10 for such information as would lead to the conviction of the offender, one gentleman present offering £5 of the amount.

It was resolved to hold a display of fireworks on the evening of the first Race Day in March next.

It was decided "That the owner of section 1065, adjoining the Carrington Road entrance to the Park, be required to discontinue the practice of entering the Park through a private gate and that he be notified under the Fencing Act to join in the erection of a proper fence along the mutual boundary."

Mr. S. Percy Smith spoke as to the desirability of thoroughly draining the piece of swamp ground between the Tea House and the Central School swimming bath during the present summer. The matter was left in his hands with power to act.

The Chairman mentioned that the honorary secretary, Mr. E. H. Tribe, had returned from his visit to England, Africa, and Australia, and would be enabled to again give the Board his valuable services at an early date.

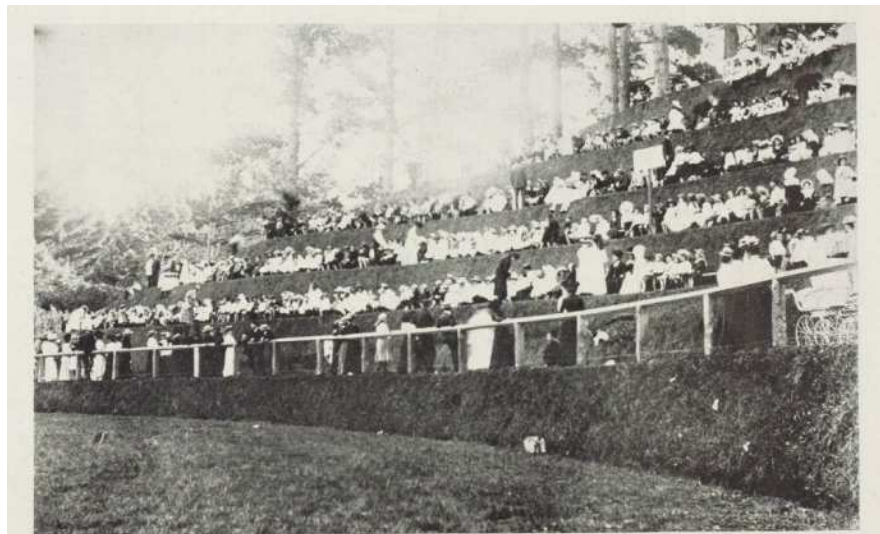
TH, DECEMBER 4, 1908

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Band-stand in the Park at 2.15 p.m. yesterday. Present:—Messrs. F. P. Corkill (in the chair), S. Percy Smith, Newman, R. Cock, G. Tisch (Mayor), F. C. Bellingranger (Councillor), and the curator, Mr. W. W. Smith, F.S.H.S. The Chairman reported that he had received from the Sports Ground Committee the sum of £37 12s 1d, being the proceeds of the picnic held on November 9. He had also received a further sum of 12s 6d for boat pennies on the same occasion. The Board resolved "That a hearty vote of thanks be accorded and transmitted to the Recreation Sports Ground Committee for their very acceptable assistance."

The Chairman reported that the Band-stand had been thoroughly renovated at the cost of a local gentleman who preferred to remain anonymous. The Board placed on record its appreciation of this generous gift and requested the Chairman to convey its thanks to the donor.

It was pointed out that the Queen Victoria Jubilee Fountain sadly needed an overhaul, but lack of funds prevented the Board from undertaking this work at present.

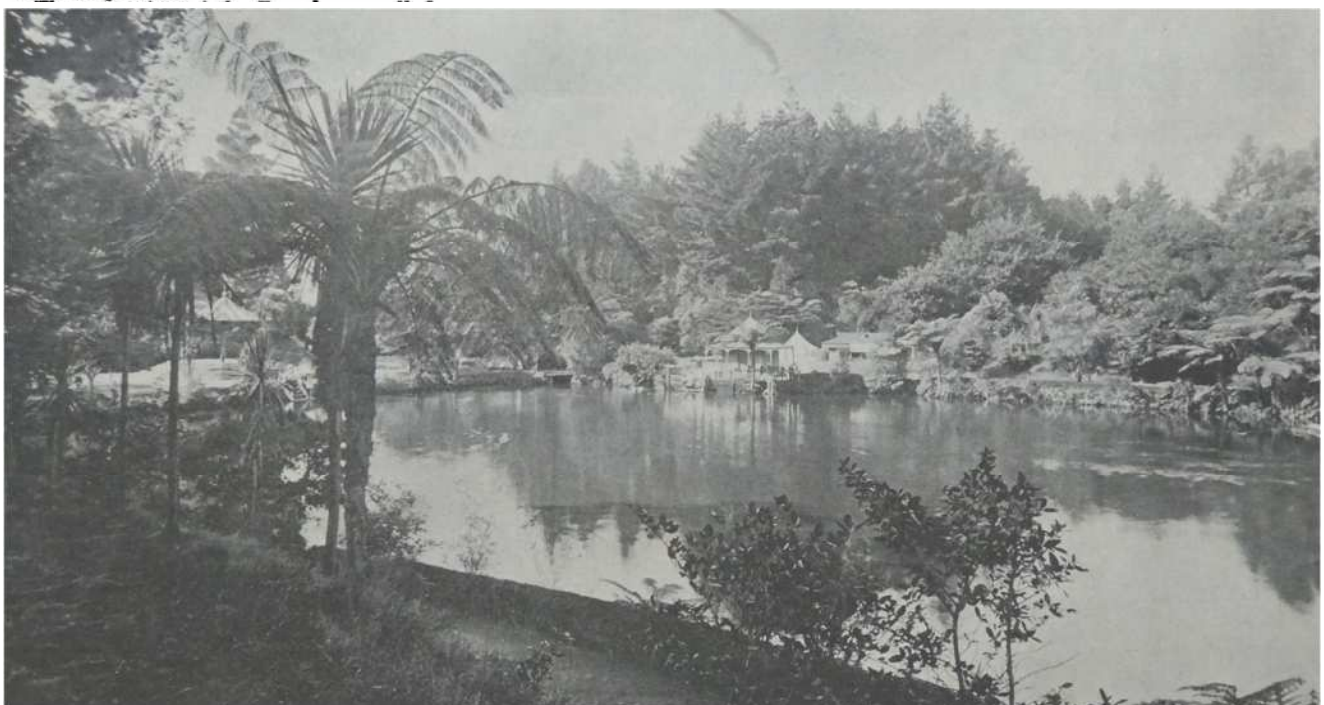


NEW PLYMOUTH CENTRAL SCHOOL PICNIC ON THE OVAL, PUKEKURA PARK.

J. R. Hanna, photo.

The children at tea on one of the new terraces.

(Auckland Weekly News, March 21, 1908.)



Main Lake - Pukekura Park. (Auckland Weekly News, August 15, 1908 by W. A. Collis.)

1909

By 1909 the curator W. W. Smith was making his presence felt. He redeveloped the Gilbert Street entrance and what is now known as Smith Walk. Another area to get his attention was the swamp north of the Tea House which is now the attractive Sunken Dell. Smith promoted the planting of native trees and during the year felled several pine trees replacing them with natives.

The question of who should run the Park came up again. Councillor F. Bellringer, one of three council representatives on the Board, was in favour of the park management being handed over to the council. The three council representatives had equal voting rights on the board except when it came to voting on constitutional matters. Bellringer was not happy about that.

Again, the Board found itself deeply in debt and struggling to find funds to pay for labour to assist the curator with his work. A scheme for using the town's unemployed was introduced, and a fund was started to pay these men.

The Acclimatisation Society introduced four more ponds in the park. Water was fed via a wooden flume and a drop of several feet was introduced to aerate the water and keep it agitated, resulting in stronger and more active fish. The Society also asked for permission to build a hatchery.

In July Richard Cock was appointed Chairman of the Board taking over from F. P. Corkill.

Donations included:

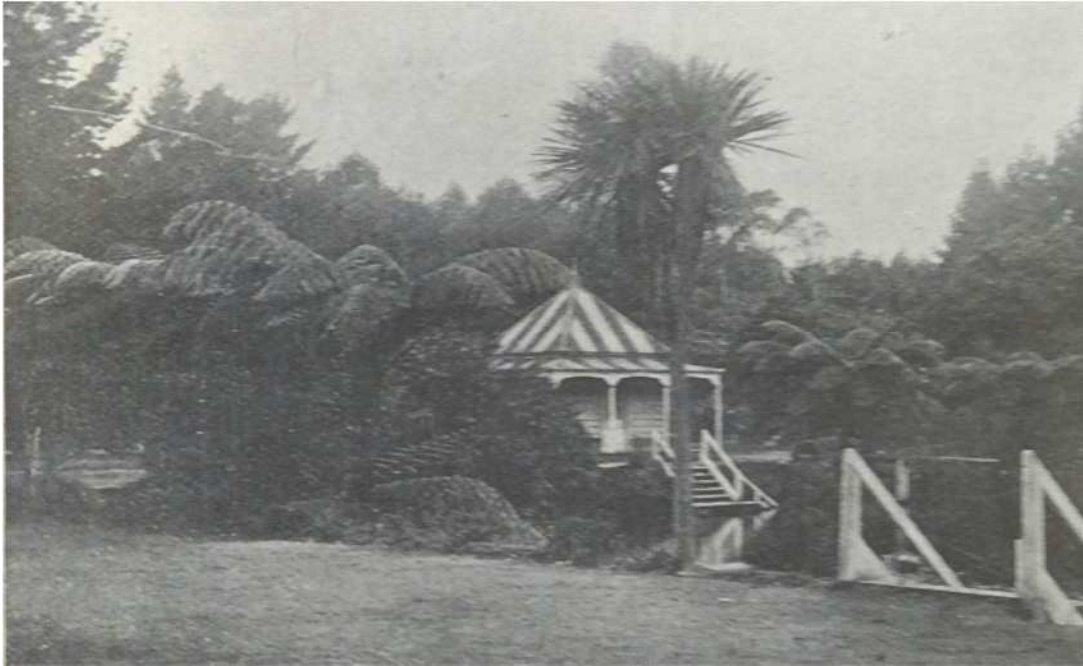
Mr E. Sole, laughing jackass; Mr Willie, Eltham, pheasants; Mr R. B. Wilson, Urenui, a half grown kiwi.

Plant donations included:

Miss Clarke, Gilbert Street, a large quantity of bulbs and other plants; Miss Devenish, narcissus bulbs and herbaceous plants; Mrs Fraser and Mrs Kelly, Vogeltown, a small cartload of spring flowering and other hardy plants; Mrs Sandford, a number of good border plants; Mr Cock and other gentlemen, roses to cover the high wooden fence at the Gilbert Street Entrance; Mrs Kenny, some large shrubs to assist in completing the planting of the borders at the new entrance; Mr Newton King, half a sack of dahlia tubers and a Kawhia resident, a box of tanekaha's and monoaos.

Summary of significant events

- The memorial tablet on Cannon Hill was defaced. Lead removed from lettering
- Scheme to give unemployed men work was started
- Work starts on filling a swamp which is now called Sunken Dell
- Voting rights of council representatives questioned by councillor F. Bellringer
- The Acclimatisation Society construct four new ponds in the park
- In July, Richard Cock was appointed Chairman of the Board taking over from F. P. Corkill.



Bathing House - Pukekura Park. (*Auckland Weekly News* May 20, 1909.)



Main Lake - Pukekura Park. (*Auckland Weekly News* July 22, 1909.)

TH, JANUARY 28, 1909
MEMORIAL TABLET DEFACED

A meeting of Pukekura Park Board was held yesterday afternoon. It was resolved that the Chairman be authorised to take proceedings against the four boys who, it is alleged, defaced the memorial tablet in the grounds. If funds can be raised it is proposed to erect a model Maori house in the grounds. It was resolved to take proceedings against any persons found injuring any portion of the grounds, shrubs, or flowers in the future.

TH, FEBRUARY 16, 1909
CENTRAL SCHOOL POOL

PUKEKURA PARK FROG POND.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—Can you inform me when the Central School Frog Pond is to be officially opened? Why I am writing to know is that if they do not hurry up with the official opening there will not be enough water left in it for the tadpoles to waggle their little tails in, let alone enough for a boy to have a dip. I notice that the School Committee have copied the Recreation Ground Board in having a place got ready for the names of benefactors. At any rate, I suppose that is what the big slab of concrete is for, as I cannot find that there is likely to be any other use for it. At any rate, they have gone one better than the Board (who only provided a small marble slab) and have got a slab big enough for the School Committee and all who have had anything to do with the wonderful engineering feat to have their names on in foot letters. However, all this latter is an after thought, as it is the official opening I am banking after.—I am, etc.,
PARENT.

TH, FEBRUARY 19, 1909
PARK IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

Many of the visitors to Pukekura Park yesterday afternoon were pleased to notice the improvements which the curator has carried out in the grounds, more especially near the new Gilbert Street entrance. The draining and cultivation of the swamp between the tea house and the new lake are now approaching completion and a very rich piece of garden ground will be the result. It is intended to devote this to the cultivation of bright coloured flowers. Next summer this corner of the grounds will doubtless be a striking feature of the beautiful Park. Mr E. Sole has donated to the reserve a laughing jackass and Mr Willie, of Eltham, has kindly offered to send in a number of pheasants. Mr R. B. Wilson, of Mangamaehu, Urenui, a few days ago brought in a half-grown kiwi, which for the present has been placed with the two kiwis which are under the observation of Mr W. W. Smith. The addition of these birds to the aviary adds to the attractiveness of the grounds, and at the same time creates an expenditure for food which the Board finds it rather hard to face. A sack of wheat or maize would be a very acceptable donation.

TH, MARCH 2, 1909
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

MONTHLY MEETING.

The usual monthly meeting of the Board was held in the Council Chambers last evening. Present:—Messrs F. P. Corkill (chairman), W. L. Newman, H. Ford, R. C. Hughes, F. Bellringer and E. H. Tribe (hon. sec.). The Chairman apologised for the absence of Mr S. Percy Smith.

The Chairman stated that the Memorial Tablet in the Park had been repaired and read the apology from the boys who had done the damage.

The various improvements effected by the curator, Mr W. W. Smith, to the Park met with the approval of the Board.

Votes of thanks were passed to Mr Ernest Sole for the gift of a laughing jackass, to Mr R. B. Wilson, of Urenui, for a kiwi, and to the Herald for free donation of advertisement.

The Chairman stated that he had received notification from the Borough Council that the question of the whole of the subsidies would shortly be under the consideration of the Council with a view to economy.

Details in connection with the display of fireworks in the Park on the first race night this month were discussed. The secretary was instructed to endeavour to arrange for running an electric wire for lighting up the footpaths on the night of the fireworks. The bank overdraft of the Board stands at £82 7s 8d.

TH, MARCH 15, 1909
FUNDRAISING

PUKEKURA PARK.

FIREWORKS.
FIREWORKS.

Fine assortment just arrived from
MESSRS BOCK & CO., LONDON

FIRST RACE NIGHT,

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24.

In aid of the funds of the
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD.

EDWARD H. TRIBE,
a475 Hon. Sec.

TH, MARCH 22, 1909
LIGHTING IN THE PARK

While in Wellington last week, the chairman of the Recreation Grounds Board (Mr. F. P. Corkill) purchased a further supply of Chinese lanterns (200) for use at festivals in the Park. Arrangements have been made with the borough authorities to carry the electric light from the Carrington Road entrance to the bandstand, and thence to the Liardet Street entrance, thus effectually illuminating the approaches to the lake.

TH, MARCH 30, 1909
FIREWORKS AND FINANCES

Very complete arrangements have been made for the evening's carnival in Pukekura Park to-morrow night, an excellent programme of music and fireworks having been provided by the Garrison Band and Board respectively. It is hoped that favourable weather will permit of the carrying out of the scheme so that the Board's banking account, which at present is considerably overdrawn on the personal guarantee of several of the trustees, may receive a welcome relief. The Board will be obliged if friends willing to give a helping hand in the preparations will meet at the Bathing-house at 9 a.m. to-morrow.

TH, JUNE 21, 1909
NEW DRESSING SHED

For the convenience of footballers playing on the Recreation Sports Ground, a dressing shed 18ft. by 18ft. has been erected by the committee.

TH, JUNE 22, 1909
FIREWOOD

There is a lot of very useful firewood in a number of fallen and dead pine trees in Pukekura Park. The board will be pleased if any residents will undertake to remove this wood. The curator, Mr W. W. Smith, will indicate the trees which are available.

TH, JUNE 26, 1909
DUCK SHOOTING

Sir.—I should feel grateful were you to permit me to refer through the medium of the Herald to a very base and despicable act which has been practised on several occasions during the last month on the wild ducks frequenting Pukekura Park. In the dusk of the evening, when they leave the Park to disperse over the country to their feeding grounds, some unsportsmanlike individual has, several times recently, waited at the head of the park at the junction of the two roads leading to Mr. Newton King's and Mr. Snowball's residences, and fired two shots at them in rapid succession as they pass over or near him. I may state that seventeen of these wild ducks were reared by hand this year, including six of the scap or black teal, which makes it all the more regrettable that they should thus be so ruthlessly killed. Since the shooting, which I complained of, commenced, the ducks that found a daily sanctuary in the Park have greatly diminished in numbers. For weeks after the shooting season opened we had about seven dozen wild ducks visit the Park daily, some of them becoming quite tame. Now about two dozen only of these daily migrants return in the morning to the lakes in the Park. Between Mr. King's lakes and those in the Park the wild fowl have a fine range of water. It is therefore very regrettable that they should be molested in the way I have stated. Wild ducks are becoming annually more scarce in Taranaki, which renders it imperative that those taking refuge in public parks should be strictly protected. Lakes in all public parks well stocked with wild and ornamental fowl are invariably a great charm to visitors, especially to young people. The series of lakes in Mr. King's private grounds and those in Pukekura Park form ideal sanctuaries for wild fowls, which should unquestionably be zealously protected for the pleasure of visitors. It is a pity that Mr. King is not at home to promptly put a stop to the unmanly and unsportsmanlike practice of shooting or even molesting the wild ducks in the manner I have stated.—I am, etc.,

W. W. SMITH.

TDN, JULY 1, 1909
GILBERT ST ENTRANCE
IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator of the Recreation Grounds, is at present occupied with the improvement of the new entrance in Gilbert Street. The bank on the upper side of the roadway is being cut back to the boundary of Mr. H. Eyre-Kenny's property, and the flat ground thus made will be laid out with flowering shrubs and so on. Already a good deal of work has been done at this part of the grounds, and when the present scheme has been completed the new entrance should be very attractive.

TH, JULY 6, 1909
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in the Mayor's parlour, Town Hall, last evening, there being present Messrs. F. P. Corkill (chairman), R. Cock, R. C. Hughes, H. Ford, W. L. Newman, with the Mayor (Mr. Tisch) and Councillors Watkins and Bellringer representing the borough council.

The Chairman regretted the absence of Mr. S. Percy Smith, who had written some time ago stating that during the winter it would not be advisable for him to attend evening meetings of the board, but expressing his readiness to co-operate to the utmost of his ability as hitherto.

On the motion of Messrs. Tisch and Hughes leave of absence was granted to Mr. Smith, several of the members speaking in most eulogistic terms of the value of the services which he has rendered to the board ever since joining it.

The Chairman stated that he wished the board to hold a special meeting some evening next week for the purpose of considering the question of ways and means. As would be seen by the bank book there was a debit balance of £96 11s 6d in addition to which there were sundry liabilities which would have to be provided for. Against these he had that day received a cheque from the borough council for £37 10s, and the board had also in store a large quantity of fireworks which, however, could not be utilised until finer weather sets in. He had hoped to have submitted the balance sheet and statement of accounts for the year ended March 31 last, before this, but he had mislaid all the vouchers up to December last and they had only been discovered two days ago. The audited account and chairman's report for the year would be submitted at the special meeting. He pointed out that something would have to be done to increase the revenue of the board if they intended to go on improving the domain. The arrangement with the Sports Ground Committee had deprived the board of revenue from the sports ground, which formerly brought in probably £50 a year; and in addition to this, public liberality had been largely diverted to the upkeep and improvement of the sports ground, which, of course, was a very valuable asset to the community.

After some discussion it was resolved on the motion of Messrs. Cock and Watkins that a special meeting of the board be held on Wednesday, 14th inst., to consider ways and means and to adopt the balance sheet and report for the past year.

Both Mr. Hughes and Mr. Cock referred to the desirability of holding regular monthly meetings of the board. The former pointed out that there was a resolution that the board should meet on the first Monday in each month.

The chairman stated that the secretary had, in pursuance of the resolution referred to, sent out notices for both the May and June meetings, and it had been found that there was a council meeting on the first occasion and on the next that a quorum could not be obtained owing to the absence and other engagements of members.

The chairman stated that Mr. Percy Smith considered it necessary to give early attention to the stray furze which were showing signs of flowering, and this would be attended to.

Reference was made to the excellent work which the curator was carrying out in the grounds, and regret expressed that the resources of the board did not admit of the employment of more unskilled labour under that gentleman's supervision.

The chairman alluded to the continuation of petty depredations and acts of damage in the grounds and regretted that it did not seem possible to bring the offenders to book.

Several members of the board expressed the opinion that it was useless to seek the co-operation of the police; but it was eventually decided on the motion of Messrs. Bellringer and Cock that the chairman be requested to write to Inspector Wilson, Wanganui, in charge of the police district, requesting him to give instructions to assist the board if possible.

Mr. Hughes brought up the question of alterations made in Mr. King's grounds, where a dam or dams had been constructed, the bursting of one of which might very seriously imperil the safety of the embankment retaining the large lake.

It was resolved that the chairman, with Messrs. Cock and Hughes, be appointed a committee to view Mr. King's works and to take any steps which they may consider necessary to safeguard the board's interests.

TH, JULY 15, 1909
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD A.G.M.

The annual meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Town Hall last night, Mr. F. P. Corkill presiding. It was decided, after some discussion, to admit the press.

The quarterly report of Mr. W. W. Smith, the curator, was read, and several suggestions contained therein will be given effect to.

There was a considerable amount of discussion in connection with the question of finding employment for a number of unemployed, for which purpose several donations amounting to about £20 had been received.

It was eventually agreed that a number of local unemployed be given work about the grounds, preference to be given to married men, at a wage of 7s per day. A motion that the wages be 7s for married men with large families, 6s for married men with small families, and 5s for single men, was negatived.

It was suggested that the best course for strangers to the town who were unemployed would be to go to the Charitable Aid Board, who should recover, if possible, any assistance granted to men from the boards in the districts from which these people came.

THE BALANCE SHEET

The balance sheet for the year ending April 1 showed receipts totalling £411 10s 10d, including donations £50 14s 3d, rents £22 15s, proceeds picnic on November 9 £31 8s 7d, boat license and fees 19s, donation in box £5 13s 2d,

subsidy borough council £200, Bank of New Zealand overdraft at April 1 £88 15s 2d (including transactions on that date), Mr. F. P. Corkill advances £9 15s 8d. Expenditure: Bank overdraft April 1, 1908, £65 18s 6d, wages £287 1s 2d, material, tools and repairs £18 9s 4d, railage and cartage £2 2s, fire insurance 15s 9d, painting and repairs to cottage £20 1s, painting band rotunda, etc., £6 3s 6d, seeds 16s 9d, advertising 10s, 200 Chinese lanterns and charges £4 1s 10d, rent borough council 5s, postage and stationery £3, bank interest £5.

The position of the bank account at July 14 was as follows:—Debit balance April 1 £88 15s 2d, since paid in £48 15s—£40 0s 2d, cheques drawn £53 1s 4d, overdraft £93 1s 6d. Other liabilities amounted to £108 13s 10d, including further advances by Mr. Corkill £27, Mr. W. W. Smith (curator) wages to June 3 £39.

The Chairman explained that during the past year the expense in connection with casual labour had exceeded that of the previous year by £120. The board had in hand fireworks to the value of about £61, sufficient to give three good fireworks displays each of which should produce about £50 judging by former experience. Income from these sources had been anticipated during the year, and it would be remembered that displays had been advertised on two or three occasions but had to be postponed on account of the weather. Income received from the sports ground committee, too, was about £70 less than had been anticipated, and in other words the board had experienced many disappointments.

In the course of a lengthy discussion which followed, Mr. Watkins expressed the opinion that a greater number of annual subscriptions would be received if people were to receive in return three or four named native shrubs from the grounds each year.

The balance sheet was approved.

It was decided to promote several entertainments in aid of the funds of the board.

The meeting then proceeded with the election of chairman for the coming year. Mr. Corkill explained that he wished to be relieved of the position, and on the motion of Messrs. Tisch and Watkins Mr. R. Cock was elected.

Mr. Cock in briefly returning thanks said he would do his best to carry out the duties to their satisfaction.

On the motion of Mr. Tisch, seconded by Mr. Ford and supported by the chairman, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Corkill for his past services as chairman. Eulogistic reference was made to the great amount of time and energy Mr. Corkill had always devoted to the welfare of the grounds.

Mr. Corkill suitably replied.

The question of the status of the nominees of the New Plymouth Borough Council was raised, and it was stated that they had equal voting powers with the trustees appointed by the Government on all except legal matters, but that they were not eligible for the position of chairman.

Councillor Bellringer considered the time had arrived when the present position of affairs should be remedied. The nominees of the borough council should have equal voting powers with the Government nominees if they were to continue to sit on the board.

At a later stage Councillor Bellringer gave notice of motion that the control of the park be handed over to the borough council. On being informed, however, that he could not vote on the question he withdrew his motion.

Mr. Hughes said he was strongly opposed to the control of the park being handed over to the borough council, and would fight it to the last. He was the founder of the board, and went round and selected the first trustees,

and he testified to the good work that had been accomplished by the board.

Councillor Bellringer said the condition of the grounds at the present time did not point to the fact that there had been that return for the money expended there should have been. The borough council representatives went through the grounds recently, and were thoroughly disgusted with the whole thing—well, the footpaths at any rate.

Mr. Hughes: Pity us if we get in the power of the borough council. One day one member will come along and plant a tree, and another day another member will come along and cut it down.

The Chairman considered Councillor Bellringer's remarks rather rough on the board. He had been a member for twenty years or more, and he considered that the money spent had been well spent. He admitted the footpaths were not in such good order as they were in years past. With this exception, however, there was no place in New Zealand to equal the park.

Mr. Corkill referred to King Edward Park, Hawera, and said this would fit in one corner of Pukekura Park, and yet £150 a year was spent on it.

It was resolved that representations be made that the Mayor of the town should be appointed an extra trustee.

It was decided to write the Jockey Club asking for a contribution towards the upkeep of the path leading to the racecourse, and also that no objection be offered to residents in the Vogelstown, Brooklands and other districts putting the paths leading to their respective districts in order.

It was agreed that regular monthly meetings be held, and that they be open to the press.

The board will visit the grounds in the course of a few days.

TH, JULY 15, 1909 BIRDS STOLEN

"I regret to inform the board that petty depredations continue to be committed in the park," said Mr. W. W. Smith, curator of the Pukekura Park, in the course of his report to the board last night. "On April 11 one of the four Russian geese was stolen. Since planting the bulbs received from Christchurch several clumps of them have been removed. Twice during the last fortnight the padlock on the peacock house has been forced off and broken for what purpose the latter act is done I can't say, unless it be to get the feathers that occasionally are shed by the birds. Twice lately we have also had to put fresh wire on the jackass enclosure, owing to malicious injury to the wire enclosing the bird."

TH, JULY 16, 1909

A FISH HATCHERY.

A deputation from the Taranaki Acclimatisation Society, consisting of Messrs. Wilson and Whittle, waited on the Pukekura Park Board on Wednesday and asked permission to establish a fish hatchery in the Park.

Mr. Wilson said the Acclimatisation Society was already very much indebted to the Board for being able to establish rearing ponds in the ground. Now it wanted, if possible, to go one better. The society found it could do with a very great number more fish than it was at present able to accommodate in the ponds and wished instead of getting the fry from other societies to get the ova and rear the fry itself. If they were able to carry out their idea it would enable them to liberate very many more thousands of fish each year. He pointed out that it would add con-

siderably to the attractions of the town if they provided really good fishing in the Waiwakaiho River, at any rate; and this was undoubtedly one of the best fishing streams in the dominion. The deputation hoped the board would approve of the proposition and they would be pleased to meet the members in the Park for the approval of the site of the hatchery. If the society was allowed to construct a hatchery in the grounds it would also very probably require permission to obtain a supply of water from the present main supplying the fountain subject to this being found feasible.

The Chairman (Mr. Corkill) asked if the deputation could indicate what arrangements would be made for the care of the hatchery if established.

Mr. Wilson said that was a matter that would have to be gone into. In hatching fish great care had to be given. The board had in Mr. Smith a gentleman who understood a very great deal about fish, and the society recognised that in allowing Mr. Smith to take charge of the fish it had in the grounds under the present system the board was allowing the society a very considerable concession; and if it would be possible for Mr. Smith to give any further time to the subject the society would be very pleased that he should take over the care of the hatchery. It was a matter that would have to be discussed thoroughly.

The Chairman said he had talked over the matter with Mr. Smith, who could not see his way to assume any responsibility for the care of the hatchery, if established.

Mr. Wilson also asked for permission to construct further holding pools.

The board was disposed to meet the society in the matter if the suggestions could be given effect to, without in any way hampering itself. It was pointed out, however, that it could not be a party to imposing further duties on Mr. Smith.

The board decided to meet representatives of the Acclimatisation Society in the Park.

TH, JULY 21, 1909 UNEMPLOYED GIVEN WORK

Work for some of the unemployed in New Plymouth is being found in Pukekura Park. The chairman of the board (Mr. R. Cock) has received several donations towards this object, and has put on several married men at grubbing gorse and generally cleaning up the park. When the weather clears, the necessary work of raising and improving the footpaths will be taken in hand.

TH, JULY 26, 1909 WORK STARTS ON SUNKEN DELL

Good work is being done in Pukekura Park by a number of the unemployed. They have been put to work grubbing gorse and cleaning up the swamp at the outlet of the top lake. The swamp is to be properly cleared of the rubbish, the water confined to a channel, and the banks laid down in grass. For the short time the men have been employed they have done very excellent work.

TH, August 3, 1909 SMITH'S SERVICES OFFERED TO BEAUTIFYING ASSOCIATION

The Pukekura Park Board decided last night that with the curator's consent, that gentleman's services be placed at the disposal of the president of the Beautifying Association or of the borough council in advising as to the beautifying of the esplanades or borough reserves.

TDN, JULY 24, 1909 ACCOUNTS FOR 1908

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND PAYMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 1st APRIL, 1909.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
To Cash in hand 1st April, 1908		1	10	0
Donations—S. Percy Smith				
£5, C. W. Govett £5, J. C. Legg £3, Walter Weston 5s, E. Whittle 10s, A. D. Gray 10s, Misses Humphries 10s, Mrs. Honeyfield £25, W. T. Joll £1, Mr. Rollinson 5s, three Friends £3 3s, H. Weston 10s, Anonymous 12s 9d and £5 8s 6d—total		50	14	3
Rents (£12 10s in advance)		22	15	0
Proceeds of Picnic, 9th Nov.		31	8	7
Boat License 10s, Boat Fees 9s		0	19	0
Donation Box in Grounds		5	13	2
Borough Council Subsidy		290	0	0
F. P. Corkill, advances		9	15	8
Bank of New Zealand overdraft on 1st April, personally guaranteed by certain members of the Board		88	15	2
		£411	10	10

PAYMENTS.		£	s.	d.
By Bank New Zealand overdraft 1st April, 1908		65	18	0
Wages		287	1	2
Material, Tools, and Repairs		18	9	4
Railage and Cartage		2	2	0
Fire Insurance		0	15	9
Painting and Repairs to Cottage		20	1	0
Painting Band Rotunda, etc.		4	3	6
Seeds		0	16	9
Advertising		0	10	0
200 Chinese Lanterns and Charges		4	4	10
Rent Borough Council		0	5	0
Postage and Stationery		0	3	0
Bank Interest and Commission		5	0	0
		£411	10	10

F. P. CORKILL,
Chairman (Acting Secretary).

(Outstanding liabilities, including
Bank overdraft, £207 4s 8d.)

TH, August 3, 1909 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of Pukekura Park was held at the Town Hall last night, Mr. R. Cock presiding. There were also present, Messrs. H. Ford, W. L. Newman (treasurer), R. C. Hughes (trustees) G. Tisch, A. E. Watkins and F. Bellringer, representing the Borough Council, and E. H. Tribe (secretary).

BOROUGH COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES.

Before the confirmation of the minutes of the annual meeting Mr. Bellringer said he noticed there was an omission. He gave notice of a motion at the last meeting to alter the constitution of the board, but was ruled out of order on the ground that the status of the borough council representatives would not permit him submitting such a motion. He asked the secretary to refer to the resolution of the board admitting the council's delegates to sit with the trustees.

Mr. Tribe said the resolution referred to was passed by the board in 1903, and the minute book only dated back to 1904.

Mr. Tisch produced the original letter in which Mr. Clement Govett, chairman of the Board of Trustees in 1903, forwarded the following resolution to the council: "That if the borough council appoint three of their number to sit with and confer with members of the board, the board will recognise them as having equal powers with members, notwithstanding that the Taranaki Botanic Act does not provide for more than seven members of the board."

Mr. Bellringer asked if in face of this resolution the chairman of trustees still ruled him out of order.

The Chairman: Yes, I do, Mr. Bellringer. You cannot legally move in the direction of altering the constitution of the board, for the Government recognise only the duly appointed trustees.

Mr. Bellringer: Then that resolution is just a bit of bluff on the part of the board, was it?

The Chairman said this was not so. The Board of Trustees felt they would like the assistance of one or two representatives of the borough council seeing that the council provided them with by far the greater portion of their revenue. But it must be plainly evident that there was some business which could be initiated only by the trustees. The council's delegates had a full voice in the control of the grounds, and could vote on matters such as the expenditure of moneys in their upkeep, and so on. No vote on these matters could be objectionable to the trustees, but when they attempted to alter the constitution he was convinced that only one of the trustees could do that.

Mr. Bellringer: Of course you are aware Mr. Chairman, that that course could be altered on a petition of the ratepayers.

The Chairman: Yes, we are aware of all that. We do not wish to balk the council's delegates in any way. If Mr. Bellringer wanted the constitution altered, he could put it before the people. He was prepared to second a motion, if Mr. Bellringer would move it, that a legal opinion be obtained to decide the standing of the delegates. He would offer no objection to having the governing Act amended so that the number of members be increased to ten, three of whom should be delegates from the borough council.

Mr. Bellringer said there was a need for some alteration. The board should take some steps to get more in touch with the people, particularly those younger people whose interest and assistance would benefit the funds. At present these people held aloof. They seemed to look upon the board as—

The Chairman: Fossilised?

Mr. Bellringer: I don't say that Mr. Chairman. But there is a new order of things coming in New Plymouth, and there are young people whom the board would do well to interest in the grounds.

The Chairman contended that the trustees had in the past done good work. He said that comparison of New Plymouth's grounds with Wellington's indicated that there had been more pounds spent here than shillings in Wellington. It was a dirty-looking place, full of furze, and broom, and ti-tree, and rubbish. There were dells there similar to those which had been made so beautiful in our grounds. Although himself a member of the trustees, he ventured to say that the members of the Pukekura Park Board had shown other places the way to do things. Few boards in New Zealand had done such work as had been done here. This was the work of the old fossils.

Mr. Newman: They were much younger then.

Mr. Bellringer said he did not question the work done by the board in the past. He admitted that it deserved all credit for it.

The Chairman said he was aware that many of the paths were overgrown and he felt that the board was not getting the work that it should for its expenditure. They had an excellent curator in Mr. Smith, a thoroughly practical man, who had done excellent work in the grounds, particularly in beautifying the Gilbert Street entrance. But it seemed to him that the board could do with a little more rough labour in the grounds. The paths needed attending to. He was pleased to announce that Mr. Honnor had offered twenty loads of blacksmith's ash for the paths, and also to have it carted to the grounds free to the board.

The matter then dropped.

"THE MAGISTRATE."

Mr. Watkins reported that the New Plymouth amateurs had consented to put on "The Magistrate" on Wednesday in aid of the board's funds. They intended to put on the piece as well as ever.

It was decided that the proceeds of the performance be placed in a separate fund for the relief of the unemployed.

FINANCIAL.

The financial position of the board was raised.

The secretary reported that he had received from Mr. Corkill a list of the board's sections which were leased, the total revenue being £49 7s 6d. He estimated that the board's annual revenue would be £230 (inclusive of borough subsidy £150, sports ground rental £25, rents £49 7s 6d). At present the board owed the bank £90 19s, and there were outstanding accounts amounting to about £100.

The Chairman said the wages of the curator and his assistant absorbed the borough subsidy and the rents, and on top of that there was bird food to be bought, and sundry expenses. The board had, however, additional prospective revenue in fireworks displays and other entertainments.

THE PRESS.

It was decided to admit the press to the board's meetings.

Mr. Tisch remarked that if the board wanted public support it must let the people know what it was doing.

The Chairman agreed, and said he always liked to see the press present. It had a tendency to keep people in order.

TH, AUGUST 7, 1909 ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY

Subject to the approval of the Pukekura Park, two new ponds will be constructed in the park.

It was decided to order 40,000 trout fry, 30,000 of which will be sent to the New Plymouth ponds and 10,000 to ponds to be built at Tariki.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Wiggs for his services in preparing plans for the hatchery.

TH, SEPTEMBER 7, 1909 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of Pukekura Park was held at the Town Hall last night, Mr. R. Cock presiding. There were also present Messrs. R. C. Hughes, H. Ford, W. L. Newman, G. Tisch (Mayor), A. E. Watkins, F. Bellringer, and E. H. Tribe (secretary).

THE UNEMPLOYED FUND.

The secretary submitted a statement of receipts and expenditure in connection with the production of "The Magistrate" on behalf of the unemployed fund. The receipts amounted to £33 17s, and the expenses to £19 11s, leaving a credit balance of £14 6s. The amount of subscriptions received towards the unemployed fund was £34 17s, which, with the credit balance from "The Magistrate," made a total of £49 3s. The amount of wages paid was £53 1s 6d, leaving £3 18s 6d found by the board.

FINANCE.

The secretary stated that the board's overdraft at date amounted to £105 13s 6d.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator, reported that for the first week of the month all the extra labour employed was in gorse-cutting on the hill next race course. Owing to the almost continuous damp and wet weather during the time the extra men were here it was quite impossible to do much with them in improving the walks in the park. The removal of the mound of clay as the entrance from Gilbert Street was completed in ten days, and it occupied the labours of two men. The sloping down of both sides of the cutting near the lower end of the lower lake had been completed and partly planted with very good effect. The broad walk had been raised from three to six inches and coated with forge ash, which would now enable visitors to get about comfortably in all weathers. Both sides of the upper lake had had the walks raised with clay to a suitable level. More ash was required to cover and finish them. Among the general work undertaken was the cleaning of slopes between the Carrington Road entrance and the lower end of the upper lake. The slopes around the lily lake had also been cleaned and the rubbish carted away and burned. The large heap of clay formerly lying on the side of the upper lake extension had been removed and used in levelling and coating the walks on both sides as far as it would extend. All the plants in the nursery had been planted in their permanent places and at the new entrance. Since the last meeting several ladies and gentlemen had presented quantities of valuable plants which had been chiefly used to complete the new borders. Miss Clarke, Gilbert Street gave a large quantity of bulbs and other plants, Miss Devenish some fine narcissi bulbs with *Lerbaecus* plants, Mrs. Fraser and Mrs. Kelly, Vogelstown, presented a small cartload of spring flowering and other hardy plants, Mrs. Sandford also gave a number of good border plants, from Mr. Cock and other gentlemen he had received roses to cover the high wooden fence at Gilbert Street entrance; Mrs. Kenny had also given some large shrubs to assist in completing the planting of the borders at the new entrance; Mr. Newton King presented half a sackful of dahlia tubers. An anonymous donor sent a bundle of native plants, some being new to the Park. A gentleman resident in Kahia sent a box of tanekaha's and monoaos. Up to the present time all the above were looking well.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded all who had contributed gifts to the grounds, to those taking part in "The Magistrate" for their kindness and to Mr. A. Harle, auditor, for his services.

Messrs. Newman and Tribe were authorised to canvass the town for annual subscriptions.

A letter from Mr. H. Munro, Inspector of Noxious Weeds, requiring that immediate attention be given to the gorse growing on the roads around the Park was referred to the chairman.

TH, SEPTEMBER 21, 1909
ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY

The society has added four additional ponds to those already in use at Pukekura Park. Water is conducted over them by means of a wooden flume, and falls into the tanks from a height of several feet, thus thoroughly aerating the water and keeping it in constant agitation, this having the tendency to produce stronger and more active fish. It is hoped to have the hatcheries in full swing for next season. They will be erected in the fern glen, which at present holds the rearing ponds.

The Acclimatisation Society yesterday received 20,000 trout fry from the Hawera hatcheries. Of these 10,000 were brown trout and 10,000 rainbow. They were landed in excellent condition and placed in the society's ponds in Pukekura Park. Latterly the Hawera society has adopted the system of netting the "wild" trout in the streams and stripping them of ova, and these young fish are fine healthy specimens.

TH, OCTOBER 5, 1909
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in the Town Hall last night. Present: Messrs. R. Cock, chairman, R. C. Hughes, Harris Ford, F. C. J. Bellringer, A. E. Watkins and E. H. Tribe, secretary.

The question of the maintenance of special footpaths was brought forward, and it was resolved that the secretary again write to the Taranaki Jockey Club asking the club to take into consideration the question of maintaining the path leading to the rececourse.

It having been brought to the notice of the board that trees had been cut down and removed without permission from the board, it was decided that no trees or shrubs should be cut down without the sanction of the board in writing.

The board authorised the overseer for the month to procure sufficient wire netting to fence off the glow worm caves owing to the possible danger of an earth slip.

The board also decided to form a footpath and plant flowers near the tea rooms.

Providing the Acclimatisation Society offered no objection permits for fishing in the large lake only will be issued during the season at a fee of ten shillings.

No bathing will be permitted in the lake after 8 a.m., and bathers must always wear full-length costumes.

The board further decided that the chairman and the secretary should act for the board in making arrangements with the Garrison Band for a series of moonlight concerts in the Park during the summer months, and, if possible, arrange for a special programme at Christmas.

TDN, OCTOBER 8, 1909
IMPROVEMENTS TO PATH

The caretaker of the Recreation Grounds, Mr. W. W. Smith, has effected a very great improvement in the path leading from the sports ground to the band rotunda. What was hitherto a treacherous track, channelled by storm water, is now a well-made path, grass bordered, and cinder-covered; and the cutting of a little channel across the top will save it from being spoiled again by the waters from the higher levels.

TH, OCTOBER 27, 1909
FUNDRAISING

FIREWORKS!
FIREWORKS!
FIREWORKS

GUY FAWKES NIGHT,
FRIDAY, NOV. 5, 1909,
At 8 o'clock
IN PUKEKURA PARK,
In aid of the Funds of the Board.

THE GARRISON BAND
will render Selections from various Operas.

PARK ILLUMINATED
by Chinese Lanterns.

Admission—One Shilling;
Children, half-price.

E. H. TRIBE,
Hon. Sec.

TH, OCTOBER 28, 1909
FUNDRAISING

SPORTS!
KING'S BIRTHDAY
(TUESDAY, NOV. 9, 1909),

In **RECREATION SPORTS GROUND,**
New Plymouth.

Proceeds in aid of Sports Ground Funds.

PROGRAMME.
(Amateur Events to be run under the rules of the N.Z.A.A. Association.)

AMATEUR EVENTS.
100 yds. Prizes, trophies or orders.
220 yds. do. do. do.
440 yds. do. do. do.
880 yds. do. do. do.

CYCLING.
1 Mile 1st prize, £2; 2nd, 10s.
1 Mile do. do. do.
1½ Mile do. do. do.

Points Prize for Cycling Events, Silver Cup donated by Mr. G. W. Gunson. Nominations close on **THURSDAY, Nov. 4, at 8 p.m.**

Nomination Fee, 1s for Amateur Events; Cycling Events, 2s. (No acceptances.)

Programme includes Quoits, Throwing Cricket Ball, and numerous other events, and will conclude with a

DASH TO THE NORTH POLE.
Mr. H. KERR, the Australasian Champion Walker, will give a Mile Exhibition Walk during the afternoon.
J. OLARKE,
Hon. Secretary.

TH, NOVEMBER 1, 1909
FROGS IN THE PARK

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator of Pukekura Park writes:—Referring to the tiny native frog (*Liopelma hochstetteri*) noted in Monday's Herald, it may be of some interest to state that there are several of them living in the swamp in the valley adjoining the Sports Ground. Their feeble call which much resembles that of a very young rabbit may be heard during every cool or damp evening or on dull days preceding rain.

TH, NOVEMBER 24, 1909
SWANS EGGS STOLEN

A despicable theft has been perpetrated at Pukekura Park. The white swan had a nest of eggs, from which it was hoped several cygnets would be reared for the grounds. However, during Tuesday the eggs were stolen, despite the fact that the curator, Mr. W. W. Smith, had had the nest protected by wire netting. The Park Board is offering a reward of £5 for information that would lead to the conviction of the thief.

TH, DECEMBER 4, 1909
MOVIES IN THE PARK

Few entertainments are likely to become more popular than the series of open-air cinematograph entertainments in the Recreation Sports Ground that was inaugurated last night by Mr. H. Hayward, whose enterprise is highly commendable. On a warm summer evening there is no spot in New Plymouth more pleasant than the Recreation Grounds, and when to the beautiful surrounding of the grounds themselves is added a moving picture entertainment of a high order, with nice music, the spectators at which may lounge at their ease, smoke if they desire, chatter, and be free from the annoyance of large hats that in a theatre so frequently block one's view of the pictures, what could be more pleasant? From the fine terraces on the sports ground everyone can obtain an uninterrupted view of the pictures. Add again to this the fact that only a shilling is charged for admittance. Although the weather was so unpropitious there was a good attendance at last night's opening entertainment. One drawback, due to the display being practically a trial one, was the fact that the screen used for the pictures was rather too far from the terrace on which most of the audience sat. The details of some of the pictures were seen well, but others were not quite so distinct. In future, however, the screen will be placed much closer to the terrace. The light was a splendid one, and with the defect mentioned remedied, there should be nothing to complain about in the way the pictures are shown. A strong orchestra had been engaged, and was present, but owing to the damp atmosphere the stringed instruments could not be used. A good programme of music, however, was supplied per medium of the piano. The films themselves were excellent ones, varied, new, and well selected. Particularly good films were "A Human Sacrifice," depicting some of the rites of the Druids of ancient Britain and the offering of a human sacrifice, and "The White Chief," a film that illustrated the life and custom of the American Indians. Next week Mr. Hayward will arrange another fine programme, assisted by a good orchestra. On the following week a benefit performance will be given to an injured member of the local fire brigade.

TDN, DECEMBER 8, 1909
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Board met on Monday evening, when there were present: Messrs. R. Cook (chairman), F. P. Corkill, W. L. Newman, H. Ford, R. C. Hughes, F. Bellringer, G. Tisch, S. Percy-Smith, and the secretary.

The chairman made a statement showing the financial position of the Board, the total indebtedness being about £190.

Considerable discussion took place with reference to the question of dealing with the boy who stole the swan's eggs in the park, and it was resolved that "the youth who stole the eggs on November 22nd be prosecuted, and that the Board's solicitor be instructed accordingly." It was decided that the attention of picnic parties and others wishing to have the use of any portion of the park be called to bye-law 8, exhibited in the grounds, which states that permission must first be obtained from the Board.

It was resolved that in order to check larrikinism in the grounds the Board empowers the secretary and curator, at their discretion, to enforce the bye-laws.

The chairman was authorised to interview the Sports Ground Committee with reference to making the Lizardet Street gate the only entrance to the ground during entertainments or sports in the evenings.

TDN, DECEMBER 11, 1909
FISH PONDS

The local society at present has 40,000 young fish in the ponds in Pukekura Park, 10,000 at Inglewood and 10,000 at Tariki. The strongest of these will be distributed in the rivers in the district towards the end of January next.

The process of hatching will in future be carried out by the Taranaki Acclimatisation Society. Next breeding season will be the first occasion that this course has been followed, and it is expected that operations will be commenced in ponds in Pukekura Park next February.

TH, DECEMBER 20, 1909

THE SPORTS COMMITTEE.

The Committee of the New Plymouth Recreation Sports Ground held its annual meeting last night. Present: Messrs. A. L. Humphries (chairman), Stocker, Whittle, George, Hobbs, Tribe, Perham, Griffiths, and Clarke.

The balance sheet and report were read.

The Chairman, in moving their adoption, mentioned that during the year the committee did not exert themselves to any great extent, not wishing to tax the public too much. They were enabled, however, thanks chiefly to Mr. Easther's dramatic society, to raise £67 by entertainments. Owing to the absence of representative matches the football revenue this year was only £53 10s, but it was anticipated that this would be the minimum revenue per annum from this source. Donations amounting to £41 5s 3d were received last year. The total revenue from all sources was £230. Once the committee had paid off their liabilities this amount would be ample for the upkeep of the ground, and allow for a considerable amount to be spent on other por-

tions of the ground under the control of the Pukekura Park Board. In reference to the outstanding accounts amounting to about £60, it was hoped this amount would be wiped off early in the New Year, as the assistance of the Ladies' Committee had again been promised and a big function would be run, probably about the middle of February, and judging by past experience it is anticipated that £100 should be easily raised from this function. The principal items in expenditure were loan account redemption £72 10s (having been paid off loan during the year), labour £60 3s (spent on upkeep and further improvements). It was pleasing to note that while improving the ground, erecting new dressing shed, and providing for upkeep the committee had been able to reduce their liabilities by £75.

The report and balance sheet were approved.

Officers were elected as follows:—Chairman, Mr. A. L. Humphries (re-elected); secretary and treasurer, Mr. J. Clark (re-elected); auditor, Mr. N. Bewley (re-elected).

A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Griffiths for his past services as treasurer, and to Mr. N. Bewley for his services as auditor.

The secretary was voted a bonus of £12 12s for services during the past year.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the New Plymouth Dramatic Club and the Waitara Thespian Society for entertainments run in aid of the committee's funds during the year.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the press and all others who had assisted the committee during the year.

It was decided to ask the New Plymouth Amateur Athletic Club and the Caledonian Society if they were desirous of having representation on the committee.

The North Taranaki Cricket Association was granted the use of the ground for the Manawatu match during Christmas week, and the Wanganui match on January 1 and 3.

It was decided to point out to the North Taranaki Cricket Association that little or no assistance is being given by cricketers to the caretaker in the matter of rolling the wicket.

1910

W.W. Smith and Percy Smith went on a native plant foraging trip to Government reserves. Percy Smith had special ministerial authority to visit certain Crown reserves to collect specimen trees because he had headed the Scenery Preservation Commission a few years prior.

The swimming pool that had been formed for Central School somewhere in the vicinity of what is now the Fred Parker Lawn was finally abandoned as the spring which was feeding it dried up.

The Acclimatisation Society had a hatchery building designed by Frank Messenger with the intention of building it in the park at the head of the Hatchery Lawn. Unfortunately, the cost was higher than anticipated and they decided not to go ahead with the project. The previous year the Society had four new rearing ponds built and placed 40,000 brown and rainbow trout in them. The fry did not do well on account of the hot and muggy weather. The continued dry weather caused the water to foul which was disastrous for the young fry. This caused the Society to doubt the quality of water coming from the Park lake.

The Taranaki cricket team famously held an Australian eleven to a draw at Pukekura Park. The local side did field fifteen men, so had a slight advantage. A good draw regardless.

The financial position of the Board was bad, and to make it worse the Council reduced their subsidy by £50. Fortunately, a donation of £50 by the Hon. O. Samuel eased the pain a little.

In June, the Board was approached by a group wanting to build a tennis club on park grounds, between the Vogeltown entrance and the curator's cottage. The Board granted their request, leasing out the piece of land on a seven-year renewable contract. The president of the newly formed Park Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club was Richard Cock, who was also the chairman of the Pukekura Park Board at the time.

One of the entertainment highlights of the year was the screening of a movie about Shackleton's trip to the South Pole, shown on a big screen in the Park. Adding to the entertainment was the Taranaki Garrison Band playing a selection of tunes.

An extraordinary event was that of Sebphe the aeronaut, who successfully ascended to 4,400 feet in a hot air balloon, then parachuted down, his balloon following him after emptying itself of air and turning turtle. (Miss Leila Adair had attempted the same stunt in 1894 with disastrous consequences. On that occasion her balloon was destroyed by fire before getting off the ground.)

Donations included:

A pair of black swans from the Wellington Acclimatisation Society.

Plant donations included:

Mr Drew, bulbs; Mr Govett, bulbs and plants; Mr Stanley (per Mr Corkill), bulbs and plants; Mr Brooks, Mr Mace, Mr Putt, Mr and Miss Devenish, various plants; Raby brothers of Rerekapa, two packages of native trees and shrubs, with packets of native tree seeds. Percy Smith, a valuable collection of native plants of 15 different varieties (216 plants in all), some of which were new to the Park.

The Park Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club received a donation of shrubs from Duncan & Davies for planting around the new tennis club grounds.

Summary of significant events

- New ponds constructed by the Taranaki Acclimatisation Society and permission granted to build a hatchery. Unfortunately the society came up short with funds. The hatchery was not constructed until 1921
- The Central School pool in Pukekura Park was finally abandoned as the spring feeding pool had dried up
- Smith and Smith collected native plants from Government reserves
- Taranaki cricket team held an Australian 11 to a draw
- The Board granted permission for a tennis club to be built on Carrington Road (later Victoria Rd)
- W. W. Smith advertised to buy kiwis
- Memorial service for King Edward VII who died on May 6, 1910.



Fish Rearing Ponds - Present Day Hatchery Lawn (Puke Ariki PHO2012-0430)

TH, JANUARY 1, 1910
FUNDRAISING

FIREWORKS DISPLAY.

The Miramar Fireworks Company, under the direction of Mr. J. Hopkins, will give a large display of fireworks on the Recreation Sports Ground on Thursday evening next. The company is making an extended tour of the dominion, and has already appeared in several of the most important centres with conspicuous success. The programme presented is on a most elaborate scale, and, it is stated, will surpass anything previously seen in New Plymouth in the same line of entertainment. Brilliant set pieces of artistic design and ingenious construction constitute the main features of the display. There will be a fine representation of a butterfly which when alight is seen to move its wings, also a peacock with spreading tail picked out in many colours. Amongst several other choice items are a sparkling fountain and a realistic representation of a waterfall, while a beautiful diamond chromatope and a Scotch thistle are popular sets. There are several other attractions, including a liberal supply of aerial effects, while the fire-club-swinging act of Flamos is said to be very sensational. Variety is added by the inclusion of a set of humorous moving pictures which are thrown on to a specially prepared screen prior to the display of fireworks.

TH, JANUARY 18, 1910
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Borough Council Chambers last evening. Mr. R. Cock presided, and there were present: Messrs. G. Tisch, S. Percy Smith, W. L. Newman, H. Ford, and A. E. Watkins.

A letter was read from the Recreation Grounds Sports Committee asking the board to postpone for one year the collection of the rent—£25. The members of the board were unanimous in granting the request.

The secretary read a letter from the Miramar Waioni Fireworks Touring Company, asking if the grounds were available for a fireworks display.—The secretary stated that he had replied that the grounds were not available, and that the board had a stock of fireworks and held periodical displays in aid of the funds of the board.

The question of permitting a display of fireworks in the Sports Ground by the same company on Thursday next was brought forward.

It was resolved that the attention of the Recreation Sports Ground Committee be called to clause 16 of their lease of the Sports Ground, and that the board would object to any display of fireworks in the Recreation Sports Ground. The reason for this refusal was that the board intended to hold two displays of fireworks almost immediately, in aid of the funds of the board.

The members of the board were unanimous in passing this resolution, as it would probably seriously affect the board's receipts.

The Chairman stated that the total indebtedness of the board, including bank overdraft, was £192.

Accounts amounting to £84 were passed for payment, bringing the board's overdraft up to £119.

TH, FEBRUARY 2, 1910
PROPOSED FISH HATCHERY

A meeting of the Taranaki Acclimatisation Society was held this week and Messrs. Wilson (president) and Newman were elected a committee to supervise the construction of a hatchery in Pukekura Park.

TH, FEBRUARY 8, 1910
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last night. Present: Messrs. R. Cock (chairman), C. W. Govett, S. Percy Smith, G. Tisch, F. C. Bellringer, W. L. Newman, H. Ford, and A. E. Watkins.

The Chairman extended a very hearty welcome to Mr. C. W. Govett upon his return from England, and hoped he would take as great an interest in the park as he did before he left.

The Mayor also made a few remarks, and mentioned that the Borough Council was now giving the board a subsidy of £150, or an increase of £50 on the amount contributed before.

Mr. Govett, in replying, took the opportunity of thanking the board for retaining his seat for him. He would continue to take a keen interest in the park, and promised to devote as much time and attention to it as he was able. Referring to his trip, Mr. Govett said whilst he was in England he had visited a large number of parks and recreation grounds, and found that the upkeep was provided by the city or town authorities. They looked upon the parks as one of the best assets to a town at home.

It was decided to hold a fireworks display on Wednesday, February 16, first night of the races. It is hoped to obtain assistance from some of the crew of the war ship Pegasus. The arrangements were left in the hands of the chairman and Mr. Newman, and the secretary (Mr. Tribe).

An application for permission to sell refreshments near the racecourse entrance on race days was not entertained.

It was decided to ask Mr. Harle to again act as auditor.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. W. T. Jennings, M.P., for his proposed gift of six black swans.

TDN, FEBRUARY 14, 1910

VISIT OF
H. M. S. PEGASUS,
—
MONSTER SEASIDE PICNIC.
(TUESDAY).

EXCURSIONS TO THE WARSHIP.
Return Fares: Adults 1s, Children 6d.
Hot water and milk for picnickers.
SPECIAL TRAIN ARRANGEMENTS.

ELECTRIC LIGHT SPORTS
TUESDAY EVENING, at 8 o'clock,
in
RECREATION SPORTS GROUND.

Amateur Running Events
Cycle Races
Competitions by Bluejackets
Grand procession to the Grounds
Cricket and Football matches, etc.

Full programme to-night.
A. L. HUMPHRIES,
Sec. Seaside Improvement Committee.

TH, FEBRUARY 16, 1910
H.M.S. PEGASUS VISIT

EVENING PROGRAMME.

In the evening a big programme had been arranged for the entertainment of the bluejackets at the Recreation Ground. This commenced with an Association football match between a team from the Pegasus and Taranaki. The Southern Taranaki men failed to put in an appearance, with the result that the local men found some difficulty in getting a full team together, and eventually had the assistance of two spare men from the Pegasus. The game was well contested throughout, and ended in a draw of one goal each. During the progress of the football match the weather cleared, and it was decided to proceed with the arrangements for the sports meeting, which was to follow. The Sports Grounds were illuminated by electric light on a much improved method than hitherto adopted.

Shortly after 7.30 a procession headed by the Garrison Band and consisting of a strong detachment of bluejackets, Taranaki Rifles, Taranaki Guards, and Fire Brigade assembled in Edmont Street, and marched to the Sports Grounds. The attendance was very satisfactory. The results of the various events are as follows:—

One Mile Bicycle Race.—Lister 1, Roebuck 2, George 3. Nine started.

220yds Sailors' Race.—H. G. Snook 1, Skett 2, J. Ring 3.

220yds Amateur Race.—J. Stohr (14 yds.) 1, L. Tressider (24yds.) 2, M. Ward (scr.) 3.

150yds. Sailors' Race.—Skett 1, Snook 2, Ring 3.

Two Mile Bicycle Race.—Roebuck 1, Lister 2.

440yds Amateur Race.—L. Tressider (40yds.) 1, J. Stohr (20yds.) 2, Ward (scr.) 3.

Half-mile Sailors' Race.—Skett 1, Snook 2, Worral 3.

Quarter-mile Sailors' Race.—T. Putt 1, G. Hargreave 2, G. Marnon 3.

One Mile Sailors' Race.—Borrow 1, Snook 2, Morley 3.

A tug of war between H.M.S. Pegasus and Guards ended in a victory for the latter.

The Garrison Band played an interesting programme of music during the evening.

The officers of the Pegasus were again the guests of the local members of the Navy League last night.

The war ship was brilliantly illuminated last night and the searchlight continually swept along the coast.

To-day the officers and a detachment of the men are attending the races.

TH, FEBRUARY 18, 1910
SHACKLETON MOVIE

"THE DASH FOR THE SOUTH POLE."

A very fair audience assembled on the Sports Ground last night to see Sir Ernest Shackleton's dash for the South Pole, depicted by means of the cinematograph. The film itself proved to be a splendid one, and it was thrown on to the very large screen with excellent mechanical accuracy and clearness. A fine idea of the great hardships experienced by Polar explorers, from the time they left Lyttelton until they reached their furthest point South, was given by the lengthy film, and a more complete realisation of the white wastes and awesome solitudes of the Antarctic regions than they had known

before, was pressed upon the spectators. Views of the overland march of the explorers, of the way in which the ponies were utilised on the ice, studies of penguin life, and glimpses of penguin hunting, studies of seals, views of Mount Erebus in eruption, and many others combined to give a most realistic depiction of the dangers and difficulties of polar exploration and the manner in which the great Antarctic guards her secrets. The film is one that every intelligent person should make a point of seeing.

In addition to this fine film many other films of varied character were shown, completing a very fine programme. The Taranaki Garrison Band added to the enjoyment of the audience with an excellent musical programme. This evening the Shackleton film will be repeated, but the other films will be changed. The Garrison Band will play again.

TH, FEBRUARY 21, 1910 SMITH ON NOXIOUS WEEDS

Sir.—The prevention and suppression of noxious weeds and all species of objectionable plants occurring in newly-settled districts is a matter of extreme importance to the settlers, particularly to those occupying valuable pastoral lands. In addition to blackberry and ragwort, which you specially mentioned in your leader on Noxious Weeds a week ago, there are several other almost equally aggressive, destructive and dangerous species of plants now rapidly dispersing and gaining ground in Taranaki. When time would permit I have, during the last eighteen months, been compiling a list of the naturalised plants of the Taranaki County, which list has attained to nearly two hundred species of exotic plants. They include many valuable species of economic plants, while they also include some destructive and dangerous plants. Amongst the latter are the deadly nightshade—a plant whose root, stem, leaf, bud, flower and fruit are deadly poisonous; hemlock, burweed, Bathurst burr, giant dock and Australian emex, several species of formidable thistles, Dead Sea apple, bearing large pinnatifid strongly spinous leaves, several species of milkweed, and the very objectionable bloodweed. Although non-poisonous, the latter plant is a serious nuisance in dairying districts. When milch cows eat the ripe blood-red berries in autumn they impart a very disagreeable flavour to and stain the milk pink. Though there are probably about two dozen additional species of objectionable plants occurring in this county, the short list I mention should prompt agriculturists and pastoralists to use every possible means for their vigorous suppression whenever they appear on their properties. The two last mild winters, followed by warm summers, have been highly conducive to the development and dispersal of several species of noxious exotic plants. I would here suggest that, with a view to assisting farmers and pastoralists to identify the more troublesome plants, I would undertake to mount and name specimens of any plants they may bring to the Park or your office and have them placed for reference in the rooms of the Taranaki Agricultural and Pastoral Society.—I am, etc.

W. W. SMITH.

TH, FEBRUARY 21, 1910 SMITH OFFERS TO NAME PLANTS

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator of Pukekura Park, in a letter in another column, offers to mount and name specimens of any plants farmers care to leave with him or at this office. His idea is to assist in checking the spread of noxious weeds.

TH, MARCH 18, 1910 CRICKET—AUSTRALIA V TARANAKI

CRICKET! CRICKET!!

THE MATCH OF THE SEASON.

AUSTRALIA v. TARANAKI.

To be played on the
RECREATION SPORTS GROUND,
New Plymouth.

On TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 22 and 23, 1910.

Play Commences at 11 a.m. each day.

On Tuesday a special train from Stratford arrives about 2 p.m. The 4.30 p.m. train for South is delayed to 5.30 p.m. on both days.

ADMISSION :: One Shilling.
Enclosure, One Shilling.

AUSTIN BEWLEY,
Hon. Sec. North Taranaki C.A.
a640

TDN, MARCH 21, 1910 CRICKET—AUSTRALIA V TARANAKI

The topic of the moment is the big match to take place to-morrow and Wednesday between the Australian touring cricket team and Taranaki. The match will be played on the Recreation Sports Ground, and as the result of assiduous care the wicket and outfield are in capital playing order. The committee of the local association has made very complete arrangements for the public. Large scoring boards are to be erected, and by their means the public will be informed of every change in the scores. Luncheon will be available on the ground.

The visitors, by their performances in several of the principal centres of cricket in the Dominion, have shown that they are an exceptionally strong batting and bowling side, some of the individual members being stamped as the finest cricketers in the world. Opportunities for seeing really first-class cricket are rare in this country, and will be for many years yet, and we have no doubt that there will be a very large attendance of the public at this match. The Taranaki team, as selected, is a strong combination, and the men may be depended upon to give a good account of themselves.

TDN, MARCH 23, 1910 CRICKET—AUSTRALIA V TARANAKI

AUSTRALIA v. TARANAKI.

A NEAR THING FOR THE VISITORS.

TARANAKI MAKES A SURPRISING
STAND.

"A drawn game," and drawn in Taranaki's favor, was the result of the cricket match between the Australian eleven and Taranaki, which was continued and concluded in the Recreation Sports Ground yesterday. The match provided a most exciting finish. Half-an-hour to play, most of the best Australian batsmen gone, and 24 runs to make to win. It seemed feasible. Twenty minutes to go, only the weakest two wickets to get, still 19 runs required to win, and Southall sending down deadly deceptive breaks like a book. The crowd grew hopeful—but not for Australia. The odds were heavy against Dodds, Hopkins, and Mackenzie making the required number. Then the Australians appealed for light, and the umpires could do nothing but agree. Stumps were drawn. The light, it might be mentioned, was far better than at the conclusion of the first day's play, and possibly more satisfactory than it had been an hour earlier, when the tall pines threw streaky patches across the pitch. These had now disappeared, and the light was even. However, the result as it stood was immensely satisfactory, and came as a great surprise to most people, including the keenest enthusiasts in the good old game.

Following are the details of the scoring:—

AUSTRALIA.

First Innings.

Simpson, b Southall, 4442416	..	25
Mayne, b Southall, 11111114112441-41	..	31
Kelleway, l.b.w., b Cole, 21111114414	20	
Emery, b Southall, 11114121644441	35	
Smith, b Southall, 1126124411	..	23
Mackenzie, b Cole	..	6
Bardsley, b Southall, 1	..	1
Hopkins, b Cole, 11441	..	11
Facy, b Southall, 4	..	4
Dodds, b Cole, 11	..	2
Whitty, not out, 411	..	6
Byes 3, leg byes 7	..	10

Total 168

Bowling Analysis.—Southall, 17 overs, 4 maidens, 78 runs, 6 wickets; Cole, 14 overs, 1 maiden, 63 runs, 4 wickets; Dunlop, 2 overs, 0 maidens, 11 runs, 0 wickets; Pratt, 1 over, 6 runs, 0 wickets.

Runs at fall of each wicket:—1 for 33, 2 for 68, 3 for 106, 4 for 115, 5 for 116, 6 for 138, 7 for 139, 8 for 147, 9 for 157, 10 for 168.

TARANAKI.

First Innings 166

Second Innings.

Smith, b Whitty	0
Weston, b Kelleway, 142171141142.	28
Lash, b Whitty, 2	2
Inman, c Emery, b Whitty, 2 ..	2
Cole, b Kelleway	0
Gratbatch, c McKenzie, b Whitty, 4	4
Robertson, c Facy, b Whitty, 2 ..	2
Perham, c Emery, b Simpson, 4211-1121144	22
Dunlop, run out, 444411	18
Eggleston, b Emery, 4	4
Pratt, b Simpson, 44224144411 ..	31
Clegg, b Emery, 4	4
Hill, b Emery, 14	5
Clarke, b Emery, 1	1
Southall, not out	0
Byes, 19, leg byes 14, no balls 1.	34

Total 157

Bowling Analysis.—Whitty, 14 overs, 3 maidens, 33 runs, 5 wickets; Kelleway, 11 overs, 4 maidens, 34 runs, 2 wickets; Emery, 7 overs, 0 maidens, 20 runs, 4 wickets; Simpson, 5 overs, 0 maidens, 28 runs, 2 wickets.

Runs at the fall of each wicket:—1 for 0, 2 for 8, 3 for 16, 4 for 23, 5 for 34, 6 for 41, 7 for 43, 8 for 74, 9 for 83, 10 for 111, 11 for 138, 12 for 140, 13 for 144, 14 for 157.

AUSTRALIANS.

Second Innings.

Simpson, c Pratt, b Cole, 111144..	12
Mayne, b Southall, 22441411122412.	31
Kelleway, b Southall, 2	2
Emery, st. Smith, b Southall, 445-144432111	40
Smith, b Southall, 64	10
Facy, c and b Cole, 11212211116 ..	19
Whitty, c Cole, b Southall	0
Bardsley, run out, 11111	5
Dodds, not out, 11	2
Hopkins, not out, 11	2
Byes 10, leg-byes 5	15

Total for eight wickets .. 138

Bowling Analysis.—Southall, 12 overs, 1 maiden, 49 runs, 5 wickets; Cole, 8 overs, 0 maidens, 48 runs, 2 wickets; Clarke, 3 overs, 0 maidens, 26 runs, 0 wickets.

Runs at the fall of each wicket:—1 for 36, 2 for 38, 3 for 91, 4 for 106, 5 for 107, 6 for 118, 7 for 131, 8 for 134.

TH, MARCH 23, 1910

EASTER MONDAY.

CALEDONIAN SPORTS

At NEW PLYMOUTH, in the RECREATION SPORTS GROUND.

AMATEUR AND CASH EVENTS.

RUNNING. CYCLING.

LARGE FIELDS! LARGE FIELDS!

H. KERR, the Amateur Champion Walker, competing.

HIGHLAND COMPETITIONS.

Excursion Fares. Delayed Trains.

Admission to Grounds: One Shilling.

EASTER MONDAY.

TDN, MARCH 24, 1910

HORSE FALLS DOWN TERRACES

A horse fell down the terraces on the eastern side of the Sports Ground at Pukekura Park the other day. The terraces were disfigured where the animal fell, but the latter landed on its feet and started nibbling the grass at the bottom as if nothing had happened.

TH, MARCH 30, 1910

HON. O. SAMUEL DONATION

Mr. R. Cock, chairman of the Pukekura Park Board, has received a donation of £50 from the Hon. O. Samuel, who wrote as follows:—"In recognition of the good work which your board (under the very able superintendency of Mr. W. W. Smith) has done and is doing for the public, in relation to the beautifying of Pukekura Park, I enclose a donation of £50 towards its funds." So generous a donation will be very acceptable to the board, especially if it moves others to follow Mr. Samuel's good example.

TH, APRIL 6, 1910

C. W. GOVETT DONATION

The secretary of the Pukekura Park Board has received the following letter from Mr. C. W. Govett: "As a member of the board I am able to appreciate what has been done to the Grounds during the two years I was away. Like Mr. Samuel I wish to show my appreciation and therefore double the subscription I have been paying for some years past. I enclose cheque for £10 to help the board over its financial difficulties, hoping others will also assist."

TH, APRIL 12, 1910

AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS PRAISE PARK

We take the following from the Sydney Daily Telegraph, contributed by a member of the Australian cricket team recently here:—

At New Plymouth, the Taranaki centre, a cordial welcome awaited the team. The ground here is worthy of special remark. After seeing most of the grounds in England, Australia, and New Zealand, one would plump unreservedly for Pukekura Park as being absolutely the most picturesque ground of all. The visitor is simply amazed on entering the gate at the novelty and beauty of the scene. Four conical hills, beautifully terraced, overlook the playing area. A row of seats is placed along each terrace, and when well patronised, especially by ladies, as on this occasion, the scene is of remarkable interest and charm. Between the terraced hills, but somewhat in the background, are glades of New Zealand's wonderful abundance of native flora, while still further back the ground gradually rises till a vast amphitheatre is formed. On the second day of the match a dust-laden southerly made the town streets a veritable inferno—inside the cricket ground was a haven of complete peace from the outside turmoil. The park proper is famed throughout New Zealand, and stretches over many acres of magnificent fern and native bush. Ornamental lakes and waterfalls complete the attractions of a spot upon which the residents of New Plymouth greatly pride themselves. And as if to complete the picture, Mount Egmont stands sentinel in the distance, some 18 miles away, but looking much closer. The weather has been cold and wintry, and a mantle of snow appears on the majestic cone for the first time since last winter.

TH, APRIL 16, 1910

FUNDRAISING

RECREATION SPORTS GROUND.

A DANCE

Will be held in the BROUGHAM STREET HALL, on THURSDAY, April 21, 1910, at 8.15. Proceeds in aid of the Sports Ground.

Ladies 2s, Men 3s.

J. CLARKE,

Hon. Sec.

b137

TH, APRIL 27, 1910

CENTRAL SCHOOL POOL ABANDONED

QUESTION OF BATHS.

A deputation from the Central School Committee, consisting of Mr. F. P. Corkill (chairman), Rev. S. S. Osborne, Mr. M. Rudd, and Mr. H. Dempsey (headmaster) waited upon the Taranaki Education Board this morning with regard to the question of baths for the school.

Mr. Corkill said the deputation asked for the practical sympathy and co-operation of the board in another of the committee's little troubles. For years past the committee had been anxious to get a bathing-place for the pupils of the school. The New Plymouth public Salt-water baths were so far away that they were practically useless for the children of the school. The committee had endeavoured to construct baths in Pukekura Park, the Park Board having met the committee very fairly. The committee took the best advice available, raised money, and spent a good deal on the work. But a most extraordinary thing happened. The spring that had been there ever since settlement in Taranaki gave out last year, and the water supply left was utterly insufficient, and the work had to be abandoned.

TH, MAY 3, 1910

NEAR DROWNING

"I would earnestly call the attention of the board to the serious risks parents take in permitting little children to go alone into the park," said Mr. W. W. Smith in his monthly report to the Pukekura Park Board last night. "On Saturday a little boy sailing a toy ship fell into the upper lake in five feet of water, and would probably have been drowned except for a gentleman passing near, who helped him out. This is the third case of little children falling into the lake within the last six months." In a discussion which followed the reading of the report it transpired that two life-belts were kept in the shed, which, however, was always locked up. It was considered unwise to leave them outside, for they would only be hacked to pieces, just as others had been treated. The shed could very easily be burst open in case of emergency.

TH, MAY 3, 1910
PARK BOARD ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Town Hall last night. Present: Messrs. R. Cock (in the chair), C. W. Govett, F. P. Corkill, F. Bellringer, W. L. Newman, R. C. Hughes, H. Ford, G. Tisch, S. Percy Smith, E. H. Tribe (secretary), and W. W. Smith (curator).

ANNUAL REPORT.

The chairman presented the following report:—

As finance is the most important factor in the upkeep and improvement of the park, I propose to deal with this first. At the commencement of the year the bank overdraft was £88 15s 2d and the unpaid accounts amounted to £111 14s 10d, a total of £200 10s. At the close of the present year the bank overdraft stood at £126 18s 11d, all outstanding amounts being paid. Unfortunately for the board the Borough Council during the past year was compelled to reduce the subsidy from £200 to £150. It had been confidently expected that the subsidy would never be reduced, and the board had embarked on expenditure relying on this. During the year the board found it necessary to give their personal guarantee to the bank for an overdraft up to £200. I think it is very hard that members of the board should be called upon to give such a guarantee. The park belongs to the people for their enjoyment, and they should come forward and help the board financially. It will be noted that the donations amount to £80 19s 3d, including an amount of £50 from the Hon. O. Samuel. It is hoped that during the coming year other citizens will come forward in a similar public spirit and assist the board to further beautify the park.

Fireworks Displays.—I advise the board to discontinue these, owing to a large number of people surreptitiously gaining admission, and the gate receipts being so small. There are sufficient fireworks on hand for a good final display on some suitable occasion. During the year a number of citizens were good enough to hand to the board a sum of £51 4s, to provide work for the unemployed. Good work was done by the men in generally cleaning up some portions of the park which the board, owing to want of funds, could not touch. The total amount of wages paid under this head was £55 3s 6d. There are some 43 acres in the park, and it is quite impossible for the curator and his one assistant to do more than look after the portion of the park already laid out. There are a large number of fine young native trees planted in the various dells, but owing to straitened finances it is quite impossible to keep these clear of undergrowth or to put the pathways in order. The recent very heavy gale did a great deal of damage to trees and shrubs, necessitating extra labour being engaged to clear away the wreckage. It is a great pity the board could not be assured of a further income of about £200 per annum. It would then be in a position to open up and lay out other beauty spots which are at present growing wild. During the year the curator, Mr. W. W. Smith, has done good work in planting and artistically laying out portions of the park, particularly at the Gilbert Street entrance. This is a very great improvement, and the thanks of the board are due to Mr. Smith for the attention and forethought he has given to this, and also for the keen interest he takes in the

park. I should like to emphasise the fact that the park belongs to the people, and is admitted to be the best public park in the Dominion. The board collectively and individually take a keen interest in the park, and they think the people should in every possible way give the board their aid and assistance. The expense of keeping it up increases annually, while the receipts are stationary. No rent has been received from the sports ground, as was anticipated. The thanks of the board are due to those gentlemen who have generously given donations, to the annual subscribers, and to the ladies and gentlemen of the New Plymouth Dramatic Club. In conclusion I thank the members of the board, his Worship the Mayor, and Borough Council representatives and the press for the help and assistance they have given us.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

Receipts.—Subsidy New Plymouth Borough Council £150, donations: Hon. O. Samuel £50, liquidator Taranaki Freezing Company £19 18s 6d, Mr. C. W. Govett £5, Jockey Club £2 2s, Mr. J. Legg £2 2s, Mr. W. T. Joll £1, Anonymous 16s 9d—£80 19s 3d; annual subscribers £28 7s, rents £24 5s, donations for unemployed £36 18s, play "The Magistrate" £14 6s—£51 4s; fireworks £51 18s 7d, box in grounds £2 11s 8d, licenses fishing 20s, boat 10s—£1 10s, sundries: trees 7s, 6d, refreshment booths 10s, hire of lanterns £1—£1 17s 6d.

Expenditure.—Bank overdraft, April 1, 1909, £88 15s 2d, wages £243 13s 6d, casual £9 16s, unemployed £55 3s 6d—£311 13s; fireworks £36 10s 7d, advertising and printing £21 11s 6d, F. P. Corkill refund of advances £9 15s 8d, tools and repairs £14 4s 4d, rent £3 17s 6d, bird food £11 0s 5d, timber £4 0s, law charges £6 5s 6d, painting seats £2 10s, sundries 15s 5d, fire insurance 15s 9d, accident insurance £1 3s 6d, bank interest and charge £6 0s 0s, cash in hand 7s 1d. The bank overdraft at March 31, 1910, was £126 18s 11d.

The chairman moved the adoption of the report and balance sheet. He referred to the improved financial position of the board brought about in a very large measure by the generous donations of the Hon. O. Samuel, Mr. C. W. Govett, and others. The board would require a much larger annual income, however, to keep the grounds in proper order. Many of the paths through the bush were becoming impassable, being overgrown. He spoke in felicitous terms of the services of Mr. Tribe, who performed the duties of secretary without remuneration.

The Mayor seconded.

Mr. Govett considered the report was a little too optimistic. Personally he did not like that overdraft and had made up his mind to canvass his friends to see if he could not secure a few special donations towards wiping it out. Had it not been for the donation of £50 from the Hon. O. Samuel the board would have been in a particularly unfortunate position.

The motion was carried and it was decided to circulate copies of the balance sheet among subscribers.

TO IMPROVE THE FINANCES.

A discussion ensued as to the urgent necessity of formulating some means for increasing the revenue of the board, and the chairman suggested that a bazaar be held. This should result in £100 being raised.

Mr. Tribe said he proposed organising a gipsy entertainment, which he thought would be very popular with the public.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

Mr. Cock expressed pleasure in proposing that Mr. S. Percy Smith be elected chairman for the ensuing year.

Mr. Smith said he considered it an honour the board wished to confer upon him, and regretted that he could not accept the office.

Mr. Cock was then re-elected chairman, members speaking in terms of praise of the excellent work done by Mr. Cock in that position.

Hearty votes of thanks were accorded the chairman and secretary, the curator (Mr. W. W. Smith), and the press.

TH, MAY 3, 1910

FIELD TRIP FOR NATIVE PLANTS

Mr. W. W. Smith (curator) reported to the Pukekura Park Board last night that he proposed to plant native trees and shrubs extensively in the park during the winter months. Permission had been obtained to visit Government reserves, from which to procure shrubs. Mr. S. Percy Smith's offer to assist in this work was gratefully accepted by the board. Mr. Smith mentioned that he had special Ministerial authority to give certain Crown reserves for the purpose of securing specimen trees.

EVENING POST, MAY 7, 1910

SMITH ON KIWIS AND WEKA

Mr. W. W. Smith writes:—"In supplying some notes on the habits of kiwis in captivity, Mr. A. Hansen states that these birds, when disturbed, will run against objects placed in their way, and that their sight is very imperfect. After a long series of experiments with kiwis in captivity, testing their senses, especially sight and smell, I am able to state that kiwis' sight, in certain conditions, is remarkably good. To those who may have an opportunity of keeping kiwis in captivity, I suggest that they should place one or two wekas in the same enclosure. These two species of birds are inveterate enemies. In the evening, when my kiwis emerged from their dark recesses, they almost invariably attacked the wekas, and chased them vigorously about the yard, seldom making any mistake or showing signs of defective vision. In the chase they were surprisingly accurate in all their movements, and often captured the wekas. The kiwis' only method of defence is their vigorous kicking, which is very effective against wekas. The latter greatly fear kiwis. Certain colours are clearly seen by kiwis. I have prepared an extensive paper recording details of experiments in testing their colour vision. Mr. Hansen is quite right in stating that they will run against certain objects placed in their way."

TDN, MAY 11, 1910

FISH PONDS AND HATCHERY

Pisciculture.—The balance of the fish in the ponds at Pukekura Park were, during the months of May, July, and August, liberated in the rivers at Oakura (1500); Warea (225); Kapoia-a at Pungarehu (220); Okahu at Rahotu (230); and Waiaua at Opunake (635); on the Coast, and the Waiwakaiho (1240); Kaiaua (1100); and the Mangamawhete (1250) inland; the whole

of the fish being splendid specimens of both brown and rainbow trout and totaling some 6400 fish, and better fish Mr. McAllum states he never handled.

Acting on the suggestion made at the last annual meeting, your council, after making arrangements with the Pukekura Park Board, built four new ponds for rearing the fry, and supplied the water to them from the race by means of a flume supported on trestles giving a fall of from 7 to 8 feet into each tank. As soon as these alterations and additions had been completed some 40,000 brown and rainbow trout fry were placed in the ponds, and for the first time since the Society started these ponds for rearing, the young fry did not turn out at all satisfactory. The phenomenally hot and muggy weather which the whole district experienced militated against the fish thriving. The continued dry weather caused the water to foul in a remarkable manner, and the result was disastrous to the young fish, many thousands of which died before they could be placed in the Waiwaikaho river.

Your council have taken the initial steps for the building of a fish hatchery and have obtained a plan and prices from Mr. F. Messenger, who was assisted by Mr. Wiggs, and the thanks of the Society are due to these gentlemen for their services. The cost of establishing the hatchery is more than your council consider it advisable for the Society to undertake at present, but as soon as funds will justify the expenditure it will be put in hand. The mortality among the young fish has raised a doubt as to whether the water from the Pukekura Park lake is altogether suitable for our purpose. An analysis of the water taken at the time of the storm at the end of March, is being made and, if necessary, the incoming Council will have to deal with the question of another source of water supply.

Opossums.—Reports about these valuable animals show they are continuing to increase steadily, and should in the near future prove a source of income to settlers.

TDN, MAY 21, 1910 KING'S FUNERAL

NEW PLYMOUTH IN MOURNING.

AN IMPRESSIVE SERVICE.

Yesterday was observed as a close holiday in New Plymouth. From noon the hour-bell on the Post Office tower tolled at intervals, as did the bells at St. Mary's Church and the Roman Catholic Church. From 12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. the Central Station firebell tolled at intervals.

There was a large gathering of the public, including many from outside centres, to watch the marshalling of the troops and the procession to the Recreation Grounds, where a most impressive memorial service was held.

The procession moved off, headed by the Taranaki Garrison Band, under Bandmaster Cummings, playing "The Dead March in Saul." Then followed

about forty of his Majesty's veterans, under Colonel Ellis, V.D., vice-president of the Taranaki branch of the Veterans' Association. The headquarters companies of Territorials, 4th Wellington Battalion, marched under Major Malone, the staff officers on parade being Captain and Adjutant Bellringer, Captain-Quartermaster F. Okey, Sergeant-Major Armitage, and Staff-Sergeant-Major Sanderson. The Rifles paraded under Captain W. H. Fletcher, Lieutenants Willis and Marett, and the Guards under Captain Mills and Lieutenant Boon. There was a large parade of junior cadets and Boy Scouts from the Central, West End and Fitzroy schools. Major Sandford, V.D., was in charge, and his staff comprised Captain and Adjutant Johnston, Captain-Quartermaster Bary, and Sergeant-Major Harvey. Company officers were Captains Mellroy and Bocoek, Lieutenants Day, Sullivan, Evetts and Mackay. Then came the New Plymouth Fire Brigade, under Superintendent F. Bellringer, and the Fitzroy Fire Brigade, under Captain Griffiths. Lieutenant-Colonel Okey, V.D., marshalled the procession, and on arrival at the Recreation Sports Ground arranged the troops around the platform erected in front of the main terrace. The veterans were formed on the left of the square, the Territorials at the base, the cadets and fire brigades on the right, and the Garrison Band in front of the platform. The Band played "The Garland of Flowers" as the representatives of the local clergy and his Worship the Mayor took the platform. There were present—the Rev. S. S. Osborne, of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church; Rev. John Nixon and Rev. Sharp, Primitive Methodist Church; Revs. Cannell, J. G. Chapman and F. P. Kellow, Methodist Church; Rev. W. Drew and Rev. John Laird, Baptist Church; and Ensign Wellington, Salvation Army. The order of service had been arranged by the Ministers' Association at the request of his Worship the Mayor. The Rev. Wm. Cannell presided.

The singing was led by an united choir, conducted by Mr. G. H. White, and the Garrison Band played the several hymns. The great gathering, numbering several thousands, having sung the hymn, "Our God, our help in ages past," the Rev. Cannell pronounced a portion of the burial service. The Rev. John Nixon read Psalm 90, and the Rev. J. G. Chapman led in prayer. Ensign Wellington gave out the next hymn, "Days and moments quickly flying," which was followed by the Rev. John Laird's reading from the Scripture in I. Corinthians, 15. "Nearer, my God to Thee" was the next hymn, the Rev. F. P. Kellow announcing it. The memorial address was entrusted to the Rev. S. S. Osborne, and he based an eloquent and forceful utterance upon the words, "Weep with them that weep."

TH, JUNE 7, 1910 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Town Hall last night, Mr. R. Cock presiding. There were also present: Messrs. C. W. Govett, W. L. Newman, F. C. Bellringer, R. C. Hughes, G. Tisch, H. Ford, and E. H. Tribe (secretary). A letter was received from Messrs. L. Little, H. J. M. Mills, T. C. Schnackenberg, S. L. Mark, F. Tribe, and K. Webster, stating that "a movement was on foot to form a tennis club in Vogeltown, and the promoters are very desirous of utilising a portion of the Park fronting the Carrington Road, and adjoining the Vogeltown entrance—lying between the entrance and the caretaker's cottage. At present the piece of ground is hardly used and it is the very place for such a purpose as we propose. We are asked to ascertain whether your board will grant us a lease of this ground at a nominal rate. If so we are prepared to call a meeting forthwith, have the club formed, and the courts prepared for next season's play. It is hardly necessary for us to point out that the laying out of courts and the subsequent care of them will greatly enhance the appearance and usefulness of this portion of the Park." The board viewed the proposal favourably and on the motion of Mr. Bellringer and Mr. Tisch it was decided that the chairman, Messrs. Govett, Newman, and secretary be a committee to arrange matters with the promoters and report to the board. Mr. S. Percy Smith was appointed overseer for the month.

TH, JUNE 7, 1910 DONATIONS

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator of Pukekura Park, reported to the board last night that he had received gifts of bulbs from Mr. Drew, plants from Miss Devinish, bulbs and plants from Mr. Govett, bulbs and plants from Mr. Stanley (per Mr. F. P. Corkill), plants from Mr. Brooks and Mr. Mace, and some native plants from unknown donors, also a fine white Muscovy duck from Mr. Thompson.

TDN, JUNE 16, 1910 TENNIS CLUB APPLICATION

APPLICATION GRANTED BY PARK BOARD.

A special meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held yesterday afternoon for the purpose of considering the application by the promoters of a tennis and croquet club for a lease of portion of the park near Vogeltown. In the absence of Mr. R. Cock, Mr. R. C. Hughes was voted to the chair. Other members present were Messrs. C. W. Govett, G. Tisch, F. C. J. Bellringer, A. E. Watkins, and E. H. Tribe (secretary). The application was for a seven years' lease with right of renewal for a further term. The letter set out, inter alia, that the club asked for enough ground for four tennis courts and a croquet lawn; that the public be admitted to the club's enclosure, but that the courts be entirely under the control of the club; that none of the present footpaths or gateways would be obstructed. The Board decided to grant

a lease of about an acre of ground, as pegged out, for seven years, for the first two years at a shilling a year, the third year £4 a year, and the remaining four years £5, payable half-yearly in advance, upon the following conditions: That the club pay the Board for custodian's time occupied in supervising re-planting, etc.; that the land be fenced off by the club and at least two gates provided; that the land be cleared of fern, weeds, and rubbish, and tennis and croquet courts laid down at the earliest possible date; that the club have a notice-board painted stating that the public are to have free access at all times during the daytime, but such notice may contain provisions protecting the courts from trespass; that no charge be made for admission except on the occasion of some tournament of more than local interest, and then only with the consent of the Board; no planting, felling, etc., to be done without the Board's approval; and the usual clauses compelling the club to care for the property; that the rules of the club contain an express provision that any person blackballed or refused membership to the club shall have a right of appeal to the Board, whose decision shall be final; that any provisions in the rules which in the opinion of the Board are inconsistent with the rights of the public or the terms of the lease shall be altered to meet the approval of the Board, on penalty of termination of the lease; that there shall be three trustees of the club; that the road frontage be cleared and kept clear of weeds; and that if at the end of five years the Board is of opinion that the terms of the lease have been adhered to, the Board may grant a lease for a further term of seven years.

The terms are understood to be satisfactory to the promoters, and the formation of the club will be gone, on with. There is already a fairly large promised membership, owing, probably, to the very convenient situation of the club's proposed courts.

A committee will meet a lawn expert on the ground in the course of a few days, with a view of obtaining an estimate of the cost of laying down the necessary courts.

TDN, JUNE 25, 1910 TENNIS CLUB TENDER

Tenders are invited for laying down four tennis lawns and a croquet lawn in Pukekura Park for the proposed tennis and croquet club.

A meeting of intending members of the lawn tennis and croquet club, with its courts in Pukekura Park, is called for Thursday evening next in the Town Hall.

TDN, JULY 1, 1910 TENNIS CLUB LAUNCH

SUCCESSFUL INAUGURATION.

There was a splendid response last night to the announcement of a public meeting for the purpose of forming a lawn tennis and croquet club to utilise that portion of the Recreation Grounds offered by the Pukekura Park Board for the purpose. About seventy ladies and gentlemen filled the Council Chambers at the hour fixed, and a start was made promptly to time, not a customary proceeding in meetings of this nature. The Mayor presided, and in opening the proceedings, said this movement was one which had his very hearty support, as tending to encourage healthy outdoor recreation, beautify the town, improve a neglected portion of our beautiful park, and make New Plymouth a still more desirable place of residence.

The report of the provisional committee set out the terms upon which the necessary land could be leased from the Pukekura Park Board, and stated that an effort would be made to modify the conditions by deleting the clause which compelled the club to clear away the gorse and blackberry now growing thickly on the Carrington road fronting the property, and obviating the necessity for placing notice-boards which practically invited the public to enter the enclosure. Tenders had been received for the work of preparing five grass courts for grassing and would be dealt with by the incoming committee. A rough estimate of receipts and expenditure for the first year was submitted as follows:—Expenditure: Cost of laying courts, £80; fencing, £37; building, £20; caretaker, £30; plant, £10; and sundry expenses, £10; total, £195. Receipts: Membership sixty ladies and sixty gentlemen members, £135; leaving an estimated deficit off £60 on the first year's working. This amount might be raised by members taking up £1 debentures bearing interest at, say, 5 per cent., redeemable as funds accumulate, and to be balloted for at each annual meeting. Except in unforeseen circumstances, expenditure after the first year should be very light, the caretaker's salary being the biggest item. With expenses kept down to a minimum, and some assistance by way of, say, socials, the club should soon clear itself of all indebtedness to the debenture-holders.

The chairman said it was very evident that the committee had been very much alive.

Upon the motion of Messrs. Schnackenberg and Rudd, those present formed themselves into a club, and on the motion of Messrs. F. C. Tribe and Mark it was named the Park Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club.

Officers were elected:—President, Mr. R. Cock; vice-presidents, Messrs. G. Tisch, T. C. Schnackenberg, and M. Rudd; trustees, the vice-presidents; general committee, Messrs. F. W. Sandford, F. C. Tribe, T. C. List, H. J. Wells, and S. L. Mark; ladies' committee, Mesdames R. Cock, Dowling, F. C. Tribe,

T. C. Schnackenberg, and Misses E. Smith, T. Okey, and Hammond; treasurer, Mr. A. T. Moore; auditor, Mr. J. W. Tahnt; secretary, Mr. J. J. Staples.

Membership fees were fixed at 35s for men and 20s for ladies, reducible to 30s and 15s respectively for payment before August 31st of this year. Amendments for the purpose of fixing a lower rate for junior members were defeated.

It was decided to register the club and to affiliate with the Lawn Tennis Association.

The ladies' committee was empowered to select club colors, and the committee will submit draft rules to a future meeting.

Some discussion took place regarding the financing of the club, and the committee will make a recommendation to the next general meeting.

The secretary announced that 54 men and 48 lady members had joined the club, and that several more had practically promised to join.

Mr. Tisch was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for presiding and for his promise of support.

At a subsequent meeting of the combined committees the tender of A. J. Cole was accepted for preparing the awns, and the secretary was instructed to obtain estimates of cost of fencing.

TH, JULY 4, 1910 SMITH ADVERT FOR KIWI

KIWIS. — Wanted to Purchase: A number of Living Kiwis, both young and old.—W. W. Smith, Pukekura Park, New Plymouth. c645

TH, JULY 5, 1910 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last night, when there were present: Messrs. R. Cock (chairman), A. E. Watkins, W. L. Newman, R. C. Hughes, G. Tisch, Harris Ford, F. C. J. Bellringer, W. W. Smith (curator), and E. H. Tribe (secretary).

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. C. W. Govett, S. Percy-Smith, and F. P. Corkill.

The Board passed a resolution approving of the local Bill being promoted by the New Plymouth Borough Council to obtain leasing powers over the municipal reserves on the east side of the Avenue road near the High School.

A letter was read from the Park Tennis and Croquet Club asking the deletion from the terms of the proposed lease of certain clauses which it was thought would prove inconvenient.

The chairman said it would be quite unfair to ask the club to incur the expenditure of clearing away the gorse and blackberry on the Carrington road frontage to the grounds. Nor was it fair or wise to have these notice-boards erected inviting the public to enter on the tennis courts promiscuously. He considered the Board should dispense with the provisions for the notice-boards and should clean up this frontage, after which the club would keep it in order.

Mr. Tribe said Mr. Govett had intimated to him that he was strongly in favor of retaining both clauses, particularly with regard to the notice-boards, which were usual in English and Australian parks.

Mr. R. C. Hughes said he was glad that the trustees of the club had accepted the main terms of the suggested license, and differed on what were after all minor matters. He considered it a good thing for the Board that ladies and gentlemen should combine in this way to take up the waste spaces in the park and beautify them for the benefit of the community, and also relieve the Board of the expense of a work which they were quite unable to carry out owing to lack of funds.

The chairman expressed the hope that other people would combine and take over other suitable portions of the park for playing grounds. He instanced a pretty little piece of the grounds near the late Mrs. Carnell's property, near the racecourse property.

The Board, without dissent, carried a resolution deleting the provision for the notice-boards, and the club was given authority to make provisions to protect the club from trespass.

It was decided that the Board take steps to have the road frontage cleared of weeds.

The curator, Mr. W. W. Smith, reported that during the month the principal work had been cleaning walks, digging and finishing the planting of the large beds at the new entrance, and cleaning gorse and mimosa around the waterfall. Ashes had been put on the more slippery parts of the paths. They were now at work on the slope clearing away the gorse and grass preparatory to digging for planting azaleas and camellias in groups.

The secretary announced that the bank overdraft stood at £140.

TDN, JULY 5, 1910 CURATOR'S REPORT

In the course of his monthly report to the Pukekura Park Board, Mr. W. W. Smith, the curator, wrote: "During the month I received plants from Mr. Putt, Mr. Brooks, and Miss Devenish, and two packages of native trees and shrubs, with packets of native tree seeds, from the three brothers Raby, of Rerekapa. These young men have given much time and work to procuring the fine young plants which they brought by coach and on horseback free of cost to the park. I would here remark that, like the brothers Raby, all young men working in the native bush have exceptional opportunities for obtaining young native plants and seeds. As we require some thousands of young trees and shrubs for planting in the park at the present time, I may be permitted to request those who have such opportunities to send us such for the improvement and beautification of the park." A vote of appreciation was passed, and will be forwarded to the various donors. A message was received from Mr. S. Percy-Smith that he had instructed Mr. R. W. Davies to obtain a collection of native shrubs during his trip to Raglan and Hokianga, which trees Mr. Smith intended presenting to the park.

TH, JULY 26 1910

WORK ON TENNIS COURTS STARTED

A meeting of the general committee of the Park Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club was held last night. Draft rules based on the rules of the New Plymouth Club were adopted, and will be submitted for confirmation to a general meeting of members to be held at an early date. The secretary reported that the contractor for laying down the courts, Mr. A. J. Cole, had commenced the work. It was also reported that the membership was steadily increasing. Members will be circularised asking for payment of their subscriptions in order that the club will be in a position to meet its engagements at the completion of the contract and to provide for necessary fencing, etc.

TH, AUGUST 2, 1910

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The usual monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last night. There were present: Messrs. R. Cock (presiding), C. W. Govett, G. Tisch, F. P. Corkill, S. Percy Smith, Harris Ford, R. C. Hughes, W. L. Newman, F. C. Bellringer and E. H. Tribe (secretary).

THE "PARK" CLUB TENNIS COURTS.

Before the minutes of the previous meeting had been confirmed, Messrs. Govett and Corkill protested against the deletion of the clause providing for the erection of notice boards at the entrances of the Park Tennis Club's courts in the grounds. Mr. Govett said that a course adopted in all the parks in London and in Sydney should certainly be followed in New Plymouth.

The Chairman said the members present at the previous meeting, including himself, had considered the boards unnecessary, as the people knew the park was a public place, but it was unnecessary to specially invite the public to claim the courts as their own.

Mr. Corkill asked the term of the lease.

The Chairman: For ever, I hope.

The Secretary explained that there was to be a seven years' lease, renewable under certain conditions.

NOXIOUS WEEDS.

Mr. Tribe raised the question of noxious weeds, and said he had hoped to have before the board a tender for grubbing the gorse and blackberry in the old Carrington Road, but it had not come to hand.

Mr. Percy Smith said he had been horrified to find to what extent the boundary of the park had become overrun with gorse. There was a belt of several chains of furze there, some yards wide, besides patches of furze right along the road frontage. It was a matter of urgency to have this eradicated, for there would be great danger to the grounds in case of fire.

Mr. Corkill questioned if the board could be compelled to undertake this work. He did not think the clause in the Noxious Weeds Act, which imposed on property-owners the necessity for keeping the road boundaries clear for half the width of the road, applied to boroughs.

The members were not clear on the point, and decided not to undertake the work until the legal position had been ascertained.

Mr. S. Percy Smith reported that gorse was spreading in the grounds, and urged that it should be attended to.

The Chairman remarked that where the path led from the racecourse path along to the back of the terraces, there was one of the finest views in the grounds, overlooking a plantation of tree ferns. That path was now completely blocked by gorse.

FINANCE.

The Chairman reported that the board's overdraft at the bank stood at £142 15s 5d. At this time last year it stood at £156 2s 8d.

The board discussed various projects for raising funds, and eventually the chairman and Messrs. S. Percy Smith, Tisch, Govett and the secretary were appointed a committee to report upon the best means to adopt.

Mr. Corkill was empowered to procure a supply of rockets, and add them to the board's stock, with a view of holding a couple of fireworks displays as soon as weather conditions are favourable.

TH, AUGUST 8, 1910

SPORTS GROUND FUNDRAISING

The Recreation Sports Ground Committee have decided to make a move in the right direction in order to enhance the value of their ground both in the eyes of footballers and cricketers and the enthusiastic followers of these popular pastimes. However, this very necessary work cannot be achieved without some support from those who will benefit thereby. The management of the Biograph Pictures have kindly offered an exhibition of a few star films, and these in conjunction with the performance of the screamingly funny comedy "Browne with an 'E,'" will provide an excellent entertainment to be held in the Theatre Royal on Thursday, August 25. The cast of characters in the comed has been altered somewhat, and even those who may have seen the play before will possibly enjoy the new interpretation of the changed characters. This entertainment calls for support from all having a vital interest in the Sports Ground, and a bumper house will assure a marked improvement in our beautiful playing ground.

TH, AUGUST 9, 1910

SPORTS GROUND-HOCKEY GAME

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL.

NEW PLYMOUTH V. HAWERA.

On Thursday next, at the Recreation Sports Ground, the New Plymouth public will be given the opportunity of witnessing a good exposition of the Winter stick game, in the final for the Taranaki Hockey Championship between New Plymouth and Hawera, the winning teams in their respective divisions. Both teams, it is reported, are confident of success, and with the importance of the issue a keen tussle for provincial honours should result. The final last season was fought out between the same clubs at Hawera, when Hawera won by three goals to two. This year, however, the locals have hopes of turning the tables and bringing the championship and the Clark Shield to North Taranaki. If the present weather holds out the Sports Ground will be in "bowling-green" order, making for a fast, open game. Sixpenny admission tickets are now being distributed, and are meeting with a ready sale.

TH, AUGUST 30, 1910
TENNIS CLUB PROGRESS

A meeting of the Park Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club committee was held last evening, Mr. M. Rudd presiding. A progress payment of £35 was authorised to be paid to the contractor for laying the courts, who was reported to be making an excellent job. The committee decided to place the order for grass seed with Mr. W. Rowe, and the secretary was authorised to arrange for the sowing. It was decided to apply to the Borough Council for a connection with the water mains, and to arrange for enclosing the courts with a high fence of wire netting. The committee decided to make a systematic personal canvass of members for subscriptions in order to meet the current heavy liabilities. A working bee was arranged for six o'clock this morning for hedge-planting operations, and it was decided to invite members to assist in various works requiring attention on the grounds. The committee desire to emphasise that the courts are being got ready for play as early as possible in this season, and that members' fees need to be paid promptly in order that work may go on without cessation. Fencing, sowing, and fertilisers, together with the completion of the earthworks, will absorb every penny of the club's revenue this season, if not more.

TDN, SEPTEMBER 6, 1910
LETTER FROM W.C.T.U.

The Pukekura Park Board received a letter from Miss N. Lewis, secretary of the New Plymouth branch of the W.C.T.U., enclosing a copy of the following resolution of the branch: That the Pukekura Park Board be requested to have inserted in the lease to the Park Tennis Club a clause forbidding Sunday play on the courts. Mr. Corkill considered it a piece of impertinence for the Union to send such a letter to the Board. Without saying more, he would move that the letter be received. Mr. S. Percy-Smith said he held a similar opinion, and seconded the motion, which was carried.

TH, SEPTEMBER 6, 1910
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING
MONTHLY MEETING.

The usual monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Town Hall last night, Mr. R. Cock presiding. There were also present: Messrs. W. L. Newman, S. Percy Smith, F. P. Corkill, H. Ford, G. Tisch, F. C. Bellringer, C. W. Govett, R. C. Hughes, H. Tribe (secretary), and W. W. Smith (curator).

FURZE BRAKES.

The Secretary reported that, acting on instructions from the chairman, he had obtained from the board's solicitor an opinion with reference to the board's liability to clear the gorse from the Carrington Road frontage within the borough boundary. He was of opinion that under the Act of 1908 the board was liable.

Several tenders were received for grubbing the furze from the whole of the board's frontage along the Carrington Road. That of Mr. C. Edgecombe at £6 was accepted, the work to be done to the satisfaction of the curator.

"PIECE OF IMPERTINENCE."

Mrs. N. Lewis, secretary of the New Plymouth branch of the W.C.T.U., forwarded copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of the union. This read as follows: "That the Pukekura Park Board be requested to have inserted in the lease to the Park Tennis Club a clause forbidding Sunday play on the courts."

Mr. Corkill considered it a piece of impertinence for these ladies to send a letter of this description to the board, but without saying anything more he would just move that it be received.

Mr. S. Percy Smith seconded, his opinion being similar to that of the mover.

The motion was carried.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

Mr. Smith, curator, reported that since last meeting he had received plants from Mr. Govett, other plants from two private gentlemen, and a white Muscovy drake by exchange for young wekas from a Wellington gentleman. He had also obtained some new plants by exchange during the month.

FINANCIAL.

The Treasurer reported a balance of £142 13s 11d.

The board discussed various schemes for raising funds, and eventually it was decided to approach the Sports Ground Committee with a view to holding a function.

TDN, SEPTEMBER 10, 1910
BETTER VOGELTOWN ENTRANCE
WANTED

Mr. E. H. Tribe, secretary of the Pukekura Park Board, is anxious to see a more decent entrance provided to the park leading out of Shortland street, Vogeltown. The Vogeltown path is very largely used by Vogeltown people as a regular thoroughfare, for it shortens and improves the daily walk to business. This being so, Mr. Tribe thinks they would probably subscribe to a fund for providing a pair of handsome entrance gates and for the earthwork required to widen and improve the present narrow and hollowed-out track. Mr. R. Cock, the chairman of the Board, is interesting himself in the matter also, and has promised a donation of two guineas, as well as to assist in organising functions with a view of "raising the wind."

TDN, SEPTEMBER 10, 1910
TENNIS COURT PROGRESS

Mr. Cole put the "finishing touches" on four of the Park Club's tennis courts yesterday afternoon, and the fifth will be out of his hands in a day or so. The ground is now being dressed with lime, and bonedust will be spread in a day or two. These fertilisers will be given fully a week to sweeten the soil before the grass seed is sown. Seed and fertiliser will be liberally used, to ensure good results and play as early as possible.

TH, NOVEMBER 9, 1910
SWANS ARRIVE FROM WELLINGTON

Two black swans arrived by train yesterday from the Wellington Acclimatisation Society and were placed on the lake in Pukekura Park. Attempts to breed swans in the park have hitherto proved futile owing to disturbance of the swans on the nest by boys or other mischievous persons.

TDN, NOVEMBER 23, 1910
TENNIS COURT PROGRESS

A meeting of the Park Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club's committee was held yesterday. A report was received that the rain and warm weather recently had been of great benefit to the grounds, and it was safe to say that the members would be able to play on the courts in the present year, as promised, all statements to the contrary notwithstanding. There were six applications for the position of groundsman or caretaker, and Mr. G. Lynch, who was the contractor for the formation of the West End bowling greens, received the appointment.

TDN, NOVEMBER 23, 1910

BALLOONING EXTRAORDINARY.
SURATURA TEA BALLOON
CARNIVAL.

SPORTS GROUND, New Plymouth.
TO-MORROW! TO-MORROW!
THURSDAY AFTERNOON, Nov. 24.

By Special Arrangement with the
BEEBE BALLOON COMPANY,
The World's Most Sensational
Aeronauts.

"King Edward VII." and "President
Roosevelt," the largest hot-air balloons
on earth.

GRAND BALLOON ASCENT AND
FOLDED PARACHUTE DESCENT.

The monster balloon will be inflated from a specially constructed furnace in full view of patrons, and is the most exciting and intensely interesting feature of the performance.

Admission—Adults 1s, or FREE on presentation at gates of an empty 1lb Suratura "D" Tea Packet. Children under 12, 6d or 1lb Suratura "D" Packet. Gates open at 2 p.m. f152

THE "SURATURA" TEA
BALLOON CARNIVAL

at
NEW PLYMOUTH,
on

THURSDAY, 24th NOVEMBER.

You need to be right on the ground. Then you can witness the inflation and really see

The Great Balloon Ascent

The Public are
NOT CHARGED FOR ADMISSION

provided they present at the gate an empty package, with label intact, which has previously contained

"D" QUALITY
of

SURATURA TEA.

For Adults :: Empty 1lb "D" Pkt.
For Children, Empty 1lb "D" Pkt.
REMEMBER SURATURA "D"
Then you get in free.

TDN, NOVEMBER 24, 1910

BALLOON ASCENT TO-DAY.

Great interest is being evinced in the ballooning exhibition to be given on the Sports Ground this afternoon by the Beebe Balloon Company. The spectators on the ground will be afforded every opportunity of witnessing all the extremely interesting details in connection with the ascent and descent. The beautifully designed and gaily colored parachute will be exhibited and tested by the experts. The inflation of the huge balloon will be carried out in full view of those within the ground, and should prove both interesting and instructive. Whilst the balloon is being held down by a large body of attendants, the parachute will be folded and affixed to the fork ropes, and as each detail is being carried out Mr. Beebe will explain its object to those present. Immediately after landing, the aeronaut, Mr. Sebpe, will make his reappearance in the arena, and full details as to the flight and height reached, as registered by the aneroid, will be made public. Admission is one shilling for adults, and 6d for children; but free entry may be had upon presentation at the gates of an empty 1lb. Suratura "D" tea packet.

TDN, NOVEMBER 25, 1910

"UP IN A BALLOON."
AND PARACHUTING.

Sebpe, the aeronaut, made a very successful balloon ascent from the Recreation Grounds yesterday afternoon. It was only one of many during an experience of fourteen years spent in all parts of the world, but all of them were not so successful as yesterday's performance. His latest ascent attended with extra dangerous circumstances, said Sebpe on being seen by a News representative, occurred at Perth last April. "You noticed those white patches on the balloon, didn't you?" he said. "Well, she was on fire in those places as she rose; and at 500 feet up I reckoned it was time to go home. I was only 80 feet from Mother Earth when the parachute opened properly." In spite of anything and everything risky, Sebpe likes the exhilarating game.

The inert mass of texture, as it lay on the ground in the open space at the sheds in the Recreation Ground was the antithesis of a balloon, but like the five or six hundred people who had gathered on the terraces, it wakened up when the fire was lighted and the inflation began. Soon, like a living thing, the balloon was straining at the ropes, and at a preconcerted signal—a pistol-shot—all hands let go, and up she rose, dragging with her a slim little human in red tights, the central figure of the show—Sebpe, the aeronaut. Up, up, up,



(Puke Arika PHO2009-328)

soared the balloon, until the red figure was but a speck in the air, but the sound of the people's cheers reached him, and he waved his hand in recognition of the applause. On the aneroid registering 4400 feet, Sebpe cut away, and the parachute unfolding itself in the descent Mother Earth was safely reached at the Racecourse grounds, and the balloon, having turned turtle and emptied itself in the air, slid down ignominiously in the immediate vicinity. The whole proceeding was a complete success, and, on returning to the grounds, Sebpe was accorded a salvo of applause.

TDN, DECEMBER 6, 1910
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The usual monthly meeting of the Board was held in the Borough Chambers last evening. Present: Messrs. R. Cock (chairman), C. W. Govett, S. Percy-Smith, W. L. Newman, R. C. Hughes, Harris Ford, A. E. Watkins, and the secretary (Mr. E. H. Tribe) and curator (Mr. W. W. Smith).

The curator, in his monthly report, stated that Mr. S. Percy-Smith had donated to the Board a valuable collection of native plants of 15 different varieties (216 plants in all), some of which were new to the Park.

The following resolution was passed: "That in order to enable the Sports Ground Committee to pay their liabilities and, in particular, to pay the rent now due to the Board, the Board sanctions the use by the Sports Ground Committee of the whole of the grounds during parts of a period of six days for the purpose of holding shows, etc., it being understood that the Sports Ground Committee are responsible to the Board for the proper use of the privileges granted, and that if any profits are made that the claim of the Board is to be a first charge on the same, and that the Board be given to Mr. S. Percy-Smith for his valuable donation of native shrubs."

The Board discussed the question of improving the small swampy piece of land near the drinking fountain, and it was decided to leave the matter over until the Board's next visit to the Park.

The Board agreed to hold a fireworks display on the first race night in February.

The question of improving the Vogelstown entrance to the Park was brought forward. As this was a matter involving some expenditure, it was decided to let it stand over for a time, the Board recognising that something ought to be done if funds will permit.

Several accounts were passed for payment, which will bring the Board's overdraft up to £179 18s 1d.

TH, DECEMBER 19, 1910
SWAN FLIES INTO CABLE

It turns out that the black swan in Pukekura Park, whose demise was chronicled a few days ago, was not worried by a dog as was at first supposed to be the case. The board has been informed that two ladies who were sitting on one of the terraces of the Sports Ground, saw the bird fly across until it came in contact with the electric light wires, when it fell to the ground. As it did not move, they proceeded to investigate, and found that its neck was broken.

TH, DECEMBER 21, 1910
FUNDRAISING

FIREWORKS!

FIREWORKS!

FIREWORKS!

GRAND DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS

In PUKEKURA PARK, on
MONDAY NIGHT, DEC. 26,
(First Race Night), at 8 p.m.,

In aid of the Funds of the Board.

Admission, One Shilling.
Children Half-price.

In aid of the funds of the Board.

f706 E. H. TRIBE,
Hon. Secy.

TDN, DECEMBER 21, 1910
TENNIS CLUB UPDATE

A start has been made with the erection of the pavilion on the tennis courts in Pukekura Park, to pay for which the ladies of the club are holding a garden party to-morrow. Last night six members of the club, of whom five were members of the committee, were hard at work till dark, and it is expected that they will be largely re-inforced to-night by members who are anxious to see the club get a good start right from the official opening.

TDN, DECEMBER 31, 1910
TENNIS CLUB COMPLETED

THE PARK CLUB'S OPENING

The Park Tennis and Croquet Club's courts in the Recreation Grounds are wearing a business-like look now, and are to be declared open for play on Tuesday afternoon next at 2.30. As the courts are on public property, which has been improved out of recognition as a result of the establishment of the club and the energy of its committee, there will probably be a good muster of the general public, who, with members of tennis clubs generally, are invited to be present. The ladies of the club are providing afternoon tea.

The courts are conveniently and picturesquely situated on the hill overlooking the big lake, and front on the old

Carrington road. The area under the control of the club has been terraced, and the courts are on three different levels, with gradual slopes from the first pair to the second pair of tennis courts, then a smaller promenade lawn in front of the club house on a lower level, and just below it the croquet lawn. This latter has not thrived too well, and for this season the promenade lawn will probably be kept for the croquet ladies. The tennis courts are fenced in with wire netting twelve feet high, and this will permit of the wide walk along the side being used with absolute safety by the spectators, whilst players will also be relieved to know that no one can wander sort-of-aimlessly on to the playing area. A walk, to be planted with shrubs, and perhaps with flowers, will be made right round the courts; in fact, there is a very complete beautification scheme to be carried out, sufficient ground having been placed at the disposal of the club to make the courts very attractive. A handy little clubhouse has been erected, comprising an afternoon tea room, ladies' and gentlemen's dressing rooms, etc., and caretaker's room, besides a small apartment sacred to the providers of the cup that cheers. This has been erected gratuitously by Mr. F. W. Sandford and Mr. F. C. Tribe, two members of the committee, with some slight assistance from other members. The caretaker, Mr. G. Lynch, has the courts in very fair order, considering that it is only about four or five months since the ground was quite a wilderness. The president, Mr. R. Cock, who is also chairman of the Pukekura Park Board, on whose ground the courts have been made, will perform the opening ceremony.

Members are reminded that the rebate on subscriptions will not be allowed after Tuesday next.

1911

This was an uneventful year for the Board due to lack of funds. The financial situation had become serious, and any planned improvements were put on hold. The only highlights were the opening of the Park Tennis Courts and the visit of the Governor in January. The most controversial subject was the culling of pine trees, with several residents complaining vigorously.

Donations:

Mr Crozier, Frankleigh Park, a kiwi.

Plant donations included:

Mr C. E. Bellringer, a collection of roses which formed the base of a rose bed that Smith developed in what is now known as Palm Lawn. The bed was thriving, and Smith was going to show some of the flowers at a local show; unfortunately a thief had other ideas.

Other plant donations included: 400 native trees presented to the Board by Mr Raby of Rerekapa (Rerekapa, is located in the Moki track area), Mr J. Arthur, junior and a lady donor. These were planted out by Smith. A number of native trees, ferns and shrubs had been collected from the Whitecliffs and Ratapihipihi. Some of the ferns were planted on Manhattan Island. The native trees collected from Ratapihipihi were planted along the banks of the Serpentine.

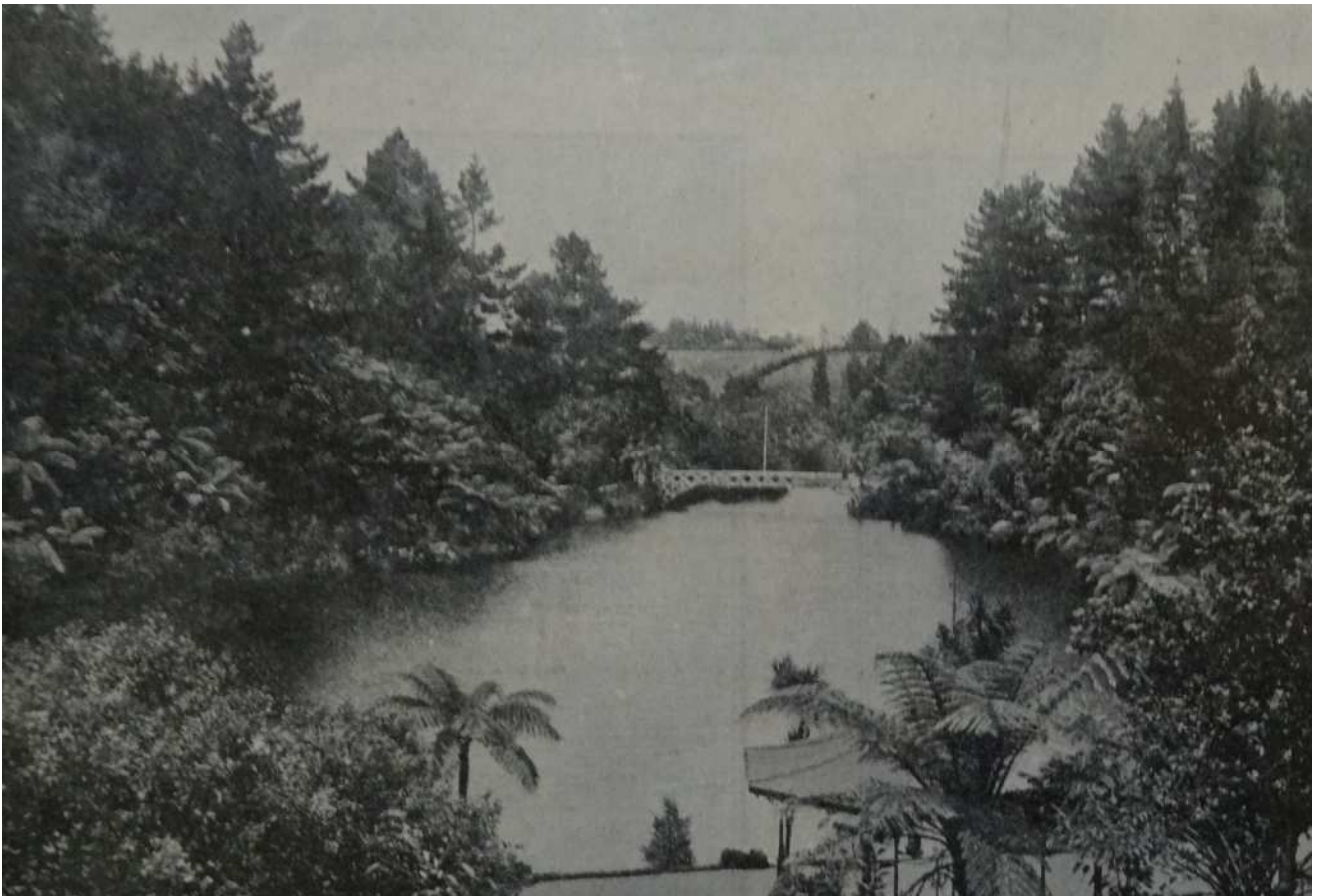


View of Boatshed Bridge. (*Auckland Weekly News* February 23, 1911)

Photo by H. M. Smith

Summary of significant events

- The opening of the Park Tennis Club
- Richard Cock vacated his position as chairman and Harris Ford was appointed.



View of the Main Lake. (*Auckland Weekly News* February 23, 1911)

Photo by H. M. Smith

TH, JANUARY 4, 1911
OPENING OF TENNIS CLUB

THE PARK CLUB.
OPENING DAY.

The perfect weather prevailing yesterday helped the Park Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club to have a most successful opening day. Numerous flags and bunting were flying in the breeze, lending a cheerful and welcome appearance to the whole place. In the absence of the president of the club (Mr. R. Cock), his Worship the Mayor (Mr. G. Tisch) performed the opening ceremony. As a vice-president of the club, Mayor of the town, and president of the Beautifying Association, he said, it gave him great pleasure to be able to congratulate the club on the wonderful success that had attended its efforts. Whilst apologising for the unavoidable absence of Mr. Cock, Mr. Tisch made it clear that he was indeed pleased to have been enabled to perform the opening ceremony, for he recognised that every well-kept sports ground and every spot beautified was a distinct asset to the borough, inasmuch as it added to the town's attractions to visitors and people looking for a place to settle, and also made for the health and well-being of the community at large. He referred in terms of glowing praise to the work done by Mr. F. W. Sandford, who had been described to him as a sort of director of every work that had been undertaken on the courts, and whose handiwork was very apparent in the roomy and convenient clubhouse which had been erected. He was pleasantly surprised to see their efforts rewarded to such a remarkable degree, and, indeed, felt almost inclined to offer a silver cup for competition. This would perhaps be a little out of place, seeing that he was not president, and so he would content himself by offering a racquet for the ladies' singles handicap. In concluding, his Worship declared the courts duly open, and called upon Dr. Leatham to add a few words.

Dr. Leatham, who is president of the New Plymouth Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club and the Taranaki Lawn Tennis Association, expressed his great pleasure at being present on such an occasion. He looked upon the opening of the courts as another step in the right direction. Like the Mayor, he was glad to see tennis clubs flourishing and new courts opened, but whereas Mr. Tisch looked at it from the aesthetic or from a commercial point of view, he laid stress on the effect of healthy outdoor pastimes on the public health. He had played tennis for thirty-seven years, and hoped to play for a number of years yet. After giving one or two hints to the club's management, the speaker concluded by wishing the club a most prosperous season.

Mr. H. Okey, M.P., also complimented the club on the results obtained. He assured the gathering that New Plymouth was well spoken of outside as a beauty spot and a delightful holiday resort, and its well-kept tennis courts, golf links, and parks were no mean assets. He referred to the recent legislation, as the result of which the municipality should shortly have a great deal more money to spend on beautification of public reserves, and congratulated the Mayor on having initiated the idea and successfully placed his scheme before Parliament.

Afternoon tea was then served, and, the speeches over, members and visitors freely mixed and occupied the courts. Besides several from the New Plymouth and Fitzroy Clubs, there was one member of the Stratford Croquet Club and a visitor from the Waitara Tennis Club.

An apology was received for the absence of Mr. F. P. Corkill, a member of the Pukekura Park Board (who was out of town), the board being represented only by its secretary, Mr. E. H. Tribe, who, however, fully made up for the rest of the board. Mr. Tribe having worked hard, especially during the last few days.

Although the heavy rain of the previous night had softened the surface to a certain extent, the courts showed very little wear after a heavy afternoon's play. Mr. G. Lynch, the caretaker, is to be congratulated on the excellent state of the grounds.

TH, JANUARY 17, 1911
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING
MEETING OF THE BOARD.

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last night. Present:—Messrs. R. Cock (chairman), C. W. Govett, R. C. Hughes, S. Percy Smith, W. L. Newman, F. C. J. Beilringer, H. Ford, and E. H. Tribe (secretary.)

The curator of the Park (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that since the last meeting of the Board he had been cleaning and mowing the grass in the Park, nearly a week had been devoted to mowing down and removing the great growth of aquatic plants in the lakes. These were now well under control for this year. Mr. Smith regretted very much to inform the Board that one of the white swans died at the beginning of the month. These birds died from a wasting disease which it was impossible to arrest in its progress. The one remaining was ill for a week, but it was now quite well again. Mr. Smith added that he had already reported the killing of the black swan. However it might have been killed it had been mauled and torn afterwards by dogs. It was fully pinioned, and it seemed incredible that it could have risen on the wing so high as to strike the electric wires in the Sports Ground. The recent strong dry winds had blown down several of the older trees which would be all duly cut up and removed in a few days.

Mr. Smith also asked for extra assistance for a week in grass cutting. The request was granted.

Messrs. A. L. Humphries and J. McLeod, members of the Sports Ground Committee, waited on the Board with reference to arrangements for the functions to be held in the Park on the occasion of the Governor's visit on the 26th inst. The entertainment in the Park will take the form of a garden party, at which his Excellency will be present. A charge of 1s for adults, and half price for children, will be made for admission. A floral fete will also be held. The Board as a whole agreed to act with the Sports Ground Committee in connection with the floral fete and other arrangements. Mr. Govett and the secretary were authorised to attend a meeting of the Horticultural Society this evening, and ask for co-operation in making the fete a success.

TH, JANUARY 19, 1911
GOVERNOR'S VISIT

TARANAKI'S WELCOME
TO HIS EXCELLENCY

L O R D I S L I N G T O N .

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1911

GRAND
GARDEN
PARTY

PUBLIC WELCOME AND
PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS

In the

RECREATION SPORTS GROUND,
Pukekura Park.

— EVENTS. —

FLORAL FETE. FLORAL FETE.

Decorated Motor Cars.—1st prize 30s, 2nd prize 10s.

Decorated Bicycles.—1st prize 20s, 2nd prize 10s.

Decorated Bicycle Team of Three Ladies.—1st prize 30s.

Decorated Go-carts.—1st prize 20s, 2nd prize 10s.

Bicycle Race, reverse gears, once round (handicap).—1st prize 15s, 2nd prize 5s.

Entries for all above events FREE. Three entries or no first prize; five or no second.

2-mile Bicycle Race (N.Z.A.U.).—1st prize £2, 2nd prize £1. Nom. 2s 6d, acc. free. Entries close with secretary on TUESDAY, 24th, at 5 p.m.

SIDE SHOWS.

COCOANUT SHY.

SHOOTING GALLERY.

BOATING ON THE LAKE.

MOTOR CAR RIDES.

CHILDREN'S RACES.

Volunteers, Cadets, Scouts and Garrison Band in attendance.

Afternoon Tea, Fruit and Lollie Stalls, and Ice Cream.

ADMISSION ONE SHILLING.
Children Half-price.

Proceeds in aid of Pukekura Park and the Recreation Sports Ground.

F. TRIBE,
J. CLARKE,
Hon. Secs.

TDN, JANUARY 28, 1911
GOVERNOR'S GARDEN PARTY

Lord Islington's visit.—Last Thursday New Plymouth was en fete, it being the occasion of his Excellency's visit to our town. He was accompanied by Captain Shannon, A.D.C. During his short stay his Excellency's time was fully occupied. In the morning he visited the oil well at Moturoa, accompanied by Captain Shannon, his Worship the Mayor (Mr. G. Tisch) and Mr. H. Okey, M.P. Later the vice-regal party was driven to Marsland Hill, where the ceremony of the unveiling of the memorial fountain in honor of the troops who fell in the South African war was performed by his Excellency. At the invitation of his Worship the Mayor a number of citizens were entertained at luncheon at the White Hart Hotel. His Excellency occupied the seat of honor, and Colonel Ellis was seated on the left. In the afternoon a huge garden party was held in Pukekura Park, at which Lord Islington was presented with an illuminated address by the Mayor on behalf of the citizens. Never has the Sports Ground looked better. The terraces (an arena-like effect) were massed with people ever on the move, the many colors of the female sex's costumes flashing in the brilliant sunshine, flanked by the scarlet coats of the military and the uniforms of the cadets and scouts. Amongst those present were—

Mrs. J. Noble (Hamilton), pale grey figured muslin, trimmed with black silk guimpe, pretty black feathered hat.

Miss B. Evans, black and white embroidered muslin, black hat, lined with heliotrope and trimmed with black feathers.

Miss F. Evans, white muslin, cream hat, wreathed with pale pink roses;

Mrs. Home, biscuit linen coat and skirt, black hat.

Mrs. Hall, sage green costume, cream lace vest and undersleeves, black toque.

Mrs. Mackay, dove grey costume, bonnet en suite.

Miss Mackay, white muslin, black hat.

Miss O. Mackay, prunelle-colored linen coat and skirt, hat wreathed with white anemones.

Miss Bayley, dark green linen, green and black hat.

Mrs. R. George, golden brown costume, brown chip hat, lined with black and trimmed with pink roses.

Mrs. Claude Weston, light prunelle-colored costume, hat to correspond.

Mrs. Freeth, brown linen costume, hat en suite.

Mrs. S. Cottier, white muslin, black hat.

Miss Dempsey, white muslin, burnt straw hat, swathed with green.

Miss N. Dempsey, white linen, black hat, with pale blue roses.

Mrs. Syme (Eltham), cream costume, pretty vieux rose hat, lined with black and trimmed with roses.

Mrs. S. Shaw, heliotrope costume, black feathered hat.

Mrs. Devenish, black.

Miss Devenish, white; black hat.

Mrs. Roy, grey silk hat, trimmed with heliotrope.

Mrs. Hanna, white muslin; black hat.

Miss N. Hanna, pale blue striped voile, relieved with black hat, trimmed with shaded roses.

Miss Ahurue, white embroidered muslin; burnt straw hat, with large black silk bow and pink roses.

Miss J. Curtis, sage green costume; black hat.

Miss Corkill, navy blue costume, white crinoline straw hat, trimmed with black velvet and pale pink roses.

Mrs. Chaney, biscuit colored costume; pale blue hat.

Mrs. Kempthorne, sea green costume; cornflower blue hat.

Mrs. Teed, pale blue Paisley costume, trimmed with narrow braids of black velvet ribbon; black hat.

Mrs. C. Bayly, pretty saxe blue tafetas, with cream silk fringe, and deep band of rich cream insertion on skirt; black hat, with large white lace bows.

Mrs. Sturtevant, biscuit colored linen; green hat wreathed with blue roses.

Miss Sturtevant, white muslin hat, trimmed with green.

Miss W. Cutton, lettuce green linen; green hat lined with black.

Mrs. Cutfield, black costume.

Miss M. Ambury, white muslin; white hat, swathed with pale blue tulle.

Mrs. T. C. List, green costume, with hat to match.

Mrs. C. M. Hill, white all over cloak; dress and hat to correspond.

Mrs. Martin, heliotrope chryselline; black hat.

Mrs. H. Fookes, biscuit colored costume; cream hat, with pale pink roses.

Miss Munro, white linen; moss green chip hat, swathed with pink roses.

Miss Cottrell, white costume; black hat, lined with salmon pink.

Mrs. Ahier, black and white costume;

Mrs. A. Ornell, pretty prunelle colored costume, faced and braided with black; black and white hat.

Miss McKellar, black.

Miss McKellar, sage green chryselline; black hat.

Miss Wilson, pretty heliotrope costume; black hat.

Miss Percy-Smith, cream costume; pale blue hat.

Miss Stephenson, brown and green striped costume, faced with green; black and white hat.

Miss Blundell, brown and white striped costume; hat trimmed with green velvet and pink roses.

Mrs. Dodgshun, heliotrope costume, faced with black burnt straw hat, trimmed with bow of black velvet.

Miss Wade, green and white costume, cream lace yoke; black hat with feathers.

Miss Arden, white muslin; hat with pale pink.

Miss K. McAllum, green.

Miss J. Hempton, white muslin.

Mrs. N. King, green linen costume; black hat.

Mrs. Johns, saxe blue costume; hat en suite.

Mrs. C. Fenton (Wellington), pretty pale reseda; green chryselline hat to correspond.

Mrs. Pascoe, dark sage blue coat and skirt; toque en suite.

Miss Pridham, white embroidered muslin; white hat, with creamy pink roses.

Mrs. Haworth, pretty heliotrope eolienne, cream lace yoke; green hat.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Miss Brewster has returned after her pleasant trip to Blenheim and Wellington, where she attended the tennis tournament.

Miss S. Capel has returned after her most enjoyable trip to Hastings, where she was the guest of her aunt, Mrs. Bea-mish.

TDN, FEBRUARY 8, 1911
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

At a meeting of the Pukekura Park Board on Monday night, the curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) stated that good progress had been made in cutting the aquatic weeds in the lakes and the grass in the Park. Mr. S. Percy Smith was appointed overseer for the ensuing month. The secretary (Mr. E. H. Tribe) furnished a balance-sheet in connection with the recent garden party in the Park showing a profit of about £64, which will be divided equally between the Board and the Sports Ground Committee. The chairman and Mr. Corkill were deputed to arrange for music for the fireworks display to be given in the Park on Wednesday evening next.

TH, FEBRUARY 13, 1911
FUNDRAISING

FIREWORKS!
FIREWORKS!
FIREWORKS!

A GRAND DISPLAY OF
— FIREWORKS —

From Messrs. Beck and Co., London,
will take place in

PUKEKURA PARK

On **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15,**
(First Race Night).

At 8 p.m.

Proceeds in Aid of Pukekura Park.

Mr. Perry's Orchestra will Play a
Number of Selections.

Admission, 1s; Children, half-price.

E. H. TRIBE,

Hon. Sec.

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TH, MARCH 7, 1911
PLANT STEALING AND VOGELTOWN
ENTRANCE PLANS ON HOLD

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator of Pukekura Park, in his monthly report to the board last night, stated that there had been a good deal of flower stealing lately, and that the thieves not only plucked the flowers but were also pulling up the bulbs and carrying them away. The board decided to prosecute anyone discovered in the act.

Owing to the financial difficulties of the Pukekura Park Board it has been decided to abandon for the time being the contemplated improvements at the Vogeltown entrance to the park.

TH, MARCH 9, 1911
GOVETT ON FINANCIAL CRISIS AND
FIRST MENTION OF PARK
SATURDAY

Sir,—I trust you and your readers will pardon me for again bringing to notice the financial position of the board. I have not the exact figures before me, but believe that the overdraft will amount to about £175 at the close of this financial year, and at the present time it is nearly £200. Whatever the amount is, the liability is that of the individual members of the board on a joint and several guarantee. I believe that we have seen our worst days, and that in the future we shall have a better and more certain income through the Borough Council, but in the meantime certain needful improvements are urgently required, and the board shrink from incurring expense. I had the pleasure of taking Dr. Ward, of Sydney, round the grounds, and he said that if the grounds could be moved to Sydney or Melbourne they would be well worth £100,000. He also said he had often heard of the grounds, but they more than came up to their reputation. This shows the opinion of a very capable business man. There must be no going back, and I want the public to understand that the grounds cannot even be kept up as they are without more money. Our standard is a high one, and very different to what it was a few years ago, when only the paths near the lake were accessible. Now the whole of the grounds have to be kept more or less in order. A meeting of ladies will be shortly called by the chairman to consider the advisability of having a Saturday collection in the town, such as has been recently held in Christchurch for a similar object, and we trust that the ladies will help us as they have always hitherto done and make the affair a success. The board has made mistakes in the past, and, being human, will continue to do so, but it has no dead-heads, and its members are all anxious to do what they can for the good of the place. Under these circumstances the board has a right to appeal for support.—I am, etc.

CLEMENT W. GOVETT.

TH, MARCH 10, 1911
BOARD VISIT TENNIS CLUB

The Pukekura Park Board yesterday paid a visit of inspection to the park, and in the course of their perambulations the members visited the new tennis courts, laid down on a piece of rough ground leased to the Park Club some six months ago. The members expressed the greatest satisfaction with the manner in which the young club had carried out its proposals to give the members a few months' tennis this season—a task which many experts considered beyond them, so late was the work undertaken—and readily agreed to a request for permission to construct an asphalt court in addition to the five grass courts.

TDN, MARCH 16, 1911
ODE TO PUKEKURA PARK

LOVELY PUKEKURA—A SOLILOQUY.

Oh, lovely Pukekura Park,
A week ago to-day
I couched in leafy shadows dark
And dreamed an hour away;
The day was hot, with cloudless sky,
So deep within the shade
I heard the leaves' soft lullaby
Which whispering music made

Below, the lake in beauty lay,
Where I, a careless boy,
Have often through a summer's day
Lived at the heart of joy.
And in my youth I knew each walk,
Each bush and seat and tree,
And there is where we used to talk,
Here hand in hand sat we;
And lovers' leap and fern-tree dell,
And sunny slopes we knew,
How many charming places tell
Of love, my dear, and you.
And now the rush of hungry years
Have trod poor Cupid down,
And I am grey above the ears
And you are Mrs. Brown.
I fret not at passing time,
The ardors of the boy,
The years which bring the mellowing
prime
Have brought me deeper joy.
And so I lie upon the slope,
Look up into the blue
And laugh at youthful love and hope
And kiss a last adieu.
'Tis wiser to obliterate
The past, methinks, and yet
Time has no anodyne to date
The heart will not forget.

I gaze around on sky and hill,
The scene is very fair,
Ill fall the heart that does not thrill
To beauty's spirit there.
So that around, above, below,
Wherever eye can range,
Fresh joys each jaded sense may know
Calm in perpetual change.
The lake, a sheet of purest glass
In which reflected lie
Each stately tree, each blade of grass
And bank and hill and sky.
And in its watery depths the eye
May easily discern
The darling of our southern sky,
The graceful, filmy fern.
And many a shape that trembles there
As if in mute distress,
Narcissus ravished to despair
At his own loveliness.

Where are the lads that once I knew,
The soul instinct with truth,
The trusted tender friends and true
Companions of my youth?
Ah, they are gone, and I remain
And yet do I but dream,
I heard a merry song's refrain
Come floating down the stream.
And listen, finger on my lip,
And up the valley then
A ringing cry of comradeship,
"Ho, Charley, Jack and Ben!"
No answer, stillness in the air,
Alas! the lads I knew
Have slipped into the spaces fair
Beyond time's utmost blue:

Yet, still the sense of beauty holds,
Life yet has much to give,
And in these scenes of loveliness
One feels 'tis good to live.
And so to Pukekura Park
And this brave greenery
A long farewell! Our ship by dark
Will be far out at sea,
But whereso'er my path may lie,
On land or on the blue
A sailor's sweetest memories fly
A long and last adieu!

—EX-TARANAKI

Wellington, 6/3/11.

TDN, MARCH 27, 1911
BUYING BACK GOLDFISH

The goldfish in the ponds at Pukekura Park are thriving and multiplying. They did not thrive so well in the old days, no doubt because they were not allowed to. The Board were then somewhat concerned about their diminution, and, seeing goldfish advertised for sale in Wellington, deputed a representative to buy a stock with which to replenish the ponds. The latter duly saw the advertiser, who, however, could not supply as many as desired. "You know," he said, "goldfish are not too plentiful. There's only one place in the country where you can get a supply from, and that is the New Plymouth Recreation Ground." Further explanations showed that the advertiser had been securing his supplies from some New Plymouth lads, who had been catching them in the Board's own ponds! The Board were trying to buy their own fish!

TH, APRIL 4, 1911
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Town Hall last night. There were present: Messrs. R. Cock (chairman), C. W. Govett, R. C. Hughes, W. L. Newman, H. Ford, A. E. Watkins, and E. H. Tribe (hon. sec.).

Mr. W. W. Smith (curator) reported that some youths continued to ride their bicycles in the park in spite of the cautions he had given them; also that another boy had deliberately injured some of the pines by cutting off the bark.—It was resolved that the board's solicitor be instructed to prosecute the offenders in each case.

The curator also reported that the notice board at the Vogeltown entrance had been deliberately pulled up and thrown away, and that an attempt had been made to wrench up the posts at the gateway.—It was resolved that endeavours be made to find out the offender with a view to prosecution.

Members of the board expressed a desire that visitors to the Park should report to the curator or secretary any damage they may see being done, so that offenders may be prosecuted.

The secretary stated that the last fireworks display was an absolute loss.

Several accounts were passed for payment.

A member of the Pukekura Park Board stated that several people had expressed the opinion that the Park should be managed by the Borough Council, but he was opposed to any such change, and in support of his contention he read the following extract from a late Auckland paper, showing the result of the management of the Domain by the Hamilton Borough Council. He further stated that in Dunedin some years ago the City Council took over the management of the Park, but the people were not satisfied and insisted upon the Park being again administered by a Board of Trustees.

TH, APRIL 11, 1911
OPPOSITION TO PINE TREE
CULLING

A lady called at the News office yesterday, and asked us to air her protest against the action of the Pukekura Park authorities in cutting down the large pinus insignis trees in the vicinity of the gate near the Carrington road. Already one has been felled, she stated, and the others there, she was informed by the curator, were shortly to share the same fate. She pointed out that the trees are one of the attractions of the gardens, and serve as a picnicking ground for scores of visitors. It is always a shady spot, and an ideal place for children. "I asked the curator why he was cutting the trees down," she continued, "and he replied that they cause so much work. Well, is he not paid for doing this work? If the work is too much and the trees are to be sacrificed because of it, I, for one, would willingly lend a hand occasionally, and I am sure there are many other ladies who would do the same. Marsland Hill has been spoilt by the removal of the trees from it; so, too, has St. Mary's Church, and now the vandals are going to do the same with our priceless possession, our lovely park. In the older countries the authorities are doing everything possible to grow trees and beautify towns; here they have the trees and natural beauty and are seeking their destruction. It is enough to make one weep. Cannot something be done to stop the curator cutting down those lovely trees?"

TDN, APRIL 29, 1911
HATCHERY IN PARK ABANDONED

Pisciculture—The proposed fish hatchery building at Pukekura Park was abandoned, owing to its cost. A small building, with the necessary troughs and trays, capable of turning out nearly a quarter of a million fry, was erected on Mr. J. E. Wilson's property, on the banks of the Mangaotuku stream, in St. Aubyn town district, Mr. Wilson undertaking to look after the hatching of eyed ova.

TDN, MAY 20, 1911
PINE TREES SHOWN NO MERCY

In Pukekura Park the sound of the saw and the axe is daily heard. The board is felling many of the pines which have performed the valuable service for which they were planted, that of protecting the smaller imported and native trees planted long years since. They have now outlived their usefulness and their beauty, and are shown no mercy.

TDN, MAY 20, 1911
COUNCIL REPS ON THE BOARD

Representatives on Pukekura Park Board—The Mayor, Crs. Hartnell and Ambury.

OTAGO WITNESS, MAY 30, 1911
KINGFISHER IN THE PARK

(By JAMES DRUMMOND, F.L.S., F.Z.S.)

During January and February kingfishers were very numerous in the Huatoki Valley, part of which extends through the centre of the town of New Plymouth. A quarter of a mile from the mouth of the Huatoki, the Pukekura Stream, which runs through the lakes in Pukekura Park, flows into it. In February Mr W. W. Smith saw these beautiful birds daily about the lower lake in the park in considerable numbers, busily engaged catching and subsisting on the very minute eels which had ascended the Huatoki and Pukekura streams from the sea into the lake. Owing to the dry weather during the summer months the streams were low, and that would greatly favour these interesting young fish in their ascent of the Pukekura, which is more difficult to negotiate than the Huatoki. There is a 10ft high waterfall to be scaled before reaching the lake, but that would offer little obstruction to the young eels. In regard to the kingfishers' food, Mr Smith writes:—"A local angler informed me a few days ago that when he was fishing at the mouth of the Waiwakaiho River in February last he picked up a dead kingfisher with a mouse fast in its throat. The bird had tried to swallow the mouse whole, but the body stuck in its throat and choked it. Both the bird and the mouse were quite fresh when picked up." "The tui's note re-echoes through the park daily now," Mr Smith wrote on April 15. "Owing to the dry summer these birds were all away at the native bush, but, since the autumnal rains commenced, some have returned to gladden visitors to the park with their mimicry and their rich notes."

TDN, JUNE 6, 1911
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in the Borough Council Chambers last night. Mr. R. Coek was in the chair, and there were also present Messrs. F. P. Corkill, W. L. Newman, H. Ford, and W. W. Smith (curator). A donation of £10 from Mr. C. W. Govett was received, the Board expressing its hearty thanks to the donor. A letter was received from the curator of the Melbourne Botanical Gardens in answer to a request by Mr. C. W. Govett, together with a selection of seeds suitable for Taranaki soils. The Board will forward a selection of seeds and native trees in exchange. The secretary read the statement of receipts and expenditure. The bank overdraft is now £121 8s 1d. Mr. Harris Ford was elected chairman for the ensuing year. A vote of thanks to Mr. Tribe, hon. sec., for his past services closed the meeting.

TDN, JUNE 27, 1911
KIWI DONATED

A kiwi has been donated to the Pukekura Park Board by Mr. Crozier, of Frankleigh Park, to be placed in the grounds.

TH, JUNE 28, 1911
BALANCE SHEET

STATEMENT of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ending March 31, 1911:—

RECEIPTS.	
1910.	
Cash in hand (April 1)	0 7 1
Donations: C. W. Govett £10, Easter's Dramatic Co. £5, Dr. Leatham £5, Taranaki Herald £1 3s 6d	
Annual subscribers, 28 at 10s	21 3 6
Rents	14 0 0
Borough Council subsidy	55 2 6
Donation Box in Park	150 0 0
Garden Party	2 14 9
Fireworks	30 18 7
Fencing	9 12 9
Boat License	2 8 0
1911.	
Bank of N.Z. overdraft (March 31)	0 10 0
	121 8 1
	£408 5 3
EXPENDITURE.	
1910.	
Bank of N.Z. overdraft (April 1)	126 18 11
Wages	232 17 0
Carting and railage	1 2 6
Rents	1 1 6
Postages and cheque books...	1 5 6
Insurance	0 15 9
Survey Fees	5 5 0
Advertising	7 0 6
Timber	1 1 0
Labour grubbing gorse	6 0 0
Bird food	3 12 10
Tools and repairs	3 6 6
Fireworks	5 7 3
Bank interest and charge ..	9 11 0
Cash in hand	3 0 0
	£408 5 3
Audited and found correct.—R. Pepperill, Public Accountant, hon. auditor.	
E. H. TRIBE, Hon. Secretary.	

TH, JUNE 28, 1911
PARK FINANCES

The publication of the balance sheet issued by the Pukekura Park Trustees for the year ended March 31, 1911, affords us the opportunity to point out how little the general public actually do to help the trustees to maintain the beautiful grounds of which all are so pardonably proud. It will doubtless surprise most people to learn that the cost of the upkeep of the grounds last year was less than £250, and it speaks eloquently for the industry of the curator and his assistant that so much has been done for so little. On the other hand, it is not creditable to the public who derive so much enjoyment from the possession of the park that they voluntarily contribute next to nothing. From all sources the board last year had an income of £286 10s 1d, of which £150 represented a subsidy from the borough rates and £55 2s 6d rents. Special donations totalled £21 3s 6d, a garden party realised £30 18s 7d, a display of fireworks yielded a net profit of £4 5s 6d, a boat license 10s, and some fencing £2 8s, leaving £16 14s 9d as the voluntary direct contributions of the general public. Twenty-eight annual subscribers paid subscriptions totalling £14, and £2 14s 9d was dropped into the donation box. Really it is almost incredible that so little is given to the grounds, especially when it is remembered that they form admittedly one of the most beautiful public parks in Australasia, and that they are visited weekly by many hundreds of people. Can it ever occur to these people that it costs something to maintain the grounds, that Mr. Smith and his assistant, though they work hard for small pay because they love the park, must be paid something? Why, if we deduct the subsidy, the rents, and the subscriptions of just a handful of people, what remains of the

revenue does not represent twopence per head of the whole population of the borough. Of course, it is in a large measure due to thoughtlessness that greater support is not forthcoming. If the right kind of appeal were made we are sure that there are scores—even hundreds—of people who would give some slight contribution. It has to be a direct appeal, though. The collecting-box must, so to speak, be placed under their very noses. If the board were to call for volunteers to assist in obtaining subscribers, and set themselves to obtain, say, five hundred at ten shillings each, we feel sure it could be done. There are many towns half the size of this where such an appeal would be responded to in a week, and for the credit of New Plymouth let some effort be made to remove the reproach that individually we only contribute about twopence per head per annum to maintain the most beautiful park in the Dominion.

TDN, JULY 17, 1911
ROSE DONATION

A rose-garden is to be made in the Recreation Grounds, Mr. C. E. Bellringer having donated a fine collection of trees. The rose garden will be placed near the Gilbert street entrance.

TH, AUGUST 16, 1911
PINE TREE FELLING

The Pukekura Park Board wrote regarding trees at the rear of the caretaker's cottage. The matter was left in the hands of the secretary to arrange for necessary labour to have trees felled; the curator of the Park to point out which trees are to be felled.

Mr. S. Robottom's resignation as a member was accepted.

TDN, AUGUST 16, 1911
LAKES FULL OF FISH

It was thought some time ago that the ponds in the Pukekura Park were becoming depleted. There is no such fear now. The waters are full of trout, gold fish, perch, etc.

TH, SEPTEMBER 8, 1911
PLANT DONATIONS

The Pukekura Park Board thankfully acknowledge from Mr. Raby, of Rerekapa, and Mr. John Arthur Jones and a lady donor, a large variety of native trees and shrubs numbering 400, which have all been planted in different parts of the ground.

TH, OCTOBER 10, 1911
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The usual monthly meeting of the board was held on Monday evening. Present: Mr. Harris Ford (chairman), S. Percy Smith, W. L. Newman, R. Cock, R. C. Hughes, and E. H. Tribe.

The secretary reported that the bank overdraft stood at £156 19s 4d.

It was decided to put wire netting on each side of the Poet's Bridge, so as to prevent children from falling into the lake.

Resolved that the chairman and Mr. Cock interview the Mayor in reference to the Avenue Road Reserve.

The curator reported, amongst other details, that he had planted out 400 native trees presented to the board by Mr. Raby, of Rerekapa, Mr. J. Arthur, jun., and a lady donor.

The board decided to prosecute all persons caught stealing flowers from the park or in any way damaging plantations.

The park was placed in charge of Mr. F. P. Corkill for the coming month.

Accounts amounting to £5 17s 4d were passed for payment.

TH, NOVEMBER 7, 1911
STEALING ROSES FROM PARK

New Plymouth is a peculiar place; we doubt if there is another town in New Zealand to match it in some respects. It has brighter prospects probably at the present moment than any other town in the Dominion, and yet shows little sign of life. It has attractions unsurpassed elsewhere, and yet little appreciation of them is shown. But in one respect we believe it is quite unique, and that is in the fondness of some of its people for flowers—other people's flowers—and in the want of common honesty on the part of these people where flowers are concerned. Owners of nice gardens are constantly complaining of having choice flowers, and even plants, stolen; the grave plots in the cemetery are frequently despoiled of the flowers and plants placed there in loving memory of departed relatives and friends; while there seems to be an impression among the flower thieves that the flowers in Pukekura Park are grown for them to pick at their will. Some months ago Mr. C. E. Bellringer generously donated a number of choice rose trees to the board, and the curator, Mr. W. W. Smith, went to a great deal of trouble to make a rose garden, where the trees were planted and have received much careful attention. Lately this rose garden has formed a bright spot in the park, some beautiful blooms having been grown, and Mr. Smith was looking forward to putting a collection in the rose show on Thursday. But the flower thieves willed otherwise, and have despoiled the trees, twice breaking down the light barrier of wire netting placed round the bed. We cannot print words strong enough in condemnation of this miserable thieving. It is nothing short of criminal, and we doubt whether anywhere else but in New Plymouth it is carried on to such an extent. We do not believe it is children's work; in fact we have good reason to believe that the thieves are people who will be dreadfully indignant at the suggestion that they had been guilty of anything dishonest. The practice, however, is so common that it is time true lovers of flowers banded themselves together as a kind of vigilance committee for the purpose of detecting and bringing the culprits to justice.

TDN, DECEMBER 12, 1911
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met on Monday evening, when there were present: Messrs. H. Ford (chairman), Cock, Corkill, Govett, Hughes, Newman, and Percy-Smith.

The curator reported that owing to the frequent heavy rains and high winds prevailing during last month the work of the Park staff has been confined chiefly to mowing and general cleaning. Perhaps in few previous seasons has the growth of native plants been greater than during the present. The native bush clothing the slopes on the north side of the upper lake is rapidly re-establishing itself, and in a few more years, at the present rate of growth, will be a fine native forest. He did not know whether or no the board granted permission to the Prohibition party to hold their picnic in the Park on Saturday afternoon. They had cleaned up perfectly for Sunday, and the picnic, coming late in the afternoon, unknown to them, gave an addition two and a half hours' work on Saturday evening and Sunday morning cleaning up the papers, etc., which the children strewed about. He also reported that the whole of the board's property in the Park was now in good order.

The complaint of the curator as to Saturday's no-license demonstration was left for the chairman and Mr. Hughes to deal with.

The following resolutions were passed: That the chairman be authorised to execute the deed of dedication for the widening of Brookland road; that Mr. Short be instructed to clean the Jubilee fountain and the marble book tablet.

Mr. Corkill was appointed visitor for the month.

TH, NOVEMBER 27, 1911
LILY POND IN BLOOM

The lily pond in Pukekura Park is now studded with blooms and will be looking at its best in a week or two.



Entrance to Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, F.G.R. 4750.

Main Entrance - Fillis Street - circa 1919. (Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections 35-R925)

1912

To get out of the financial difficulty the Board found itself in they introduced Park Saturday. This was a door-to-door campaign. Many of the local ladies that did the canvassing were wives and daughters of the Park's trustees. The day was successful, raising over £150, enough to put the Park's finances back in the black for the first time in a long time.

Smith continued developing a fernery on Manhattan Island using thirty-seven species of native fern. At that time, the island was accessible to the public as a picnic spot, with two small bridges linking it to the mainland. Unfortunately, a lot of the ferns planted were stolen so the board decided to remove the bridges, this however did not stop the thieves.

Plant stealing was becoming a major concern, as were bike riding and dogs in the park harming the birds. To try and counter these issues the Board appointed Mr Tippins as an inspector to try and enforce the bylaws of the park. Tippins was a council inspector who did this sort of work as part of his job.

The Acclimatisation Society had stopped using the rearing ponds because of concerns over water quality, so the races feeding the ponds were removed with the intention to fill in the ponds.

W. W. Smith went on a botanical expedition to Mount Egmont to find new species of plants. He was accompanied by Donald Petrie and Murdoch Fraser. Petrie was a preeminent botanist of the time. He was a long-time friend of Smith's going back to when Smith lived in the South Island. The plants they found were introduced into the Park as appropriate.

The rose bed developed the previous year (Palm Lawn) flourished but the flowers had been stolen, so Smith decided to develop a new rose garden behind the Tea House. He transplanted the existing roses and many more donated rose plants. In the same area he intended to plant a bed of native veronicas.

Donations included:

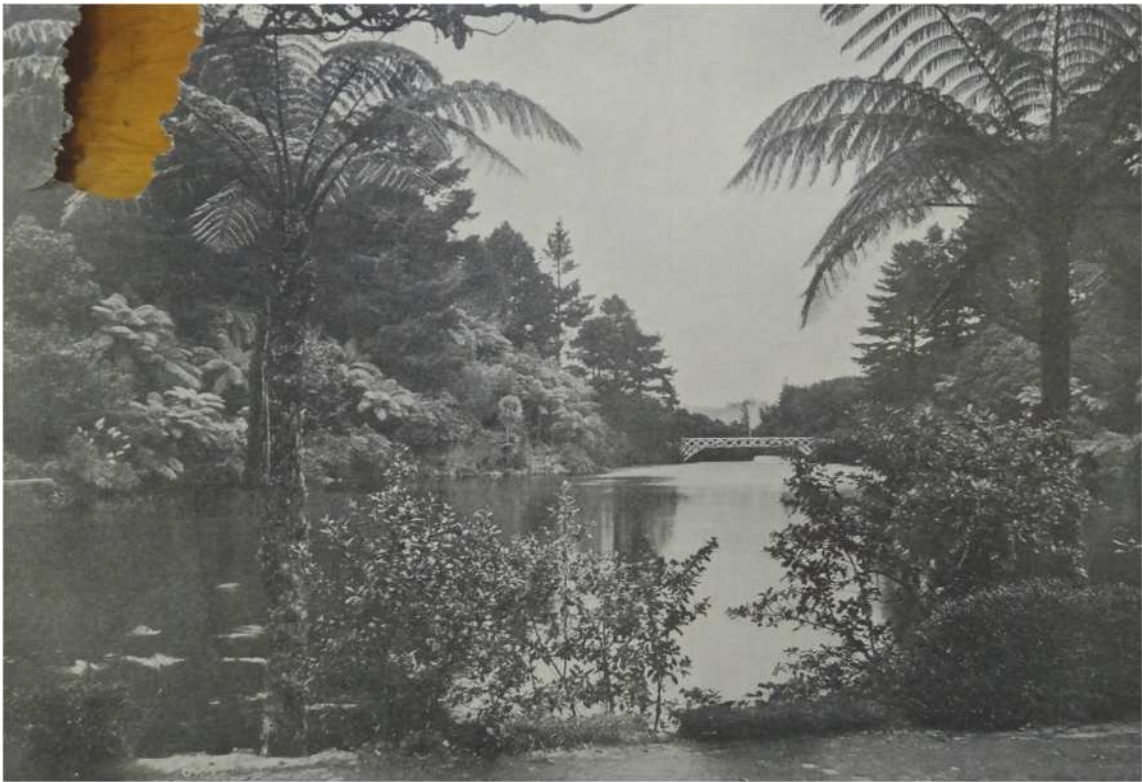
Mr Marfell, of Toko, gifted a kiwi and John Wheeler, of Inglewood, donated a peacock.

Plant donations included:

Mr Upjohn, Alfred Road, a package of native plants; anonymous lady donor, a box of daffodil and narcissus bulbs; Mrs Brasch, Ratanui, a collection of primulas and polyanthus; Mr John Wheeler, Inglewood, a collection of native plants, also three seven-foot standard weeping ash trees; Mr Sanford, a collection of native plants and one hundred plant labels; a private gentleman, five dozen rose plants; Mrs Newton, Moturoa, half a dozen roses; Morshead Nursery Company, two dozen roses; Mr Mace, one dozen mixed plants; Mr Layard, Pungarehu, a large collection of mixed plants; Messrs Sole Brothers, Para Tawhiti or King fern; Mr Raby, a packet of clematis seeds; Mr C. D. Husband, Raglan, a rare dwarf flax from the Karioi Mountain; Mr T. Falconer, Kaipikari, a lot of King Ferns. Other donations of native plants came from Dunedin, Fielding, Urenui and Te Kuiti.

Summary of significant events

- E. H. Tribe resigned as Secretary
- Park Saturday fundraising collections introduced
- More discussions about handing over park to the council
- Mr Tippins the Council Inspector was employed by the Board to catch people breaking bylaws
- New rose bed planted behind the tea house
- Fish races around the trout rearing ponds were dismantled as the Acclimatisation Society were no longer using the ponds
- The Diving Board was removed
- New path made from the Vogeltown Entrance to the Racecourse
- Smith continued planting ferns on Manhattan Island
- In June Harris Ford resigned as chairman, C. W. Govett was appointed in his place.



Auckland Weekly News, May 9, 1912, F. J. Denton



Auckland Weekly News, May 16, 1912, F. J. Denton

TDN, JANUARY 30, 1912
VISITORS COMMENTS / EEL
CONTROL

A visitor to New Plymouth "did" "Brooklands" and "Maranui" on Sunday, as well as Pukekura Park. "The finest grounds and scenery I have ever seen," was his verdict. The visitor has been twice round the world. "Some of the gardens in America can beat you for flowers, etc., but no country in the world has your wealth of ferns and trees. You should be a contented people."

The goldfish in the ponds of the local park have thriven considerably this season. The curator has for some time conducted an active campaign against the eels that infest the ponds, and the other day secured one specimen weighing about 12lb. These old men eels play havoc with the gold and other fish with which the park's waters are stocked.

TH, FEBRUARY 6, 1912
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

At the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board on Monday night, there were present: Messrs. Harris Ford (in the chair) C. W. Govett, S. Percy Smith, W. L. Newman, R. Cook and R. C. Hughes.

PARK SATURDAY.

On the motion of Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Smith, it was decided that a Park Saturday subscription be undertaken, with a view to raising funds for the board, and that the chairman and Messrs. Smith and Hughes be a committee from the board to act in conjunction with others.

WANTON VANDALISM.

The custodian (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that some short time back he had planted on the island, at the head of the lake, sixteen Paratawhiti ferns, and that thirteen of these had had the tops cut off and the roots stolen, only three being left. The members present expressed a wish that the newspapers would call attention to this with a view to finding out the thief.

GENERAL.

On the motion of Messrs. Smith and Govett, the secretary was instructed to write to the Acclimatisation Society, asking them to remove the hatching ponds now that they have ceased using them, and to put the ground in order. On Mr. Govett's recommendation, it was decided that the custodian submit to the board a scheme for improving the appearance and draining the piece of land at present occupied by the fish ponds.

The secretary (Mr. E. H. Tribe) reported that he had written to the gaol authorities applying for the services of six prisoners to be employed in the Park cutting out noxious weeds.

The secretary also reported that the bank overdraft stood at £146 9s 4d, and that the outstanding accounts amounted to £23 1s 5d. It was resolved that owing to the strained financial position of the board, the accounts be held over until the result of the proposed Saturday collection is known.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

A notice of motion, to be considered at the next meeting of the board, was brought forward by Mr. Govett as follows:—"That this board, having for

many years tried to keep up the Pukekura Park Grounds with inadequate means, thinks the time has come to seriously consider whether the upkeep and management of the grounds should not be thrown upon the Borough Council, so that all who benefit by the grounds should, by means of rates, be compelled to contribute on something like a just basis."

The park was placed in charge of Mr. Govett for the ensuing period.

TH, FEBRUARY 7, 1912
E. H. TRIBE RESIGNS AS SECRETARY

Owing to the pressure of business Mr. E. H. Tribe is relinquishing the position of secretary to the Pukekura Park Board, as from March 31st next.

TDN, FEBRUARY 12, 1912
SMITH ON BOTANICAL EXPEDITION

Messrs. Donald Petrie, Auckland (ex-chief inspector of schools), with Mr. Murdoch Fraser and Mr. W. W. Smith (curator of Pukekura Park) has been on a botanical exploring visit to Mt. Egmont. The party, which returned at the latter end of last week, succeeded in discovering several specimens unknown and undescribed. It was found possible to "do" only a portion of the reserve, which is perhaps the most attractive hunting ground in the Dominion for botanists.

TDN, FEBRUARY 14, 1912
PARK SATURDAY INTRODUCED

The Park Saturday subscription movement was the subject of discussion at a meeting of ladies held on Monday afternoon at the Town Hall. There were also present: Mr. Ford (chairman of the Pukekura Park Board), and Messrs. Percy-Smith and R. C. Hughes. Saturday, March 2, was appointed for the appeal to the public. It was decided to invite all ladies interested in the movement to meet on Friday, the 23rd inst., at the Town Hall to make the final arrangements. At the conclusion of the preliminary meeting Mr. Percy-Smith invited those present to join him at afternoon tea at the "Kia Ora" tea rooms.

TH, FEBRUARY 17, 1912
SWIMMING SPORTS SUGGESTED

I hear that a suggestion has been made that the Pukekura Park Board arrange for swimming sports to be held in the Park in aid of its funds. It is some time since sports of this kind were held in the Park, and it is surprising that the suggestion has only just come forward. Swimming carnivals are very popular with the public, and the fact that one is to be held in the most beautiful gardens in New Zealand, if not in Australasia, should alone draw a big crowd. The band's services could also be secured, and the public are always ready to go and listen to their fine band. I think the board is on the right track to increase its funds, and the carnival is sure to be a success.

TDN, FEBRUARY 23, 1912
TALK RE HANDING PARK TO
COUNCIL

An effort is being made by the Pukekura Park Board to raise a little money, and a meeting of citizens is called for tonight to make arrangements for instituting a Park Saturday subscription. We hope the meeting will be largely attended, and the movement heartily supported. The Park funds are at a very low ebb, and if the maintenance work is to be continued additional money must be forthcoming. The borough subsidises the grounds to the extent of £150 a year, and this is practically the only revenue, for voluntary subscriptions amount to but little during the year. With the slender resources it is really remarkable what is done in the grounds. In its curator the Board has a jewel. It is really only by dint of his industry, knowledge and general capacity, that the grounds are maintained in the way they are. But it is not fair to Mr. Smith or the grounds that he should have to slave nine or ten hours a day and do laborer's work. There should be quite enough to keep him employed in supervising, designing and adding to the beauties of the already beautiful place. What we would like to see done is to place Mr. Smith in charge of all the town's reserves and scenic spots, and a competent staff available to carry out the maintenance work. To do this it would, of course, be necessary to alter the constitution of the Park Board, bringing it into line with the democratic spirit of the time, and, if necessary, under the control of the municipality. As at present constituted, it is out of touch with the people. The members may have done good work in the past; indeed, they must have, or the grounds would not be in the condition they are today, but if they offered themselves for election now the majority of them would, we think, be superseded by more energetic men. The upkeep and improvement of the Park are fair charges on the borough funds, and were the Board differently constituted we would strongly urge the Council bearing the whole cost of the upkeep. The Park is one of the town's greatest assets and attractions, and should receive the same attention at the hands of the Council as its more materialistic services. In other parts of the Dominion, boroughs, recognising the value of breathing spaces and beauty spots, are only too pleased to bear the cost entailed. Without real representation on the directing board—and the present representation is not real—however, it is not fair to ask the Council to do more than it is at present, except perhaps to subsidise the Board's revenue £ for £, to a greater extent than the present subsidy, thus making the Board hustle more than it has been accustomed to in the past. Perhaps the Board will recognise that it has outlived its usefulness and be ready to fall into line with the spirit of the times. If it is wise it will do so without delay. In the meantime we hope the public will respond to the efforts the Board is now making, roll up at to-night's meeting, and do their "little bit" towards their own Park, the most beautiful of the kind, if we are to believe visitors, to be found anywhere in the wide world.

SHOULD IT BE CONTROLLED BY
THE COUNCIL?

MR. W. T. JENNINGS TAKES A HAND.

The proposal, broached in yesterday morning's Daily News, to radically alter the constitution of the Pukekura Park Board, was introduced by Mr. W. T. Jennings at a meeting held last evening in connection with Park Saturday. He said the Borough Council should be responsible for the up-keep of the grounds. While realising the very great care given to the park by Mr. Smith, he thought it was a pity that charity should always have to be invoked. If a larger section of the general public had attended the meeting he would have moved that a deputation should wait on the Borough Council, asking it to take over the control and up-keep of the park. He had no desire to reflect on the devoted labors of the Park Board. He failed to see why the burden of finance should remain on the shoulders of a few.

NO TIME FOR THE COUNCIL.

The suggestion of municipal control was opposed by the chairman (Mr. Percy-Smith). The matter, he explained, would come up for consideration soon by the board, but he was quite sure that members would be opposed to handing it over to the borough. (Hear, hear.) Members of the board gave both their means and their time to the work, and he thought that the public generally would not approve of the Borough Council taking over the reins.

The Rev. Osborne also opposed the proposal, saying that the people had only to look at the disgraceful condition of Liardet street to oppose handing over the Recreation Grounds to the Council's care.

THE PUBLIC'S LAST CHANCE.

According to Mr. Govett, the question of change of control had been put before the board, but it had been considered that before it passed an opinion the public should have an opportunity to subscribe. The way they subscribed would be an indication whether or not the board should ask the council to take charge. In speaking in favor of the board, he remarked that that body had made the grounds the pride of New Zealand. Summed up, Park Saturday would really be a test question, to a great extent. The board could not carry on unless there was an improvement in the public support.

In the opinion of Mr. Hughes, the council was not the proper body to manage a concern of that kind. What was required was people who had their hearts in the work, and who by some sort of training were fitted for the work. Following on the article in the Daily News he trusted that if the question was considered the constitution of the board would be altered to the extent of making the body consist of five elected and five nominated members.

The chairman was opposed to the matter being further considered at what he described as a meeting which was called to arrange details of collecting, and the subject was not further pursued.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—You have been so liberal in advocating the cause of the board that I do not hesitate to invoke your services again. There is at the present time an overdraft of about £160, guaranteed jointly and severally by the members of the board. The custodian's salary is a very low one, and we have not enough money to supply labour to keep up the grounds, leaving out of the question several necessary improvements. It is a long while since any very urgent appeal has been made to the public, and perhaps in consequence of this a number of those who used to be regular subscribers have dropped out. Bazaars, concerts, shows, and entertainments might be suggested, but all of these give a great deal of trouble and cost a lot in preliminary expenses. "Park Saturday" will be very hard on the lady collectors, but it is the most economical way of raising money, and it is hoped that it will prove a success. I am confident, too, that many who could not afford to be annual subscribers at 10s will see their way to be regular subscribers of less amounts, and our young men will, I trust, feel they are on their mettle. Notice of motion has been given that the board must seriously consider the question of throwing the up-keep and management of the Park upon the borough, and there is a great deal to be said in favour of this; but, on the whole, I think it would be a retrograde proceeding, and one that should only be adopted as the last resource, when all others have failed. The public ought to recognise that the Park is being gradually transformed, and that so long as changes are going on it is desirable to have a continuous body with a more or less settled policy, and I very much doubt if any council would ever be elected that would have the personal knowledge and qualifications of those of the majority of the members of the board. Three members of the Borough Council are supposed to act with the board and attend their meetings, but it is very rarely indeed that the whole three attend, and sometimes none do, and we have no reason to believe that the borough councillor of the future will be very different from his predecessors. During the last ten or fifteen years legacies and donations of fairly large sums have been made, none of which would have been made to the Borough Council, and this is a matter well worth considering before making a change. Some plan must be devised for keeping up the Park, which is one of the best advertisements New Plymouth possesses. It is unfortunate that the average resident who has travelled little is the person least able to appreciate what a treasure we have, but even he must be waked up. Things cannot remain as they are, and unless the board is supplied with funds, it will be forced to resign, and it is well that the public should understand the position; and, as I said on another occasion, the support given next Saturday will have to be treated as a vote of confidence or no confidence, as the case may be. I believe, myself, that the best course is for the Borough Council to strike a special rate and to continue the present board, reinforced, as it is, by three members of the council, and if the public see that the board expends a reasonable income properly it will then, I think, supply it with "extras" for further improvements.—I am, etc.,

CLEMENT W. GOVETT.

At the meeting held last Friday evening to arrange for a canvass of the town in order to supplement the funds of the Pukekura Park Board, the following districts were assigned to the lady canvassers who so kindly volunteered to assist:—

No. 1.—Miss Devenish; Molesworth Street, Buller Street, Octavius Place, and Woolcombe Terrace, from the Henui River to the Huatoki River.

No. 2.—Mrs. Dockrill; Gill Street from the Henui River to the Huatoki River.

No. 3.—Mrs. Clarke; Devon Street from the Henui River to Gover Street.

No. 4.—The Misses Fookes; Courtenay, Leach, and Lemon Streets, from the Henui River to the Huatoki River.

No. 5.—Miss Stephenson Smith and Miss Curtis; Pendarves, Gilbert, and Fillis Streets, Carrington, Victoria, and Mill Roads, and part of Liardet Street, all lying between Gover Street and the Huatoki River and north of Shortland Street.

No. 6.—Miss Percy Smith; Pendarves and Gilbert Streets between Gover Street and the Henui River, and the Avenue Road to Mr. Cliffs.

No. 7.—Mrs. Newman; Bulkeley Terrace and Hine Street from Belt Road to the Railway Station.

No. 8.—Mrs. Back; St. Aubyn Street (or South Road) from Belt Road to the Railway Station.

No. 9.—Mrs. Jure; Young Street from Belt Road to the Huatoki River, and parts of streets north of Mangatuku Stream, and Ariki Street and streets lying south of Young Street.

No. 10.—Miss Ford; Devon Street West from Belt Road to Huatoki River, and streets between Devon Street, Mangatuku Stream, and Ariki Street.

No. 11.—Mrs. Preeth; Powderham, Vivian, and Fulford Streets, from Belt Road to Huatoki River, with intersecting streets between Powderham and Fulford Streets.

No. 12.—Miss Alice Hempton; Bul-teel, Downe, and Barrett Streets and Wallace Place, between Belt Road and the Huatoki River.

No. 13.—Mrs. Dockrill and S. Percy Smith; Devon Street East from Huatoki River to Gover Street.

No. 14.—Miss Irene Foote and Miss Helen Outfield; the late town district of Fitzroy.

No. 15.—Mrs. Brown and Miss Sinclair; Vogeltown south of Shortland Street.

No. 16.—Mrs. Erlandson; St. Aubyn Town District, from Belt Road to Moturoa, between Devon Street west and the sea.

No. 17.—Miss E. Percy Smith; Westtown and Frankley Road inland of Devon Street, and including Frankleigh Park.

The stations of the itinerant lady canvassers will be communicated to them personally.

Tickets for lunch or afternoon tea, together with collecting boxes and a plan of each district, may be obtained at Mr. Harris Ford's, Brougham Street, after noon on Wednesday.

His Worship the Mayor has kindly placed his room at the Borough Council offices at the disposal of the lady canvassers on Saturday, March 2, and Mr. Govett will be in attendance there from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. to receive the boxes on conclusion of the canvass, and Mr. R. C. Hughes will be at his office, Brougham Street, from 8 to 9 p.m. to receive any later boxes. Receipts will be given to each lady for the sum collected.

If March 2 proves rainy, the collection will take place the following Saturday.

TH, MARCH 5, 1912 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Town Hall on Monday night, Mr. H. Ford presiding. There were also present: Messrs. S. Percy Smith, C. W. Govett, R. C. Hughes, W. L. Newman, W. Ambury, H. Stocker, and E. H. Tribe (secretary).

An apology was received from Mr. Cockill.

THE TEA ROOM

Mr. J. C. Legg wrote that, having read of the decision of the board to have the tea room open every day, including Sunday, he tendered his resignation as caterer.

A long discussion ensued on the question as to whether the tea rooms should be open on Sundays, and it appeared that the board had not come to any actual decision on the matter, although when it was discussed at the last meeting of the board the opinion was expressed that it would be advisable for the room to be open on Sundays.

Mr. Ambury was strongly opposed to the tea rooms being opened on Sundays, and expressed the opinion that such a proposal would meet with a great deal of opposition in the town.

Eventually it was resolved that Mr. Legg's letter be acknowledged and that he be informed that the board has never decided that the tea rooms be kept open on Sundays; also that the board do now call for applications from persons willing to supply afternoon tea, but that the question whether teas on Sunday should be insisted upon be left to a future meeting of the board, and that in the meantime the chairman and secretary be authorised to make the best arrangements possible.

CURATOR'S REPORT

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator, reported that the work of the Park staff during January and February comprised chiefly mowing, grubbing gorse, and general maintenance. The high winds and heavy rains occasionally caused much extra work in cleaning up after them. Very little injury, however, resulted to the vegetation in the Park, which was looking very fresh and green at the present time. The only little damage from Sunday's high wind was the breaking of a heavy limb off a pinus insignis tree near the Carrington Road entrance. A local resident had donated another five dozen roses to the Park. He (Mr. Smith) proposed to make another much larger bed for their reception in the valley near the tea rooms. Between the new rose bed and the new lake he also proposed to make a bed of native veronicas, which work would greatly improve the appearance of the valley. Mrs. Newton, of Moturoa, had likewise donated half a dozen new roses for the bed. He asked the board to pay an official visit to the Park to discuss certain proposed new work. He could then submit a scheme for the alteration and improvement of the present site of the fish hatcheries as requested by the board.

Mr. Smith was authorised to engage temporary assistance.

It transpired that Mr. Raby had also made a contribution, which took the form of a packet of clematis seed.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the various donors.

Mr. N. R. M'Isaac wrote making a suggestion which he thought would assist the board very considerably in the maintenance of the Park. The scheme came under his notice whilst living in Christchurch, where he believed it was a great success. Here a number of business men, instead of binding themselves to a fixed annual donation towards the

upkeep of the grounds, engage a casual labourer to do a day's work in the park. In this way the gardeners received some material assistance and perhaps a deserving case of charity was relieved. It need not necessarily be charity, but probably many people would feel disposed to donate in this way towards the Park. At the same time he did not think it would decrease the present revenue in any way, and would perhaps give people a greater interest in the park.

Mr. M'Isaac will be thanked for his letter.

The Secretary reported that that day £151 16s had been paid into the bank, which brought the account in credit £28 6s 8d, and at the end of the month the board would receive £37 10s from the Borough Council, making a credit balance of £65 16s 8d. There were accounts, etc., outstanding amounting to £60 2s 3d, which would leave a credit of about £5 14s 8d at the end of March.

TH, MARCH 5, 1912 PARK SATURDAY TAKINGS A GRATIFYING RESPONSE.

At the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board held at the Town Hall on Monday night, it was reported that the Park Saturday collections had resulted in £150 being raised. Members referred in felicitous terms to the enthusiasm that was manifested by the ladies who so kindly assisted in the movement, and were gratified with the liberal response that was made to their appeal.

Mr. S. Percy Smith submitted the following list showing the amounts handed in by the various collectors;—

Included in the above sums are donations amounting to £1 and over from the following:—Mrs. E. Douglas, Mrs. S. Hooper, Mr. R. C. Hughes, Mr. G. W. Browne, Mr. R. Cock, Col. Ellis, Mrs. F. G. Evans, Mr. A. Standish, Dr. Lenthall, Burgess and Fraser, Dr. Home, Mrs. Cannell, Mr. G. H. Maunlder, Mrs. E. T. Morshead, Mrs. Wm. Bayly, Mr. and Mrs. Messenger, Mr. A. C. Fookes and Mrs. Nicholson.

The board resolved:—"That this board desires to place on record its hearty thanks to those who so freely contributed to making Pukekura Park Saturday the eminent success it proved to be, and especially to the canvassers, to whose efforts—notwithstanding the inclement weather—were due the principal success; and also to the Taranaki Herald and the Daily News for their able support of the cause, and to them and to Mr. Thos. Avery for printing, to Mr. Dingle, the Red Post Company, Baker and Son, and Mr. T. Petty, for supplying the collecting boxes, Mr. West for printing the name on same, to the Mayor for the use of his room, to those who gave special contributions, to those who promised annual subscriptions, and finally to the general public for their liberal contributions, which resulted in the addition to the funds of the board of the handsome sum of £150.

	£	s.	d.
Miss Devenish	6	11	11
Miss Belle Smith and Miss Curtis	10	14	6
Mrs. Montague Avery and Miss Avery	13	15	2
Miss Margaret Cockill	1	15	6
Mrs. Richard Jury	1	13	9
Mrs. Back	3	8	0
Miss E. Percy Smith	1	10	2
Miss M'Kellar	1	3	6
Miss Harriet Old	2	3	7
Mrs. Clarke	3	13	1
Miss Brewster	11	2	3
Miss Bewley	7	14	7
Mr. S. Percy Smith	4	0	1
Miss Foote	3	7	10½
Miss Cutfield	3	9	9

Miss Govett	3	13	7
Miss Dora Bedford	4	2	6
Miss B. Clarke	0	18	9
Miss Meta Ford	1	1	0½
Mrs. Freeth	7	6	2
Miss Ruby Clarke	3	9	8
Miss Ford	2	15	6
Mrs. Erlandson	3	0	0
Mrs. Dockrill	9	14	2
Miss Whittton	2	11	10
Miss Sturtevant	1	3	0
Miss M. Fookes	2	5	0
Miss G. Fookes	7	6	3
Mrs. George Browne	3	14	0
Mrs. Newman	3	5	4
Miss Hempton	5	0	4
Miss Kate Bennett	5	0	5½
Miss Sinclair	1	14	2½
Miss Miller	1	7	7½
Mr. Wm. Webber	0	2	7½

TH, MARCH 6, 1912 DONATION

The chairman of the Pukekura Park Board acknowledges a handsome donation of the sum of £25 from the Hon. O. Samuel, M.L.C.,

TH, MARCH 6, 1912 FRIENDS OF THE PARK SUGGESTED

Sir,—The sitting of the Park Board is over and I am too late with my brilliant idea on how to keep up the Park and even improve it, so I appeal to you to ventilate my plan in your columns. Mr. N. R. M'Isaac has a good idea; mine, I flatter myself, is better, for it is to be a combination of pleasure and profit. Here it is. Let us form a practical, active beautifying society, membership free. This society could embrace all ages and both sexes. Each member would provide his or her own outfit: that would be spades, rakes, scythes, hoes, gloves, pruning knives and hooks, etc., etc. Now let us form this society and offer its services to the board under the direction of the curator, say, every Thursday and Saturday afternoons, whichever suited the members. This society might take a little of the attention from golf, cricket, football, etc., but then from the crowds who go to "work" at these recreations, and more still from the greater crowds who just go to look on, a few could certainly be spared for my plan for keeping the Park, and other beauty spots, in order. You, sir, will feel inclined, I expect, to say that I am too practical. Well, I confess to a bit of that. I feel a little bit of pride when I look at a bit of my own handiwork—my very own. If, on the other hand, I spend time at any of those games above named, I ask myself, what do we see for it the next day? Now try my plan. Let the gentlemen "play" heartily at gardening, pruning, weeding, clearing paths, etc., in the Park; let the ladies prepare afternoon tea, and all together "work" (play), and talk, and be merry. Then next day or next Sunday take a walk round with their friends and say with pride, "We did this!" And years after say, "We planted these trees, or this hedge!" Why cannot this be done? I fear that many who see the common-sense of this plan think it too common. They can sweat along the road under a bundle of golf sticks, but not under a rake or a hoe. Cast all such ideas to the wind. Take Shakespeare's motto: "I dare do all that may become a man; who dares do more is none." In the face of all these strikes the world over, the day is coming when the genteel man will not be the gentleman; but the gentleman will be first a man to do some useful work in the world and yet be gentle withal. To return to our topic, if the board will take up my idea, or, better still, if you, sir, will take it up, I will promise to join and do what an amateur can with those awkward tools I mention, or any others necessary, and at the same time continue to be

A SUBSCRIBER.

TH, MARCH 9, 1912
HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING SPORTS

The following is the programme of the High School swimming sports, to be held in the Pukekura Park lake on Thursday next, March 14:—

Senior Championship.—25yds, 50yds, 100yds, 220yds.

Junior Championship.—25yds, 50yds, 100yds.

Open Events.—50yds open, 100yds open, 100yds open, 25yds open, 200yds open, breast stroke 50yds, back stroke 25yds, long dive, neat dive, diving for plates, 15yds (new boys), relay race (gymnasium teams), crocodile race, pick-a-back race, old boys' race 100yds.

TH, APRIL 1, 1912
FUNDRAISING

EMPIRE THEATRE.

GOOD FRIDAY EVENING,
Commencing at 8 o'clock.

GRAND SACRED PICTURE
— ENTERTAINMENT —

In aid of the **PUKEKURA PARK FUNDS.**

NOTE.—In deference to the wishes of a number of intending patrons, it has been decided to delete from the programme the film entitled "The Life of Christ." The programme will consist of a very beautiful selection of appropriate pictures in harmony with the day and there will be nothing to offend the religious scruples of the most sensitive.

Prices: 1s and 6d.

a704

TH, APRIL 10, 1912
SLIPPERY PATHS

A correspondent who is at present on a visit to New Plymouth writes pointing out the somewhat dangerous nature of the footways in Pukekura Park after rain. He states that on Sunday last, owing to the slippery nature of the ground, several falls occurred, but fortunately muddy garments and mild scares were all that befel the unfortunates. "It seems a pity," continues our correspondent, "that such a favourite and beautiful resort should not be provided with footways that can be negotiated on moist as well as dry days."

TH, APRIL 12, 1912
GIFT OF KIWI

The Pukekura Park Board wish to acknowledge the gift of a kiwi from Mr. Marfell, of Toko.

TH, APRIL 26, 1912
TEA ROOMS UNDER NEW CONTROL

The Pukekura Park Board has placed the control of the tea rooms under new management, and tea in future will be provided every fine day from 11 a.m. until 4.30 p.m. Visitors, therefore, can always rely upon courteous attention to their requirements during these hours.

TH, MAY 7, 1912
GOVETT DONATION

The chairman of the Pukekura Park Board begs to acknowledge from Mr. C. W. Govett a donation of £10 to the board's funds.

TH, MAY 16, 1912
SMITH'S KIWI BREEDING

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator of Pukekura Park, has had under his care a number of kiwis including a couple of youngsters about twelve months old which he had reared. A few days ago Mr. Smith took a friend to see the kiwis and was astonished to find one of the youngsters dead. It had been attacked by a weasel evidently only a short time before Mr. Smith discovered it, because the flesh was still warm.

TDN, MAY 21, 1912

ANNUAL MEETING.

The weather militated against the attendance at the annual meeting of the Pukekura Park Board last night, in the Mayor's room, only eight members being present. Mr. Harris Ford was in the chair.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

Various matters of importance were touched upon by the chairman (Mr. Ford) in his annual review of the operations of the Board. In congratulating the Board upon its improved financial position, he remarked that it was wholly due to the splendid response by the public to its appeal in the shape of a Saturday collection, which realised £164 15s 6d. As a result a debit at the bank of £121 on April 1, 1911, had been converted into a credit of £34, at the end of twelve months, a marked contrast to the state of affairs which had prevailed for many years past. It was intended to carry out during the present winter a number of long contemplated improvements, including the laying out of a wider and better path (with suitable gates) from the Vogeltown entrance, with the financial assistance of Vogeltown residents, a general repairing of the works all through the Park, and the construction of a lawn or shrubbery on the site of the disused fish-rearing ponds. The reclaimed swamp near the tea-rooms would be converted into flower beds and a rosery, the plants for the latter being donated by one of the local townsmen who had on several previous occasions similarly assisted the Board by valuable anonymous gifts. Attention had been recently drawn to the untidy and badly kept condition of the Sports Grounds, and it was to be hoped that the committee in whose charge it was would see that the whole area was thoroughly cleaned up at an early date. Concluding, Mr. Ford expressed his obligations to both the curator (Mr. Smith) and the hon. secretary (Mr. Tribe) for their valuable aid in carrying out the Board's work.

The report was adopted, and Mr. Ford was heartily thanked for his services.

CURATOR'S REPORTS.

In a resume of the work done during the last twelve months, the curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) noted that over twelve months had been devoted to the general cleaning and keeping in order of the more important and most frequented parts of the Park. In April and May nearly two months were spent in mowing all the grass walks along the hillsides and around the valleys, and in weeding around the younger trees. The mildness of the previous winter and warmth of the summer following, with the plentiful and mild rains in the autumn, produced great growth of weeds, especially the native convolvulus. He had removed the small bridges between the island and the walk around it, but their removal did not prevent some unscrupulous person or persons from getting on the island and removing the plants, and taking cuttings from the rarer shrubs. All the native trees and tree-ferns planted on the banks along the extension of the upper lake at the head of the Park were making rapid growth. The extension was now quite a picturesque feature of the Park when viewed from Totara Hill, overlooking it. During the year several ladies and gentlemen had generously donated plants and seeds and various sums of money, with which to purchase others for the Park. Mr. Smith also drew attention to the great growth of the general vegetation in the Park. The caretaker also spoke of the possibility of having the valuable flag-staff erected in the sports ground. At present it was decaying on the ground.

Mr. Smith also submitted a report on the work done since the Board's official visit on March 10, in the course of which he stated that a considerable quantity of trees had been cut down on the city lake, leaving quite an unsightly sight. A fine tree along the Wadestown walk had also been cut down. He wished to emphasise to the Board that this was quite unwarrantable. Should such work continue to be permitted it would soon reduce the park to a wilderness. The Board members were, he felt sure, aware that there were many public parks rising with the many young towns of the Dominion, all earnestly striving to outdo each other in attractiveness and beauty. Nothing, therefore, but continuous and extensive planting of the best trees and ferns would enable Pukekura Park to maintain its premier position and world-wide reputation as the most beautiful in Australasia. Should any future work be authorised by the Board he asked that he should be advised before it was undertaken.

Votes of thanks were accorded donors of money and kind, and to Mr. Saunders, of the Empire Picture Theatre, for giving a benefit entertainment in aid of the Board's funds.

THE FINANCES.

The statement of finances disclosed that during the year donations had increased by £32, the receipts from the donation boxes in the Park being 16s, while the annual subscriptions had dropped by £7. At the present there was a credit balance of £30 11s 9d, which amount would be increased next month by £37, representing subsidy due from the Borough Council.

In view of the small attendance, the meeting adjourned for a month.

TH, MAY 21, 1912
A.G.M CURATOR'S REPORT

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) submitted a general summary of the work completed in the park during the last twelve months. On carefully examining his diary he noted that over eight months were devoted to the general cleaning and keeping in order the more important and most frequented parts of the park. In April and May they spent nearly the two months in mowing all the grass walks along the hill sides and around the valleys, and in weeding around the younger trees. The mildness of the previous winter and warmth of the summer following, with the plentiful and mild rains in the autumn, produced great growth of weeds, more especially the native convolvulus, which climbed over and injured nearly all vegetation unless it was vigorously suppressed. The first week in June was devoted to cleaning and planting ferns on the large island at the head of the large lake. They were procured with other native trees and shrubs from Ratapihipihi bush by permission of the Commissioner of Crown Lands: Fifteen young horse-shoe ferns were procured at the Whitecliffs. Of these, he regretted to say, twelve had been removed from the island. Other young plants of this beautiful fern growing in other parts of the park had also been removed. The various plants remaining on the island comprised thirty-seven species of native ferns. They continued to make vigorous growth, and were becoming typical specimens. They had now removed the small bridges between the island and the walk around it, but their removal did not prevent some unscrupulous person or persons from getting on the island and removing the plants and taking cuttings from the rarer shrubs. Nearly a week was occupied in making the rose-bed and in enlarging the two beds of native plants and carting soil thereto near the peacock house. The rose plants had grown and bloomed with exceptional vigour. They had given a few hours occasionally to making the new and larger bed near the tea rooms. When completed the plants will be removed to it and added to six dozen new plants presented to the board. He proposed to make the old bed one of ornamental foliaged plants, which should do alike well in the sheltered aspect and in the deep and specially prepared soil. In the month of July a private gentleman had paid the expenses of hiring a cart to enable them to proceed to Ratapihipihi to procure young plants for the park. They procured about 300 plants of various ages, and comprising about forty species. The larger plants were planted on the slopes and in the bush, whilst the seedlings were still in the nursery. The latter had grown well, and were now available for planting during the coming winter months. All the native trees and tree-ferns planted on the banks along the extension of the upper lake at the head of the park were making rapid growth. The extension was now quite a picturesque feature of the park when viewed from Totara hill overlooking it. The 280 young tree-ferns, comprising four species, planted in all parts of the park during last winter, had all more or less also grown well. During the year several ladies and gentlemen had generously donated plants and seeds and various sums of money with which to purchase others for the park. Mr. Raby, of Rerekapa, and his

two young brothers, had been most assiduous in this respect. Mr. Petrie, of Auckland, and Mr. Fenwick, of Dunedin, had recently donated rare native plants, which were not hitherto in the park collection. In October Mr. Beale generously took several of the notice boards to his home and painted them afresh. He had received a sackful of mixed bulbs from some unknown donor. There were two matters which he desired to report to the board—one an unpleasant one, the other a very pleasant feature of the park's progress. First, he referred to a number of visitors who continued to bring dogs to the park. Dogs were at all times a serious menace to the well-being and tameness of the water fowl. Of the latter they had now 4½ dozen healthy birds. Secondly, he would mention the great growth of the general vegetation in the park. Owing to the two late humid and mild winters in succession, with the late cool summer, the growth of all classes of plants had been quite phenomenal. He again asked if there was no possibility of having the valuable flag-staff erected in the sports ground. It was decaying lying where it was at present, and required painting. With the board's permission he would personally thank the numerous ladies and gentlemen who had assisted him with donations of plants, seeds, and sums of money to enhance the beauty of the park and assist in its progress during the last twelve months.

TDN, MAY 21, 1912
PARK CONSIDERING TAKING
SPORTS GROUND BACK UNDER
THEIR CONTROL

The regrettable state of the recreation reserve in Pukekura Park, which is under the control of the Sports Committee, was referred to at a meeting of the Park Board last evening. The subject was broached by Mr. R. C. Hughes, who said that for some time past he had felt that the committee had lost its usual energy. He added that its funds had been lessened by some of the principal football matches being held at other places. "It seems," he remarked, "that we cannot go on as at present. The grounds are in a bad state and the rent is about £50 in arrears." He therefore suggested that a committee should be set up to consider the question of the Board resuming possession of the ground, in order to "make something out of it." In this connection, he recalled how, when the control diverted from the Board, the ground was paying its way. Members, while unanimous that the ground was sadly out of order, were inclined to the opinion that the Sports Committee should be given an opportunity of improving its finances. At the same time the Board held that it was imperative that something should be done immediately, otherwise in a couple of years there would be no grounds left. It was estimated that at the present time it would cost fully £100 to level and top-dress the ground. Mention was also made of the neglected state of the terraces. Under the circumstances Mr. Hughes, who, in common with other members, was entirely sympathetic with the committee in its position, agreed not to press his suggestion. Eventually members delegated Mr. H. Ford to interview the committee, with a view to deciding upon some line of action at the next meeting of the board.

TH, MAY 21, 1912
PLANT DONATIONS

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator of Pukekura Park, reported that during the last two months he had received packages of native plants new to the Park from Mr. George Fenwick (of Dunedin), from Mr. Corkill, and from three anonymous donors. The latter packages came from Te Kuiti, Feilding, and Urenui respectively. These had been planted in several parts of the Park, together with 100 young tree ferns and 150 young puriri trees a year old. They had also planted a large quantity of nikau and karaka seeds in the bush and under the pine trees to restore the bush in the latter case. Hearty votes of thanks were accorded the various donors mentioned in the curator's report, and also to Mr. C. D. Husband, of Raglan, who had forwarded a specimen of rare dwarf flax from the Karioi Mountain, and to Mr. T. Falconer, of Kaipikari, for a nice lot of paratawhiti ferns.

TH, MAY 21, 1912
UNAUTHORISED TREE CUTTING

In a report to the Pukekura Park Board on Monday night Mr. Smith, custodian, asked if the board had lately authorised anyone to cut down and remove trees from the Park. Someone had cut down the only tree—a fine young one of about 15ft, high—of *Pinus Jeffreyi* on the side of the Vogelstown walk. It grew 4ft. back from the walk and was the only one of these fine ornamental pines in the Park. A considerable quantity of *Karamus* and *Benthamias* were also cut down near the lily lake, leaving quite an unsightly gap. Such work he would emphasise as quite unwarrantable, and should such a state of things continue to be permitted it would soon reduce the Park to a wilderness. The board members, he felt sure, were aware that there were many public parks rising in the many young towns of the Dominion, all earnestly striving to outdo each other in attractiveness and beauty. Nothing, therefore, but continuous and extensive planting of the best native trees and ferns will enable Pukekura Park to maintain its premier position and world-wide reputation as the most beautiful in Australasia. Should any future work be authorised by the board he asked that he should be advised before it was undertaken. It transpired that the *Karamus* had been cut down by one of the members of the board, who explained the reason for his action. This, however, did not appear to meet with the approval of other members, who were evidently of opinion that the curator's duties should not be interfered with in this manner. No explanation was forthcoming concerning the specimen pine, and it was agreed that the police be asked to use every endeavour to trace the person responsible, with a view to proceedings being taken.

TDN, MAY 21, 1912
WATER-FOWL IN THE PARK

Dogs in parks, churches, and other public places are not to be tolerated, but both the canines and many of their owners fail to realise this fact. In a report to the Pukekura Park Board last night, the curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) referred to the number of visitors who continued to bring dogs into the park. Dogs were at all times a serious menace to the well-being and tameness of the water-fowl, of which there are now 54.

THE PARK BOARD'S STRICTURES.

SPORTS COMMITTEE ON THE DEFENCE.

At its last meeting, the Pukekura Park Board took the sports committee to task, alleging that the Sports (or Recreation) Ground was in a lamentable position, through neglect on that body's part. According to one member, the committee had lost its wonted energy. Another thorn in the side of the Board appeared to be that the rent payable by the committee was £50 in arrears. The committee, a purely voluntary body, resents these strictures, and its statement of the case puts another complexion on the state of affairs.

"BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE."

Yesterday, a News reporter questioned Mr J. Clarke, secretary of the committee, on the subject. Mr. Clarke was emphatic that the Board was barking up the wrong tree, and he added that there were several factors to be taken into consideration. The foremost was the state of the ground—if it could be called such—when the committee took it in hand. Matters, he said, were brought to a head as the result of the English representative football match which was played on the ground in 1904. At that time the reserve was often almost knee deep in mud. Combined with this, was the knowledge that the Rugby Union had tacitly decided not to play any more matches on the ground, until it was brought into line with the requirements of Rugby. The outcome was a conference of sports bodies, which ultimately gave birth to the Sports Committee.

WHAT THE COMMITTEE HAS DONE.

Mr Clarke here went on to say that the Park Board appeared to have entirely overlooked the fact that, since its inception, the committee had expended over £2000 in improving, or, rather, making, the ground. It had enlarged the ground by half a chain all round, and constructed terraces, a work of no small magnitude. When it first leased the ground there were practically no terraces, or at least those in existence provided accommodation for only about 200 persons. With the advent of the committee, however, terraces had been formed, which would seat 2000 spectators. Under the terms of the lease, the committee was bound to spend £1400 on improvements. It had gone further than this, however, and had exceeded the stipulated amount by fully £600. Furthermore, by carrying out surface work by day labor instead of by contract, it had effected a clear saving of £300. Touching on another point, Mr Clarke explained what was keeping the committee back now was the fact that it was saddled with a loan of £400, payable to the New Zealand Rugby Union. Already £200 of the loan had been paid off in yearly instalments of £50, and by the end of the present football season the debt would be further reduced to £150.

REVENUE NOT TO BLAME.

The trouble did not lie in the fact, as some people imagined, that there had been a falling off in revenue. It had not depreciated to any great degree. As a matter of fact, the Park Board only used to average about £80 a year, whereas the ground was bringing in about £93 to the sports committee. The position was, however, that the bulk of the revenue had to meet interest and rent charges. Taking last year's balance-sheet, he pointed out that out of a revenue of £104, £60 7s 1d had been swallowed up by repayment of loan and interest to the Rugby Union, and £25 went in rent. The result was that only £18 6s 6d could be spent on up-keep. The security held by the Union for its loan of £400, comprised a £20 guarantee by each of twenty citizens. Under the circumstances, the committee looked upon it as its duty to those public-spirited individuals to make the repayment of the loan the first call upon its funds.

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.

Once the debt was paid off, the committee would, without an increase in revenue, be able to expend £1 a week more on the up-keep of the ground than its finances at present permitted. With a view to tidying over its present difficulties, the committee intended to endeavor to make New Plymouth and its recreation grounds the place of venue of the second grade band contest, next Christmas. Continuing, Mr Clark remarked that the committee would willingly go out of office to-morrow but for the fact that the whole of the loan was yet to be paid off. It had, indeed, more than once discussed, the question of handing back the ground to the board, but members had come to the conclusion that before such a step was taken the debt would have to be wiped off. In view of the fact that three or four representative Rugby games were to be played at New Plymouth this year, the arrears in rent did not trouble the committee. Concluding, Mr Clarke said that it must be apparent to all that, with its chronic state of impecuniosity the Park Board would never have been able to spend £2000 on improving the ground. For the present, he had no fears as to the future.

TDN, JUNE 3, 1912

MOVIE ABOUT PARK

THE EMPIRE PICTURES.

The term musical, as well as moving, might well be applied to the pictures screened at the Empire Theatre. With the ever improving quality of the films submitted at this popular place of amusement, the instrumental music has by no means been permitted to lag behind. On the occasion of Saturday night's bi-weekly change of programme the music was an entertainment in itself, one selection in particular, "The Lost Chord," which was played as an overture to the second half, quite taking the audience by storm. Foremost among the films was a local production portraying the many scenic wonders of the New Plymouth Recreation Grounds. All local residents are familiar with the beauties of Pukekura Park, but few have the opportunity of such a minute and de-

tailed exploration of its resources as that afforded by the cinematograph film in question. If put on in other towns in the Dominion the picture should prove a big advertisement of New Plymouth's superb garden. The supporting films comprised a varied collection, and included four dramas of more than ordinary interest. The photographic effects in one of these, "The Little Widow," were such as would almost seem to be beyond the range of the camera, involving, as they did, a realistic shipwreck and the perils of a raft bearing the sole survivors. "The Little Widow" has also a powerful, though not too far fetched, vein of sentiment running through it. A typical "Wild West" story was unfolded in "The Ranchmen's Daughter," while "The Maid at the Helm" provided much food for reflection. "Climbing the Ray" was an excellent travel study, and in addition there was the usual leaven of comics, all up to standard.

TDN, JUNE 25, 1912

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met last evening. The members present were the chairman (Mr. Harris Ford) and Messrs. C. W. Govett, Percy Smith, Corkill, G. W. Browne, R. C. Hughes, F. Jackson, Cock, W. Ambury and Newman.

The chairman reported that he had interviewed the Sports Committee with reference to putting certain repairs in hand. Matters, he stated, had been amicably explained. The roadway into the grounds had been properly formed, the hedges had been cut, and the committee was still continuing in the work of cleaning up the grounds. In answer to a member, Mr. Ford said that no mention had been made of the back rent.

It was decided to ask the Borough Council to give the Board the temporary use of its employees for the purpose of gravelling certain of the paths. The gravel has already been provided.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The report of the curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) mentioned that about five days would complete the cutting down of the rank growth of brush wattles growing around the upper side of the new lake in the tea-rooms valley, which work would finish all that directed by the Board three months ago. The staff had been considerably hindered in the progress of the work by wet and stormy weather during the month. A month ago he put in the steps at the back of the Cannon Hill, and had slightly altered the grade of the walk leading up from the top of the steps, and also that around the back of the hill. The pondweed growing on the bottom of the lower lake had been removed, and portions of the upper lake, where the weed was now appearing in considerable patches, would be similarly treated. During the month an anonymous lady or gentleman had sent a small bundle of native trees to the park, which had been planted in the native bush.

The secretary reported that the Board at present had a credit-balance at the bank of £41 8s 3d.

Mr. C. W. Govett was last night appointed chairman of the Pukekura Park Board. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the retiring chairman (Mr. Harris Ford) for the very keen interest he had displayed in the welfare of the grounds during his term of office. Messrs. Percy Smith, Cook and Newman were appointed an executive committee to act with the chairman in dealing with any urgent business.

Mr. E. L. Tribe has resigned from the secretaryship of the Pukekura Park Board. At last night's meeting of that body a motion was passed making Mr. Tribe a life member, and to the effect that his valuable services in the past were worthy of commemoration. It was decided to ask Mr. C. H. Drew, who at one time was secretary of the Wanganui Beautifying Society, or some cognate association, to fill the vacancy.

TDN, JUNE 25, 1912
DEATH OF PEACOCK

The death of the peacock at Pukekura Park was reported by the curator to the Board last evening. It was undergoing a severe moult, which it could not overcome. He had written to two gentlemen with a view to securing another bird, as the peacock was always an attraction to young visitors to the park. All the aquatic fowl were in an excellent condition at present.

TDN, JUNE 31, 1912
BOARD TO APPOINT AN INSPECTOR

Under section 10 of the Taranaki Botanic Garden Act the Pukekura Park Board has power to make by-laws for the safety and preservation of the grounds and the conduct of visitors. In a letter to the Borough Council pointing out this fact, Mr. C. W. Govett (chairman of the Board) remarks that it is notorious that for some years past the by-laws have not been properly observed, and the whole community has suffered in consequence. The Board considers, he adds, that if some person like Mr. B. Tippins (the borough inspector) was appointed few offences would be committed and the offenders would probably be discovered and dealt with. He had seen Mr. Tippins, who has expressed his willingness to act as inspector on behalf of the Board, without remuneration, provided the Council will give its consent to the appointment. In asking the Council to agree to the appointment, Mr. Govett points out that the grounds are the property of the public and may possibly, at some future time, be vested in the Council.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—May I again solicit a generous favour from you by granting me space in the widely and far circulating Budget to make inquiries from your numerous readers in Taranaki on certain important phases of the kiwi's nesting habits. For several years I have been experimenting with a number of these remarkable birds living in captivity. But, although I have had excellent results on the lines I have worked with the several birds I have experimented with, I have, up to the present, found it extremely difficult to make them lay and hatch their eggs in captivity. The difficulty is probably due in some measure to the lack of certain foods which they obtain in their wild state being lacking in foods supplied to them in confinement. Apart from this being perhaps the primary cause, the next is the difficulty of mating them. The female kiwi is generally a haughty and tyrannical lady, at least in private retirement, and does not readily cotton to suitors. I have introduced three different but handsome males in three weeks to a fine female which I possess. In each case no sooner did she leave her place of concealment in the evening than she, like Bluebeard, "smelled flesh in the house," and proceeded to find it. When found she would raise her body and neck, not very gracefully, to their full height and growl and snap her long bill fiercely, meanwhile vigorously kicking her would-be suitors around her compartment. But when she made love and nested and laid the huge eggs, the male took a turn at the kicking and kicked her off the nest and took possession of the eggs, and earnestly set to work hatching them. Here again we have a curious anomaly in bird life. In hatching the eggs he sat across them with his long bill inserted an inch into the soil to steady himself. This is apparently a fairer or more equal division of labour than that practised by many other species of birds. The kiwi, indeed, in every conceivable phase of its being and existence is the greatest feathered anomaly and ornithological problem the world has ever known. Being strictly nocturnal in its habits, it is somewhat difficult to fully work out and elucidate each phase of its nature under artificial conditions. I have, however, obtained good results by using a dim artificial light in their house when the birds were feeding and otherwise active during the evening. Many of their tactics are not merely anomalous, they are grotesque and comical. But much remains to be done to fully elucidate the habits of the kiwi in its native state. In the multitude of earnest settlers and bushmen there must be much wisdom gained by observation respecting the kiwi in Taranaki. To those who have been fortunate enough to meet with kiwis in the undermentioned circumstances, I should feel extremely grateful to them were they to kindly afford me any information regarding the following queries:—In what month have kiwis' nests containing eggs been met with? How many eggs were in each nest? In what site or sites were the nests located? In what month have young kiwis of any age with or without their parents been met with? At what altitude on any of the ranges in Taranaki have kiwis been heard or seen? Any information as nearly precise as possible I may receive from any of the kindly settlers, bushmen, or their children about these queries would be gratefully and promptly acknowledged.—I am, etc.,

W. W. SMITH

New Plymouth.

MONTHLY MEETING.

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last evening in the Municipal buildings. The president (Mr. C. W. Govett) was in the chair, and other members present were: Messrs. F. Jackson, Harris Ford, F. P. Corkill, R. C. Hughes, and Newman.

The Borough Council intimated its willingness to allow Inspector Tippins to act as honorary inspector to the board, his duties to the borough, however, to remain his first care.

The board passed a motion accepting Mr. Tippins' services, and instructing him to prosecute all persons for breaches of any of the by-laws, excepting that relating to the prohibition of any vehicle within the confines of the park, excepting perambulators and bath chairs.

It was decided to give public notice of the appointment of Mr. Tippins, so as, as the chairman put it, to let them know "that he is on the war-path." A week after the publication of the notice all breaches of the by-laws will be strictly enforced.

The board decided to accept with thanks the offer of Messrs. Brooks and Roebuck to erect a chimney to the tea-house without charge, except for materials, the place of the chimney to be approved by Mr. G. W. Browne.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

In his monthly report, the curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) stated that although the past month had been again unfavorable, he had, nevertheless, made better progress than during any month of the past winter. A week was devoted to the general cleaning of the slopes and walks, which were much worse than usual owing to the prevalence of high winds and heavy rains. Part of the month had been taken up in removing pipes and cleaning the fish-races. It was also found necessary to open the deep drain leading from the upper lake to the artificial waterfall, and to remove the weeds choking it, so as to obtain a better flow of water. This work was only partially finished, but would be completed when the mowing, grubbing, and burning in the valley, and planting the rose-bed were finished. Mr. Upjohn, of Alfred road, had presented the board with a package of native plants for the park, all very carefully dug up. They had been planted on sites where they were most required. An anonymous lady had also sent a box of daffodil and narcissus bulbs, all of which had been planted in suitable places. Notwithstanding the strong winds of the past month, there had been no damage done to the trees or general vegetation in the park.

On the recommendation of the curator, it was decided to retain the services of the temporary assistant for another two weeks.

The board passed a motion heartily thanking donators of trees and bulbs, etc.

TDN, AUGUST 6, 1912
DOGS KILLING BIRDS IN PARK

It is apparently a risky thing to bestow praise on dogs. At a recent meeting of the Pukekura Park Board canine visitors to the park were being severely "keel-hauled" on account of their destructive tendencies, when an interjecting member put in a good word for them, stating that they had accounted for more than one ferret and sundry rats. This was several weeks ago, and it now appears that the canines were the recipients of misguided sympathy. It was reported to the board last night that during the last month dogs had burst through the wire-netting and demolished three guinea fowls and partially accounted for a pea hen.

TH, AUGUST 7, 1912
PETER MADSEN BEQUEST

The Pukekura Park Board wishes to acknowledge a donation of £25 from the estate of the late Peter Madsen.

TH, AUGUST 14, 1912
INSPECTOR APPOINTED

PUKEKURA PARK.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Board of Trustees for Public Recreation have appointed Mr. Benjamin Tippins Inspector with instructions to enforce by-laws and provisions of the Taranaki Botanic Garden Act, 1876.

C. H. DREW, Hon. Sec.,
d250 Pukekura Park Board.

TH, SEPTEMBER 4, 1912
TEA ROOMS OPEN ALL DAY

Arrangements have now been made to have the refreshments rooms in Pukekura Park open all day, weather permitting. Soup, tea and light refreshments will always be obtainable.

TDN, SEPTEMBER 11, 1912
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the above Board was held in the Council Chambers last evening, when there were present: Messrs C. W. Govett (in the chair), G. W. Browne, F. P. Corkill, H. H. Ford, W. L. Newman, R. C. Hughes and C. H. Drew (secretary). Apologies were received from Messrs S. Percy Smith and W. Anbury.

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator to the Board, submitted the following report:—"I am pleased to be able to report that the last month has been the most favorable since March for making progress with the work in the Park. The mowing of the rough grass and grubbing of the gorse on the hills and in the valleys have now been completed. Half a day will finish the work of burning the rubbish, when the Park should be comparatively free from the danger of fire during the approaching summer. Since completing the mowing and grubbing, the work has been chiefly that of planting

and general cleaning. The rose bed is now fully planted, and the terrace around it has been sown in lawn grass, which is germinating perfectly. Some valuable donations have been received at the Park on behalf of the Board during the month. From Mrs. Brasch, of Ratanui, I received a collection of primulas and polyanthus; from Mr. John Wheeler, of Inglewood, a collection of native plants, also three seven-foot standard weeping ash trees. The same gentleman has also deposited a fine peacock in the Park. Mr. Sandford presented a collection of native plants and one hundred plant labels. A private gentleman presented five dozen rose plants; Mr. Venton, of Moturoa, sent half-a-dozen roses and the Morshead Nursery Co. two dozen, all for the new enlarged rose-bed. Mr. Mace sent one dozen mixed plants, and Mr. Layard, of Pungarehu, forwarded free a large collection of mixed plants. An anonymous donor also presented a collection of fine young native plants. All the native and mixed plants have been planted in suitable places, and should do well after the present seasonable weather. I would like to remark that these donations all form valuable and acceptable additions to the Park. I again regret to report that the Park is not yet free from the visits of flower stealers and dogs. Both have been more or less a nuisance during the past month."

It was resolved that the secretary be instructed to write thanking the donors of plants.

A letter was read from Mrs. A. Cory, in which she thanked the Board for the erection of the new fireplace in the tea-rooms, and stated that she already found it a great improvement. She would like to get the Board's permission to have a visitor's book kept at the tea-rooms. She would also like the interior of the tea-rooms painted, at her own expense.—It was decided to procure a visitors' book, to be kept at the tea-rooms, and that the Board gladly consents to Mrs. Cory having the interior of the tea-rooms painted if she cared to do so.

Mr. Tamiti Whanganui, on behalf of the Taihauru Sports Committee, of Bell Block, wrote stating that it was the intention of his committee to hold a sports gathering in the Recreation Grounds on December 19 next, and that they wished to have a canoe race on the lake. They had already obtained the permission of the Sports Committee to hold their sports on the football ground, and now awaited the sanction of the Park Board to hold the canoe race on the lake, and his committee asked for an early reply, in order to get the canoes ready.—It was resolved that the Board grant permission to hold a canoe race on the lake, subject to the following conditions:—That a charge of 20 per cent. of the gross amount of the gate money be made for the use of the Sports Ground and the lake, and that the Maori Sports Committee be distinctly informed that in no case will anyone be allowed to land on the islands on the lake. The Board appointed Messrs. C. W. Govett and W. L. Newman to act as a sub-committee for the purpose of dividing the 20 per cent. fees equally between the Sports Committee and the Pukekura Park Board.

After considerable discussion, Mr. Hughes' motion, "That members who were in arrears on September 1 be asked for the subscriptions," was adjourned to next meeting.

TDN, OCTOBER 8, 1912
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

Last night's meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was attended by the chairman (Mr. C. W. Govett) and Messrs. C. H. Drew (secretary), S. Percy Smith, H. O. Ford, F. P. Corkill, W. Newman, R. Cock, F. Jackson, G. W. Browne and R. C. Hughes.

At the last meeting of the Board the question was raised as to whether the borough subsidy to the Park would pass the Government Auditor. Since then the chairman had written to the Hon. O. Samuel acquainting him with the position, and he handed the meeting a lengthy reply received from that gentleman. In it he pointed out that as an alternative to a direct contribution to the general funds of the Board, the borough had power, under the Act, to expend any portion of the district fund in planting and tending trees, shrubs or other plant on any lands not belonging to private owners, or in any manner for encouraging such planting." As a result, however, of Mr. Samuel's intervention with the Audit Department in Wellington, all fear as to the withholding of the subsidy has been removed, the district auditor having waived his objection.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that the chief work of the Park staff during September had been the mowing of rough grass, general cleaning, trimming trees, and planting native plants. They were at work grubbing up the dense growth of young oaks and sycamores on the steep slope extending from the tunnels to the Carrington road entrance. He had sufficient young native plants and tree-ferns to plant in with good effect. As directed, old trees had been given to four applicants, who had then removed them. During the month two packages of native trees were received from an unknown donor. Mr. Nicholson, jun., formerly of New Plymouth, but now of Maryborough, Queensland, had sent five fine packets of Australian plant and tree seeds. Mr. Sandford had been good enough to repair some of the iron seats, and had presented some more plant labels. Quite recently some unscrupulous individual had cut down and removed a nice young lancewood tree, 10 feet high, which was growing at the back of the Racecourse. It was the third one destroyed during the last two years.

The report was adopted, and it was decided to write thanking the various donors of shrubs and the like.

After considerable discussion it was decided, on the motion of Mr. Hughes, that the annual subscription for the current year be payable on and after January 1 in every year. Mr. Hughes was appointed to represent the Board to make arrangements with the ladies for the collection of the annual subscriptions and the "Park Saturday" collection.

The statement of finances showed a debit balance of £4 4s 8d.

Mr. Percy Smith was appointed a visitor to the Park for the month.

TDN, OCTOBER 23, 1912
DIVING BOARD REMOVED

The bathing season in the Recreation Ground has opened. Bathers regret the removal of the spring board, and hope in the interests of cleanliness, which is next to Godliness, that it will be replaced. The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) is busy catching eels in the lake by means of a Maori eel-basket. This will be good news for the ducklings.

TDN, NOVEMBER 5, 1912
KING FERN DONATION

The Pukekura Park Board has secured a number of fine specimens of the Para Tawhiti, commonly known as the horse-shoe fern. Mr. S. Percy-Smith says that this species of fern was probably introduced to New Zealand by the natives who migrated here. They were, he thinks, originally called "Para," at Tawhiti, but were designated Para Tawhiti in New Zealand, meaning "the Para of Tawhiti." This particular fern is fast becoming extinct, and the board thought it would be wise to secure some specimens before it completely died out. At its meeting last night a vote of thanks was accorded Messrs. Sole Bros., who secured the ferns from the natives.

TDN, NOVEMBER 1, 1912
NEW PATH

The Pukekura Park Board has decided to make a new path from the Vogeltown entrance to the foot-bridge and thence across to the racecourse for the residents of Vogeltown and district. Extra labor to carry out the work is to be put on at once.

TH, NOVEMBER 19, 1912
PINUS HALEPENSIS

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—I was very much pleased to read in the Budget of Saturday last an extract from the Horowhenua Chronicle and Mr. W. W. Smith's (caretaker of our Pukekura Park) information on the pine known as the pinus halepensis. Over thirty years since I was advised to plant this variety of pine as being the best for timber purposes. So I planted some on a very elevated and poor situation, and consequently these trees are not such good specimens to-day as I should like to see. About the same time some were planted in Pukekura Park, and they are now splendid specimens, fit for milling. I should advise many of our farmers who own what I call broken lands, covered with fern, gorse, and blackberry, to pay a visit to our beautiful park and see for themselves what wealth there would be in thirty years' time if they were to grow a few acres of trees of this kind, that are truly ornamental as well as useful. The trees I speak of may be seen near the walk on the Carrington Road entrance. I am, etc. W. B. DAVIES.

TH, DECEMBER 3, 1912
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Monday evening. Present: Messrs. C. W. Govett (in the chair), W. L. Newman, R. C. Hughes, G. W. Browne, and the secretary (C. H. Drew).

CURATOR'S REPORT.

Mr. W. W. Smith reported that the work of the staff during the last two months had been chiefly mowing grass, grubbing fennel, and clearing up and burning rubbish. Five days were devoted to mowing the pond weed in the big lake, the weed being very aggressive this season. As directed at the board's last meeting held in the park, he had engaged a man to form the new walk leading from the Vogeltown entrance down to the head of the lake, thence from the upper bridge over the hill to the racecourse gate. The work had been completed, excepting the forming of a little track across the lower end of the large island at the head of the lakes. The latter work would be completed this week, when they would undertake the cutting down of the pine trees overlooking the lake, as also directed by the board.

CORRESPONDENCE.

J. Clarke, secretary of the Recreation Sports Ground Committee, wrote re the adjustment of charges for the Maori Sports on December 19, suggesting that his committee pay the board the full 20 per cent., but that the equivalent of this amount be deducted from the rent now owing by them to the board. This would reduce the indebtedness of the committee to the board.—It was resolved that the Sports Committee's request be adopted, provided that they collect the money.

W. Russell Blow, tourist agent at Rotorua, wrote that he was desirous of obtaining a pair of white swans for the Rotorua Gardens, and asking if a pair could be obtained and at what price. The letter was addressed to the Borough Council, and was handed on by the town clerk to the board.—The secretary was instructed to reply that no swans were available.

GENERAL.

Mr. R. Cock was elected visitor to the park for the ensuing month.

An anonymous donor sent, per Mr. W. W. Smith, the sum of one guinea towards the Park Board's funds.

An offer was received from Cooper Bros. to paint the tea-house in the park, both inside and outside, free of charge, with their newly patented paint. The offer was accepted with thanks.

Accounts to the amount of 9s were passed for payment.

TDN, DECEMBER 27, 1912
MOVIE IN THE PARK

There was an attendance of over one thousand at the grand picture entertainment held in the Recreation Ground last night in aid of the Garrison Band and Sports Ground Committee. A splendid programme of pictures was submitted, and variety was lent to the scene by selections from the Garrison Band. A distinctly popular feature with the children was the visit of Santa Claus, who certainly advances with the times, as he came in a smart motor car, and each youngster was made glad with a toy. The committee wish to tender thanks to Father Christmas and also to the public for generous support.

TDN, DECEMBER 17, 1912

TAI-HAU-AURU MAORI SPORTS CLUB

MAORI CARNIVAL AND ATHLETIC
MAORI CARNIVAL AND ATHLETIC
MAORI CARNIVAL AND ATHLETIC

SPORTS.
SPORTS.
SPORTS.

RECREATION SPORTS GROUND.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19.

CYCLING (OPEN)

RUNNING (OPEN)

MAORI CANOE RACES.

MAORI WAR DANCE COMPETITIONS.

MAORI POI DANCE COMPETITIONS.

MAORI POTATO-PEELING EVENTS.

EVENTS FOR CHILDREN.

A NOVEL AMUSEMENT.

See Posters for Programme.
Handicapper: A. Hansen.

TH, DECEMBER 17, 1912
REPAIRING TEA HOUSE

Messrs. Cooper Bros., patentees of Cooper's patent paint, have very generously painted the tea-rooms and bathing shed in Pukekura Park as a donation to the park. The buildings look decidedly better for their new coat and show what a good surface this paint has.



The Poet's Bridge - circa 1910 (Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections 35-R879)

1913

The Park was now operating in the black instead of the red which was a massive relief for the Board. Throughout the year the Board received many donations of plants and birds for which the curator was thankful for. The main body of work comprised improving walkways and general gardening, cutting grass, weeding, etc.

A new path allowing people to walk from Vogeltown to the racecourse was completed.

Manhattan Island, which had previously had its bridges removed was again opened to the public. The area on the island where the ferns were planted was isolated with wire fencing.

Five pine trees were cut down near the curator's cottage as they were deemed dangerous, and six above the western terrace in the Sports Ground were removed to give more light to the cricketers.

Right: The *Taranaki Herald* often printed articles from fifty years earlier. In 1913 they printed an article that had appeared in the Herald in 1863. At that time on top of the hill above where the Japanese Garden is presently planted sat Carrington Road Blockhouse. This was part of a ring of blockhouses built to protect the town. During the night, sentries were posted down in the valley behind where the western terrace of the Sports ground is today. One evening, two sentries were down in the valley and it did not turn out too well. The report of the incident was published in the *Taranaki Herald* on May 24, 1913. The location of the incident is known because it is marked on a map created by W. H. Skinner. (Puke Ariki ARC2005-115).

An unfortunate accident occurred last night to one of the sentries near Carrington Road blockhouse. Two militiamen, named Ward and Wolfe were posted as a double sentry in a certain spot. Wolfe asked his comrade to hold his rifle while he went a short distance away. After a short time had elapsed, Ward saw a person coming towards him in a different direction to which Wolfe had gone, and seeing Wolfe's coat thrown over a fern bush, went to it and said, "Wolfe, here's your rifle, take it, quick," at the same time challenging the person coming towards him, who did not answer, when Ward raised his rifle, which, instead of hitting a Maori (as no doubt Ward expected) severely wounded Wolfe, who was hurrying up to get his gun on hearing his comrade challenging. The bullet went through Wolfe's wrist and grazed his hip bone. He was promptly attended to by Dr. Spence, who was immediately sent for by the guard, which turned out on hearing the report of the rifle, and the doctor hopes to save his hand.

Donations included:

Mr Feek, Uruti, a male kiwi; Mr J. W. Martin, Brooklands Road and Mr C. Rumball, Urenui, female kiwis; Miss Graham, Onaero, four dove pigeons; Mr Taylor White, Wimbledon and Mrs. Butcher, Te Kuiti, hybrid teal ducks.

Plant donations included:

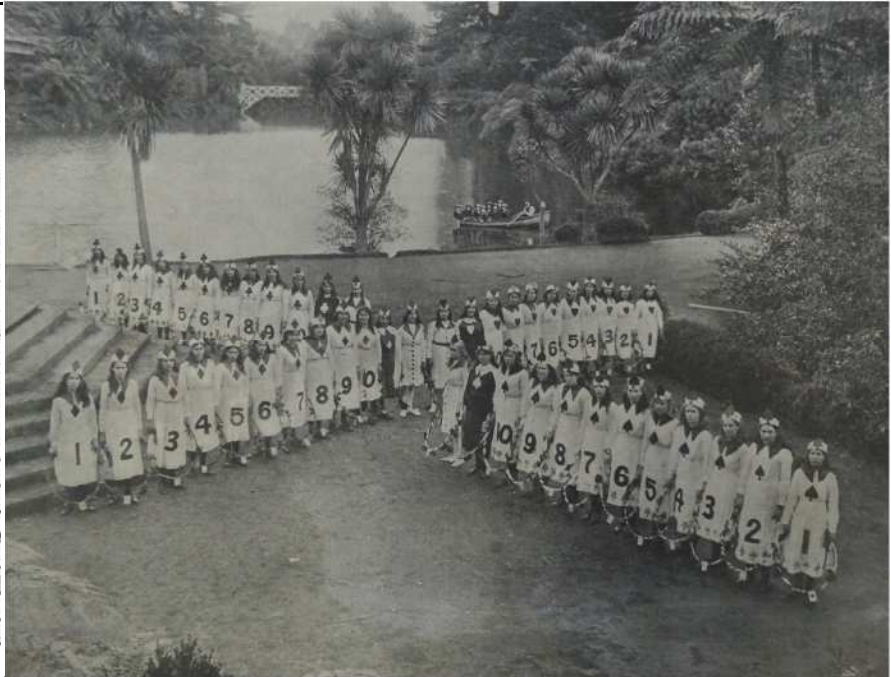
Mr H. Nicholson, of Maryborough, a package of Queensland plant seed; Mr. O. Hoby, a variety of seeds of African plants and flowering shrubs which he procured from the curator of the public gardens, Bulawayo, South Rhodesia; Several packets of native plant seeds from Tologa Bay; Mr A. D. Beauchamp, Hurworth, a good collection of native plants; Mr Wm. Arthur, package of young native trees from Mokau; Mrs Bloxam, Napier, a package of native tree seedlings; Professor W. D. Westervelt, Honolulu, a package of seeds; C. E. Bellringer, nikau palms; Mr Bert McEwen, purple lilac plants; Miss Devenish, Japanese bulbs and Guernsey lilies; Duncan & Davies, 100 rambling roses; Mr K. C. Webster, tropical plant seeds from Honolulu; Mr C. Goodson, Hawera, a large collection of delphiniums.

Summary of significant events

- Cutting down of some pine trees
- C. W. Govett resigned as chairman because he was due to leave for England for a vacation. He was replaced by W. L. Newman.
- A visit by Sir Rider Haggard.

TH, AUGUST 2, 1913 GIRLS HIGH REHEARSAL

The pupils of the Girls' High School gave an excellent concert in the Theatre Royal on Wednesday evening, and had a packed house. During the first half of the programme various choruses and songs were given, and one of the most enjoyable items was "Fifteen minutes with the human pack of cards," when 52 girls suitably dressed went through the many movements with great accuracy. In the second part scenes from "The Merchant of Venice" were given and the different characters were admirably sustained, showing that the girls thoroughly understood their parts. Miss M. Bollinger was Shylock, Miss J. Wilson Portia, and the others taking part were Misses Harle, Lennon, Whitton, Wilson and Rockell. The concert concluded with a very amusing farce, in which Misses Penn, Warren, Death, O'Brien and Hirst were prominent.



Girls High School. Amateur Theatricals practice in Pukekura Park
(*Auckland Weekly News*, October 23, 1913) . W. A. Collis



Vice Regal Party - Earl of Liverpool (*Auckland Weekly News*, October 23, 1913) F. E. Stewart.

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING.

The first annual meeting of the Tai-Hau-Auru Maori Sports Club, postponed from December 19, was held on the Recreation Ground yesterday. A large crowd of spectators turned out in the face of threatening weather, and by the time the rain set in practically all the programme had been carried out. Many of the events drew large fields, but in others there was not much competition. There was considerable delay in starting the first event. Headed by the Garrison Band, the Taranaki war veterans marched on to the ground at one o'clock, to the accompaniment of an inspiring Maori welcome. During the afternoon the band played a number of acceptable selections. Results:—

Maiden Handicap, 100 yards.—R. W. Opai 1, H. Alexander 2.

Kaipakopako Bicycle Handicap, 1 mile.—H. Wickham (scr.) 1, H. Rangī (35yds) 2.

Tai-Hau-Auru Handicap, 100 yards.—First heat: T. O'Carroll (8yds) 1, Tewrangā (10yds) 2. Second heat: R. W. Opai (10yds) 1, H. L. Slight (5yds) 2. Final: R. W. Opai 1, H. L. Slight 2, T. E. Taylor 3.

School Boys' Race, 100 yards.—Tanka 1, Where 2, Kui 3.

Bicycle Race, 1 mile, run in one heat owing to insufficient entries.—A. E. White (120yds) 1, C. Cross (70yds) 2, W. Wickham (90yds) 3.

Orupuriri Handicap, 100 yards.—R. W. Opai 1, Tewrangā 2.

Tai-Hau-Auru Handicap, 220 yards.—First heat: T. E. Taylor (20yds) 1, J. R. Slight (10yds) 2, W. Hughes (14yds) 3. Second heat: R. W. Opai (22yds) 1, T. O'Carroll (18yds) 2, Tewrangā (20yds) 3. Final: Opai 1, Hughes 2.

Poi Competition, performed by Maori women of not more than ten or less than eight in a team; a greenstone brooch and trophy presented by Mr. G. Corney to go to the winner.—Tewariki team 1, Te Wai-Marie 2.

Cycle Race, mile and a half.—W. Wickham (200yds) 1, J. Cross (180yds) 2, A. E. White (170yds) 3. Won by half a wheel.

Potato-peeling.—Toera 1, Tota 2, Ngawao 3. Great interest was taken in this event, which was fought out keenly by the eight women competitors.

Tai-Hau-Auru Handicap, 440 yards.—W. Hughes (32yds) 1, H. L. Slight (12yds) 2, Opai (40yds) 3. Time, 50sec.

Maori War Dance.—Rauriki Haka team 1, Pataki Haka team 2.

In the Maori war dance to be performed by one man there was only one competitor, Captain Rangitelingā (W. Pratt).

Owing to the roughness of the lake there were only two entries for the canoe race, which was abandoned.

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in the Council Chambers on Monday evening. The chairman (Mr. C. W. Govett) presided, and other members present were Messrs. W. Ambury, R. C. Hughes, W. L. Newman, S. Percy Smith, F. H. Jackson, G. W. Browne, F. P. Corkill, and Harris Ford.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

Mr. W. W. Smith, the curator, reported having made general repairs to paths and walks, levelling the walk from the tea kiosk to the racecourse gate, grubbing fennel and pine roots, etc. Finding that the water pipes laid across the broad walk fifty yards from the new entrance from Gilbert St. were insufficient to convey storm water after heavy rains, the staff removed them and laid 6in. pipes instead, which would now prevent the storm water from accumulating on the walk or the borders. Tree-felling, as directed by the board, was now completed and the wood ready for sale by the cartload. Another week or thereabouts would complete the mowing of the rough grass in the park. In his December report he omitted to mention that the walk at the John Street entrance near the racecourse was altered and remodelled, and was a great improvement. He begged to notify the board of a nuisance which occurred more or less after every sports meeting or gala day held on the sports ground. He referred to the enormous quantities of loose papers left in the grounds to be blown about by every wind. With one exception, that of the Central School fete, when all papers and rubbish were carefully collected and burned next morning by the boys, no sports or other party had done so for three years. Last week he received another package of Queensland plant seed from Mr. H. Nicholson, of Maryborough, who was now on a visit to New Plymouth. He had again to add that the vegetation in the park continued to make great growth in the very seasonable weather. He was glad to report that very little damage was done by the fire which occurred in the park on December 29. The efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Blewman, Messrs. Sandford, Elliot and Jones, undoubtedly prevented considerable damage being done.—Votes of thanks were accorded Mr. Nicholson for his gift of seeds, and to those who assisted in extinguishing the fire.

GENERAL.

A committee consisting of the chairman and Messrs. Newman and Corkill was appointed to go into the question of boating on the lake and report to the next meeting of the board. In the meantime the chairman was authorised to make arrangements with Mr. W. Webber (the former lessor) to continue on such terms as he (the chairman) considered proper.

Some discussion ensued when the letter from the Garrison Band Committee asking for the loan of the board's collection boxes for use on Band Saturday was read. At the time the letter was received the chairman of the board refused the application on the grounds that it was unwise to institute more than one Saturday collection in the year on which to appeal to the public for funds. Seeing that the park already conducted such a collection, he (Mr. Govett) declined to lend the boxes. The board had refrained from holding its Park Saturday whilst the Hospital

Board held one for its funds, so that now that the latter board had abandoned the scheme he contended the park should have the right. He considered the townspeople would not contribute to more than one each year.

Mr. G. W. Browne, who is also a member of the Band Committee, was pleased the chairman had made his explanation, as it was very different from that heard at the band meeting. At the same time he differed from the chairman as to the right of the band to make a collection. As a public institution, the band had an equal right with the park. At the next meeting of the Band Committee he would explain the board's attitude in refusing, and so remove any misapprehension on the subject.

Mr. Ambury concurred with the last speaker that the board had no priority over the band in the matter of a Saturday collection. The majority of the board, however, upheld the chairman's attitude. From the above explanation it appears that the whole trouble was caused by the footnote to the Band Committee's letter, asking that an answer be given to the messenger. As Mr. Govett explained to the bearer of the note, he was merely giving his opinion on the matter, which would be brought up at the next meeting of the board. This had now been done, and the board had agreed with his attitude.

Two donations of £1 1s each were received from Mr. D. S. Wylie and Mrs. Cory.

Mr. Hughes, who was deputed to look after the matter, reported that at a meeting of ladies held in his office it was decided not to undertake the collection of annual subscriptions until after the end of the present financial year, viz., March 31 next. This would mean that the board would lose the subscriptions for 1912-13.

On the motion of Mr. Browne it was decided to call the attention of the Sports Ground Committee to the dangerous condition of the steps leading to the southern terraces, with a request that the danger be remedied.

Mr. Ambury drew attention to the state of the steps leading under the waterfall near the Gilbert Street entrance. On his suggestion the visitor for the month will attend to the matter of rectifying them.

The Sports Ground Committee intimated that its share of the takings at the recent Maori Sports was £14, which amount would be lodged to the credit of the Park Board in reduction of the amount owing by the committee to the board.

One member intimated that the curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) had broken a finger whilst engaged in tree-felling in the park. On Mr. Corkill's motion the chairman was empowered to look into the matter of paying the medical expenses incurred by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Corkill was appointed visitor for the month.

Accounts amounting to £4 5s 6d were passed for payment, and the board adjourned.

TH, FEBRUARY 14, 1913
TEA ROOMS RENOVATED.

"I would mention," said the curator of the Pukekura Park in his report to the board on Monday night, "that the newly-painted and recently renovated tea-rooms in the park have been, throughout the Christmas and New Year holidays, well patronised, and continue to be under Mrs. Cory's excellent management. The rooms are now becoming quite a pleasant afternoon resort for townfolk in fine weather." The board accorded Messrs. Cooper Bros. a hearty vote of thanks for their generosity in

painting the tea-rooms and tool-shed, and several members referred to the excellence of the effect produced. Mr. W. Ambury, a member of the board, who was unable to be present at the last meeting, when permission was granted to open the rooms on Sundays, raised his protest against the institution of the scheme. He opposed it on principle; he didn't believe in it; neither did he think it was necessary. It was explained that it was now too late to reopen the subject for discussion, which was dropped after Mr. Ambury's objection had been recorded on the minutes.

TH, FEBRUARY 4, 1913 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

MONTHLY MEETING.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Monday evening. There were present: Messrs. C. W. Govett (chairman), W. L. Newman, F. P. Corkill, G. W. Browne, H. Ford, R. C. Hughes, and R. Cook.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator of the park, reported that four days last month had been devoted to mowing the large pond weed in the upper lake. They had now subdued it for the season, and he hoped during the winter months to mow the affected parts, which would annihilate the plant altogether. The steps required to complete the Vogeltown-Racecourse walk were finished a fortnight ago. The part of the walk crossing the lower end of the terminal island in the upper lake was now open to visitors. To protect the collection of native ferns growing on the upper part of the island he had, as directed, put wire-netting round the open space set apart for visitors. The new walk leading up from the sports ground on to the spur on the east side had now been completed with the exception of two steps where it joined the old disused walk on the edge of the spur. Most of the general grass mowing in the park had been finished. Owing to high winds and heavy rain during the past week they had been kept very busy clearing the walks and banks in the park. The steps referred to by a member of the Park Board at last meeting near the lower waterfall had been replaced with a new set on the previous Monday to that on which the board held its meeting. They had cut down and removed a number of acacias, or so-called mimosas, near the waterfall with good effect. Two large packets of native plants and seeds had been received from anonymous donors during the month, which were immediately sown on suitable sites. Having a number of light planks on hand they had used them for repairing some of the fixed seats in the park.

BOATING ON THE LAKE.

The question of the carrying capacity of the boats on the lake in the park came up for discussion, and members were at considerable variance as to the number which it would be safe to allow them to hold. It was pointed out that the boats were not the same size, and eventually it was decided that the larger boat should be allowed to carry not more than seven adults or ten children, inclusive of the rower; and the smaller of the two to take five adults or nine children, also inclusive of the rower. The charges of the boat hire were set-

tled as follows:—6d for adults, not exceeding 3d for children, 2s per hour for a party of four or more. For hiring the boats by the hour, 2s per hour, or 3s per hour with rower, will be charged. A list of these charges will be posted on a notice board, which will also inform boating parties that landing on the islands is strictly prohibited.

GENERAL.

Leave of absence for a year was granted to Mr. S. Percy Smith, who is leaving shortly on a trip to England.

Mr. Harris Ford was appointed visitor to the park for the ensuing month.

It was decided to give the band rotunda another coat of paint.

A resolution was passed prohibiting the use of the boats on the lakes on Sundays.

TH, MARCH 4, 1913 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The ordinary monthly meeting of the above board was held on Monday evening. Present: Messrs. R. C. Hughes, W. L. Newman, Harris Ford and W. Ambury. In the absence of Mr. C. W. Govett, Mr. Hughes took the chair.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that the chief, and almost the only work, employing the park staff during the month had been that of mowing, general clearing, and burning rubbish. They were somewhat at a disadvantage in the park in having to cart the rubbish a long distance to dispose of it, and he regretted to say that a little more expense would be required on the hand-cart, as one of the lateral supports was quite rotten and was falling in pieces every day. When it was repaired they proposed to go on with the work of levelling up the walks with clay. This should be done before winter set in. The water in the upper lake continued low, but there was no further growth of the pond weed in any of the lakes. They had placed a strong broad plank across the channel leading to the long island at the head of the large lake, which served very well as a bridge for the time being. He regretted to inform the board that the peacock borrowed from Mr. Wheeler, of Durham Road, Inglewood, died lately. Mr. Wheeler called at the park a short while ago, and generously remarked that the board was not to trouble further about the matter. A Taranaki gentleman had promised to send some young birds to the park later on. Owing to the mild season all vegetation in the park continued to grow vigorously.

Mr. Hughes referred to the great quantity of fennel which was growing on the outskirts of the park, particularly on the racecourse side, and suggested that extra men be put on to keep down the nuisance. This should be done at once as the plant was about to seed.

GENERAL.

It was decided to increase John Pickerell's wages by 5s per week.

Mrs. Jones requested that the poplar trees adjoining her garden, which were injuring the fruit trees, be cut down.—This was left for consideration when the members next meet on the ground.

It was decided to hold a Park Saturday some time in April.

Mr. C. W. Govett was appointed visitor to the park for the month.

Accounts to the amount of 11s 11d were passed for payment.

TH, MARCH 4, 1913 FUTURE OF SPORTS GROUND

At the meeting of the Pukekura Park Board on Monday, the question of the financial position of the Sports Ground portion of the Recreation Grounds was discussed at some length.

A remark that the cricket authorities were probably removing to a ground on the racecourse led up to the debate, and Mr. W. L. Newman remarked that he had understood that the cricketers were going to wait on the board that evening with a request that the fir trees on the western terrace should be topped in order to provide better light on the playing area.

Mr. W. Ambury said that this would certainly improve the appearance of the trees, which were very ragged, and he would be in favour of it being done.

Mr. R. C. Hughes remarked that they got no revenue out of cricket, and he did not think cricket need be considered in the matter.

Mr. Newman did not agree with the last speaker. He thought that they should encourage the use of the ground, and if they could improve the conditions they should do so. The trees, he said, might well come down altogether, and shrubs be planted on the hill in their place. It would, he considered, be a good thing if the Sports Ground were handed over to the board again. The Sports Committee owed the Rugby Union £250, and they hardly got anything out of the football matches there now. Betting and professionalism had killed football here. If the ground were again vested in the board they could then make arrangements with the Cricket Association, who would probably agree to keep up the playing area provided that no football was allowed to be played on the ground during the winter, which destroyed all the work which they had put on the field in the summer. He did not think that the association would find the racecourse suitable as a ground, as they would not be able to erect a pavilion there, or any obstruction to the view, and the laying of a ground there would be a very expensive matter.

It was decided to arrange a meeting with the Sports Ground Committee to talk the matter over.

TH, MARCH 13, 1913 RIDER HAGGARD'S VISIT

PUKEKURA PARK.

From Mr. Connett's farm the party proceeded to Pukekura Park, where they were met by Mr. Govett, chairman of the Board, and before the visitors had proceeded far they were exclaiming on the beauties of the grounds. "The most beautiful park we have seen in Australasia," said Sir Rider Haggard. "I am glad you brought us here," said Mr. Lorrimer. "It is beautiful, delightful," said Mr. Garnett. The visitors spent some time in the park, and manifested great interest in the many noble specimens of native trees and the beautiful tree ferns that are to be seen. The Mountain by this time had cleared, and a glorious view was obtained of Taranaki's sentinel rising majestically in the background, looking across the pond from the tea kiosk.

TH, APRIL 8, 1913
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The usual meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in the Town Hall on Monday evening. The chairman (Mr. C. W. Govett) presided and Messrs. W. L. Newman, R. C. Hughes, Harris Ford, R. Cock, and the hon. secretary (Mr. C. H. Drew) were also present.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

Mr. W. W. Smith, the curator, reported that owing to the fine weather during the past month the work of the staff had continued with little interruption. A week had been devoted to cleaning and burning of rubbish on the hills and slopes. A week had also been given to cutting down and sawing up pine trees. Owing to the dangerous position of some of the trees growing close to the cottage in the Park, continued the report, the staff had had to remove three of them for safety. There were still two more having a slope towards the cottage, which it was hoped to remove this week. The removal of these trees was a great improvement. Three days were occupied in moving and cleaning edges of walks and the remainder of the month to carting punice clay on to and repairing the worst parts of the walks in the Park. It was proposed to go on with work on the walks during the present favourable weather, and were it possible for the board to procure some loads of ashes or sand immediately it would greatly facilitate the work by enabling the work to be finished as proceeded with. The walks requiring first attention included the one leading up to Vogeltown, those around and up the Cannon Hill, the one to the racecourse, and the one leading up to John Street. The custodian was very anxious to proceed with the work and finish it before the autumn rains set in. Since last meeting he had received a package of young native trees from Mokau brought by Mr. Wm. Arthur. Mrs. Bloxam, of Napier, also brought a fine package of native tree seedlings to the Park. Mr. Smith had also received a packet of seeds addressed in a lady's handwriting, but he could not say from whom they came. No damage whatever had resulted to the Park from the several high winds lately.

Votes of thanks were accorded the donors of plants, etc. The matter of procuring material for the paths was left in the chairman's hands.

"Park" Saturday was definitely fixed for April 19, and a meeting of ladies and those willing to assist will be called for Friday evening at 7.30 in the Town Hall.

Accounts amounting to £1 18s were passed for payment.

TH, APRIL 18, 1913
PARK SATURDAY

The Pukekura Park Board would like it to be understood that the success of the collection to-morrow is a matter of great moment to them, for not only has the generous amount subscribed last year been expended, but the board's ordinary revenue has also been spent, and the board has had to borrow a substantial sum from its bank. Owing to prior engagements and other causes the board is unable to secure the services of a large number of the ladies who helped last year. Consequently it will be found that in the list of districts published below that in several cases no collectors have been named. It is earnestly desired that this want should be supplied in time for to-

night's meeting or by to-morrow morning. The districts correspond with the greater New Plymouth boundaries. It would not redound to the credit of New Plymouth if the appeal to-morrow should be ineffective, through the lack of collectors.

Following are the instructions to collectors:—

The district collectors will visit the houses in their districts and may collect on the roads and streets therein except in those streets which shall be frequented by the street collectors.

The street collectors will confine themselves to the people in the streets.

Annual subscribers.—To every collector a list of annual subscribers in her district will be furnished. These subscribers comprise those who have been accustomed to subscribe for years past as well as them who have signed subscription cards.

Subscription cards will be furnished to collectors for the signature of new annual subscribers.

The payment of any annual subscription should be carefully noted so that it may be specially acknowledged.

At the close of the day boxes can be left in the Mayor's Room, Town Hall. One or more of the committee will be in attendance there between 5 and 6 o'clock, and also at 8 o'clock.

No. 1 District.—Molesworth and Buller Streets, Octavia Place and Woolcombe Terrace, and cross streets, to Gill Street. Collector: Miss Bullard.

No. 2 District.—Gill Street, and cross streets to Devon Street. Collector: Miss Blundell.

No. 3 District.—Devon Street East from Gover Street to the Henui, and cross streets to Courtenay Street. Collector: —.

No. 4 District.—Lemon and Courtenay Streets, and cross streets to Pendarves Street. Collectors: The Misses Fookes.

No. 5 District.—Pendarves to John Street, and the High School and cross streets, also Carrington Road up to Mr. Sturtevant's, and all Brougham Street. Collectors: Miss Isabella S. Smith and Miss Curtis.

No. 6 District.—Hine Street and Bulkeley Terrace and cross streets to St. Aubyn Street. Collector: Mrs. W. L. Newman.

No. 7 District.—St. Aubyn Street from Brougham Street, and cross streets to Young Street. Collector: —.

No. 8 District.—Young Street to Mangaotuku Stream, and cross streets. Collector: —.

No. 9 District.—Devon Street, from Red House to Post Office, also Currie, Egmont, King, Queen, and Ariki Streets. Collector: Mrs. Dockrill.

No. 10 District.—Powderham, Vivian and Fulford Streets, and cross streets to Bulkeel Street. Collector: Miss Wisshaw.

No. 11 District.—Bulkeel, Downe and Barrett Streets, and Wallace Place. Collector: —.

No. 12 District.—Devon Street West from Post Office, and cross streets to Powderham Street. Collector: —.

No. 13 District.—Fitzroy, from the Henui to the Waiwakaiho. Collector: Miss Bertha Matthews.

No. 14 District.—Vogeltown, from Mr. Carter's, including Brooklands Road and Mill Road. Collectors: Mrs. and Miss Browne.

No. 15 District.—St. Aubyn, from Belt Road to Moturoa, and from the sea to Devon Street. Collector: Mrs. Erlandson.

No. 16 District.—Westown. Collector: —.

No. 17 District.—Frankleigh Park and Franklev Road. Collector: —.

TH, APRIL 23, 1913
CUTTING DOWN PINE TREES

A special meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday to consider the advisability or otherwise of cutting down the pinus insignis trees on the western terrace in the Sports Ground.

There were present: Messrs. C. W. Govett (chairman), R. C. Hughes, Harris Ford, W. Ambury, W. L. Newman, R. Cock and G. W. Browne.

The question of the removal of the trees was then discussed, and Mr. R. Cock remarked that the curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) was in favour of their being removed altogether. When the trees on the east side of the lake had been cut down, continued Mr. Cock, a great outcry had been made, but he thought it was a pity that the whole lot had not been removed. In this matter they should act on their own initiative.

Mr. Govett said that the trees had in the first place been planted to protect the young growth, and they had served that purpose well. A pine tree growing by itself was a beautiful object but the trees when grown in clumps were usually unsightly. He considered that they should be removed, and replaced with some suitable shrubs.

Mr. Harris Ford objected to the removal of the trees, on the ground that they gave shelter to spectators at football matches.

Mr. Hughes considered that the end in view could be attained just as well if the trees were topped, some of them also might perhaps be taken out. The cricketers, he said, would be moving to a new ground soon, as the Sports Ground was not large enough to allow of two games being played there at one time.

Mr. Ambury, as an old cricketer, remarked that he would like to help the players, but as a member of the board he was not there to consider them, but the general public. The trees afforded a good shelter to spectators from the sun.

Mr. Govett then moved: "That permission be given to the Sports' Committee to cut down all the pinus insignis trees on the western hill of the Sports Ground, with the exception of a clump of six at the north end, the cutting down to be done at once by an experienced person, under the supervision of the curator, and the trunks and debris to be cleared away so as to enable the board to commence planting without delay." This was seconded by Mr. R. Cock.

Mr. H. Ford moved as an amendment, "That the trees on the western hill be topped, and not cut down." This was lost, and the original motion was carried by 4 to 3.

TDN, APRIL 29, 1913
DONATION

The secretary of the Pukekura Park Board has just received a cheque for £25 from the Hon. Oliver Samuel as a donation to the funds of the Board. Accompanying the cheque was a letter congratulating the Board, especially Mr. W. W. Smith, the curator, on maintaining and improving the Park.

TDN, MAY 1, 1913 PLANT DONATIONS

The Pukekura Park Board acknowledges a donation from Mr. O. Hoby, of a variety of seeds of African plants and flowering shrubs, which he procured from the curator of the public gardens, Bulawayo, South Rhodesia.

TH, MARCH 22, 1913 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD A.G.M.

The annual general meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in the Council Chambers on Monday night. The chairman (Mr. C. W. Govett) presided, and other members present were Messrs. F. P. Corkill, W. L. Newman, G. W. Browne, R. Cock, and Harris Ford.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

Mr. Govett read his annual report as follows:—

In accordance with the practice of my predecessors, I wish, at the end of my term of office as chairman of the Pukekura Park Board, and after being over 22 years a member of the board, to make a report which is a personal one, and does not necessarily embody the views of the board. The year 1912-1913 has been a very uneventful one, but one of very steady progress. After a long period of "joint and several" overdraft, the board started last year with a credit balance of £34 3s 9d, caused by the generous support of the public at our first "Park Saturday" collection. The balance-sheet which is now presented shows a debit balance of £32 1s. Against this the last "Park Saturday" collections, amounting to £128 11s 10d, rentals amounting to £25, a sum of £15 from the Sports Ground Committee, and a sum of £25 from the Hon. O. Samuel, M.L.C., have been received too late for the balance sheet, so that the practical credit balance is £161 10s 10d, and with this sum, the balance of the borough subsidy and windfalls, the board has to face the responsibilities of the present year. It was only natural that the first collection should be larger than the second, being £164 15s 6d as compared with £128 11s 10d, for very special contributions were given to get the board out of their then overwhelming financial difficulties. I may, however, take it that the "Park Saturday" of April, 1913, represents a sum not less than the board may reasonably expect in the future, and as improvements have to be considered and arranged for beforehand, no doubt the board will rely upon getting not less than £128 every year. The board feels extremely grateful to all its friends who have done so much, while its gratitude has in it "an expectation of future benefits."

THE PARK'S BEAUTY.

By far the greater number of residents in this district do not realise what a beautiful property they possess, and it is those who have travelled much and are able to make comparisons who understand best that the park is in many respects unique in its beauty and surroundings. Sir Rider Haggard, who has seen much, was most earnest in his expressions of delight and wonder at what had been done in little more than one generation, and said truly that it was the prettiest park in Australasia, and he might have said more than that without exaggeration. With regard to the future policy of the board, it should, in my opinion, be one of continuance on the same lines of planting out and encouraging the growth of

native trees and shrubs and by means of paths making every part of the park accessible and at the same time using plenty of flowers to make a bright foreground. I wish that more people would devote a little time to exploration instead of going round and round the lakes and seeing only a very small portion, and that not the most beautiful. The constitution of the board and the practical life tenure of its members has some disadvantages, but it is, in my opinion, absolutely certain that no purely elective body would have succeeded in the way the present board has done, and it is found that the borough representatives become imbued with the spirit of the board in quite a different way to what they would do if the borough were the sole managing body, and the mixture works satisfactorily. The system of voluntary contributions has worked extraordinarily well in the past, but it is not fair that the whole community should reap where it has not sown, and I myself earnestly trust that the borough will before long, by means of a special rate, raise sufficient for the upkeep of the park and leave the management as at present. The annual subsidy of £150 from the borough is much too little, and should be increased and the park looked upon not only as a thing of beauty, but as a productive asset in the way of attracting strangers to our midst, for whether or not they ultimately become residents they at least spent their money freely in our midst while here. The board welcomes proposals and suggestions for improving the park and gives them all its most earnest consideration, and also invites honest criticism, as we are none of us infallible—not even the youngest.

THE PINUS INSIGNIS.

One of the "burning" questions about which difference of opinion exists is: What should be done with the pinus insignis? My private opinion is that these trees were originally planted for the sake of shelter, and as soon as they have fulfilled their function, then, as far as possible, they should be got rid of and more beautiful native trees put in their place. Pinus insignis trees planted in clumps look pretty for a few years and stand a fair amount of topping, but there comes a time when they become very ugly and should receive notice to quit. I hate cutting down trees unnecessarily, but with a long experience I am always glad to get rid of a pinus insignis unless it has been planted in the open with room to expand, in which case it grows into a noble tree, but if it is planted in clumps, as I have said before, it is ugly, and there is also great danger from accidental fires, the pine needles being very inflammable in dry weather. I would ask the public not to be too impatient when they see the axe used, and to remember that the board has made a thing of beauty in the past—though it seems vanity to say so—and knows more and has studied the park's beauty more than most of those who find fault. The board has the greatest good fortune in having as its custodian Mr. W. W. Smith, who gives ungrudgingly of his time and skill and whose remuneration is of the most meagre amount.

In conclusion, I would thank the hon. secretary (Mr. C. H. Drew) and my fellow members of the board for their unflinching attention and courtesy. We have not always seen eye to eye, but have been a happy family notwithstanding.

As regards myself, I am conscious that I have been one of the least active chairmen the board has ever had, but no captain of a ship has much to do when the weather is calm and he has capable officers, and the year 1912-1913 has been almost "set fair." May my successor have similar good fortune.

Mr. Cock congratulated the chairman on his very able report. He heartily endorsed all that was said in regard to the curator and secretary. Mr. Smith was the right man in the right place. He not only earned his wages, but constantly pointed out improvements desired, and members of the board knew that when conversing with the curator they were talking to a sensible man who knew his business. The thanks of the board were also due to the secretary for the work he did and the excellent manner in which he carried out his duties. Mr. Cock proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman for his able report.

Mr. Corkill said the publication of the report in the newspapers would do no harm and would set the public thinking more than ever it had done in the past. He also referred to the references to the curator and secretary, and with regard to the former mentioned the fact that when Mr. Smith was appointed here a large deputation from Palmerston North had waited on him with promises of a very much higher salary, asking him to return to his former employ. The board was distinctly fortunate in having such a man as Mr. Smith as curator. Regarding the secretary, the speaker said he would not insult him by offering an honorarium.

Mr. Browne also paid his tribute to the chairman and officers and recalled the fact of his being among those who, thirty years ago, when the park was nothing but a gully, after paying 2s 6d for the privilege, got spades and planted the pine trees over which they heard so much discussion now. He entirely agreed with the chairman that the trees should be removed where it was practicable to do so. Concluding, Mr. Browne hoped the succeeding chairman would have more money at his disposal to effect improvements at a greater rate.

The vote of thanks to the chairman for his report was then put and carried by acclamation.

THE BALANCE-SHEET.

The secretary read his annual statement of receipts and expenditure for the past year. Receipts showed the borough subsidy of £150, a bequest from the estate of the late Peter Matson £25, donations £11 19s 6d, annual subscriptions £7 13s 6d, picture entertainment £5 5s, box in park £3 15s 2d, boxes in hotels 16s 10d, boat license 12s 6d, and firewood 7s, making a total (with the balance in hand last year of £34 3s 9d, and a debit balance of £37 1s) of £276 14s 3d. The chief items of expenditure were the wages account, permanent £186, and casual £59 3s, with sundry items for tools, repairs, etc., making up the total.

Members generally expressed satisfaction at the state of affairs. The Chairman mentioned the various items omitted as referred to in his report. Mr. Cock compared the meagre sum of £180 paid in wages with his own personal expenditure of £150 at "Overdale," where he had only a couple of acres. The Mayor mentioned that this year there would be something accruing from the Avenue Road reserves, which would in future place the board on a better footing.

The annual report and balance-sheet were then adopted.

THE NEW CHAIRMAN.

Mr. Cock said that as he understood Mr. Govett intended shortly to proceed to England he could not continue in office for another year. He proposed that Mr. W. L. Newman be elected chairman for the ensuing year. This was seconded and carried unanimously, Mr. Newman suitably thanking the board for the honour conferred on him.

THE CURATOR.

Mr. Govett said it was very generally recognised that they had in their curator an exceptionally good man. They would all very much like to be able to increase his salary, but funds would not permit. He moved that a bonus of £5 be granted Mr. Smith in partial recognition of his valuable services. General regret was expressed at the smallness of the amount, and the motion was carried unanimously.

TH, MAY 7, 1913 GOVETT DONATION

The secretary of the Pukekura Park Board (Mr. C. H. Drew) wishes to acknowledge with thanks a donation of £10 from Mr. C. W. Govett towards the funds of the board.

TH, MAY 24, 1913 KIWI DONATION

Mr. Feek, of Uruti, has presented, per Mr. Newton King, a fine young kiwi to the Pukekura Park. It was found in its nest with an egg. It is a very dark brown male specimen in excellent plumage.

TH, JUNE 4, 1913 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Town Hall on Monday night, Mr. W. L. Newman presiding. There were also present: Messrs. W. A. Collis, C. W. Govett, H. Ford, and R. C. Hughes.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator, reported that, as directed by the board on the occasion of the last meeting, he had cut down and removed the poplar trees near the waterfall. The work of cutting down the six pinus insignis in the cricket ground had proceeded as expeditiously as the recent stormy weather would permit. Owing to the windy weather they had had to give a lot of time to the general clearing of the Park and burning-up of the debris. The extra man now being employed had been most of his time mowing rough grass and grubbing gorse. About another week or a fortnight would complete that class of work. It would be impossible to get the Park into a clean condition for another month, or until the autumn leaves of all the deciduous trees have fallen. During the month a lady sent a package of plants, carriage paid, to the board, Mr. A. D. Beauchamp, of Hurworth, also brought a good collection of native plants to the Park. They were promptly planted and at present are all looking well.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the donors of plants, etc.

BOROUGH SUBSIDY

The Borough Council notified the board of a resolution passed at the last meeting of the council as follows:—"That a subsidy be granted to the Board of Trustees appointed under the Taranaki Botanic Gardens Act, 1876, of such sum which together with the share of revenue payable to the said trustees under said section 4 of the New Plymouth Recreation and Racecourse Reserve Amendment Act, 1919, shall amount to the sum of £150."

The Chairman reported that there was a bank balance of £132 14s 8d in favour of the board.

Mr. Hughes suggested that in view of this balance the board take some steps to fence the grounds in order to make them secure when fetes were being held.

It was estimated that the work would cost some £300, and no action was taken.

JOCKEY CLUB'S PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS.

The proposal of the Taranaki Jockey Club to fell a number of pinus insignis trees for the purpose of preparing a site for a new stand and for improving the entrance to the racecourse was discussed. Mr. Collis mentioning that the question would come before the next meeting of the Reserves Committee of the Borough Council.

On the motion of Mr. Govett, it was resolved that the board sees no objection to the Jockey Club cutting down a few trees so long as the Borough Council consents, the land only being temporarily occupied by the board under license from the borough.

TH, JUNE 28, 1913 GOLF LESSONS

NEW PLYMOUTH CLUB.

Members of the New Plymouth Golf Club are reminded that the committee have engaged J. McCormick, the Auckland coach, from July 2 to July 8, and those who are anxious to take lessons are requested to at once book dates with the hon. secretary, Mr. C. Denny Brown, A.M.P. Society's office. Lessons will be given on the New Plymouth Recreation Ground on Wednesday, Friday, Monday, Tuesday and on Thursday and Saturday at the Club's links.

TH, JULY 8, 1913 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The usual meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Monday evening. The chairman (Mr. W. L. Newman) presided, and other members present were: Messrs. G. W. Browne, R. C. Hughes and Harris Ford. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Messrs. W. Ambury, R. Cock and W. A. Collis.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator of the park, reported that the chief work of the park staff for the past month had been that of mowing the rough banks, grubbing gorse, and also the innumerable seedlings of sycamore and oak growing thereon. Excepting two days, which had been taken up in planting trees, the remainder of the time was given to raking and burning rubbish and the large accumulation of autumn leaves. For several days the staff had been engaged in planting tree-ferns on the more open space in the park. The extra man employed was at present clearing the slopes ahead to enable the staff to proceed with the work of planting. During the month a package of seeds had been received from Professor W. D. Westervelt, of Honolulu, which comprised some very beautiful species of plants, some of which should flourish in the park. Three packets of native plant seeds came to hand, and also a packet of native trees from anonymous donors. Some nikau palms had been received from Mr. C. E. Bellringer, and plants of the purple lilac from Mr. Bert McEwen.

The curator again referred to the matter of dogs being brought into the park. On Sunday the Muscovy duck got a chewing by one, this being the second time it has been attacked during the last fortnight, and he pointed out that some people failed to understand that the scent of wild birds in

the park was wholly different from that of domestic fowls, which, perhaps, their dogs were accustomed to. Generally the scent of the former instantly aroused the hunting and killing instinct in almost every dog. Mr. Smith said he would therefore report all offenders bringing dogs into the park in the future.

The report was adopted, and on the motion of Mr. Browne the curator will be asked to report any visitors infringing on the by-laws with respect to dogs not on a lead.

Votes of thanks were accorded Professor Westervelt, the anonymous donors of seeds and plants, and to Mr. Hugh Bailly for a donation towards the board's funds.

GENERAL.

Consideration of an offer, by the Anglo-Swiss Milk Company to install an automatic chocolate machine in the park was held over.

The Town Clerk (Mr. F. T. Bellringer) notified that the council was pleased to remit the amount due by the board for rent of the Council Chambers and that in future the board would be granted the use of a room in the Town Hall once a month free of charge.—The secretary (Mr. C. H. Drew) will write the council tendering the thanks of the board for its kindness.

Mr. R. Cock intimated that he would be forwarding a quantity of bulbs for planting in the park.

Mr. Cock was appointed visitor for the ensuing month.

Accounts amounting to £4 3s 9d were passed for payment.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Hughes for the use of his office, where the meeting was held, terminated the meeting.

TH, JULY 15, 1913 KIWI DONATED

Mr. J. W. Martin, of Brooklands Road, on Monday presented a particularly fine specimen of the hen kiwi, which he secured on his Pukearuhoe farm, to the Pukekura Park authorities.

TH, AUGUST 5, 1913 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in the Council Chambers on Monday evening. The chairman (Mr. W. L. Newman) presided, and other members present were Messrs. F. P. Corkill, G. W. Browne, and W. A. Collis. Leave of absence was granted Messrs. R. Cock, W. Ambury, and Harris Ford.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that during the past month the work of the staff had been somewhat interfered with owing to wet weather. The gale with heavy rain on the 20th brought down one of the cupressus macrocarpa trees near the tea-rooms, smashing half the adjoining tree with it. Two days were required to clear away wreckage, and plant the bank with large tree ferns. Two and a-half days were required to plant the bulbs presented by Mr. R. Cock. The staff planted about a third of them on the hill recently thinned of pines in the Sports Ground. The latter work was completed by all those who undertook to cut down the trees in very satisfactory style. They had continued the work of mowing the rough grass, grub-

bing gorse and young wattles, and burning rubbish when the weather permitted. Part of the banks between the lake and the Vogelstown walk had been planted with fern trees, and would be completed during the present week. The open spaces near the Carrington Road entrance to the park had also been planted with large tree ferns. In regard to the slippery condition of some of the walks he would be glad if the board could secure a few loads of ashes to enable the paths to be levelled in parts. Ashes lasted much longer than the material brought from the gneiss quarry. During the month Miss Devenish took to the park some Japanese bulbs and Guernsey lilies; Messrs. Duncan and Davies presented 100 rambler roses of different varieties; and Mr. K. C. Webster presented some tropical plant seeds from Honolulu.—The report was adopted, and votes of thanks were accorded the donors mentioned, and also Mr. R. Cock for a donation of bulbs received last month.

GENERAL.

Mrs. F. S. Cory, proprietress of the tea-rooms, was granted permission to close the kiosk, excepting on Sundays, for the next two months.

The board decided to thank the Nestle-Anglo-Swiss Milk Co. for its offer to instal an automatic chocolate machine in the park, and regretted that it could not accept same.

On the chairman's suggestion it was decided to take out an accident insurance policy for £300 on the board's employees.

Mr. F. P. Corkill was appointed overseer for the ensuing month.

Mr. Collis mentioned the fact that the tall trees at the southern end of the park had grown so tall as to obscure the view of Mount Egmont, and suggested that the trees should be topped. Other members favoured the idea, and the board decided to meet on the ground on Thursday week.

On the chairman's suggestion it was decided to keep the third man employed at the park for the present month.

Mr. Hughes introduced the question of improving the paths on a permanent basis, and favouring asphalt. Others objected to this material on the ground that it would rob the park of its natural beauty, but as Mr. Hughes' motion will come forward next month discussion was postponed.

Accounts amounting to 16s 3d were passed for payment.

TH, SEPTEMBER 2, 1913 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in the Council Chambers on Monday evening. The chairman (Mr. W. L. Newman) presided, and other members present were Messrs. R. C. Hughes, Harris Ford, R. Cock, G. W. Browne and the hon. secretary, Mr. C. H. Drew.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that the work authorised at the last meeting of the board in the park had been completed as far as possible. The six loads of ashes had been utilised to the best advantage in repairing the more worn-out parts of the walks. In the parts where the paths had been raised in the centre they had also been drained with small clay pipes, which would keep them from wearing away along the sides. The six loads received completed about seven chains. The cutting down of the acacia trees at the waterfall was also finished, and a fence

put along the west side of the bank as a safeguard against children falling over. The staff had also dug out the large fern tree growing above the caves or tunnels, and replanted it in front of them. They were likewise adopting the board's suggestion in raising long trunks up against the loose walls of the exterior and would plant clematis and climbing ferns at their base to grow up and cover them. The upright face of clay above and on both sides of the tunnel had broken down considerably during the past winter. They had put a fence along the top of the tunnels to avoid accident. The bulbs ordered from Holland by Mr. S. Percy Smith, and now in bloom at the Gilbert Street entrance to the park, had shown fine flowers in finely-toned colours. Nearly all spring bulbs grow and flower well in the park. Mr. Wm. Arthur presented a quantity of rare ferns, which were planted on the bank near the tea rooms. The caretaker also forwarded a donation of 10s from a "working man with good wishes to the park."

The donors mentioned in the report, and also Messrs. Honnor and Clark, who gave a quantity of cinders, were accorded votes of thanks.

GENERAL.

Mr. Cock said he wished to correct an erroneous impression that had been created in regard to the proposal to instal an automatic chocolate machine in the park. It was not a proposal from the Nestle Anglo-Swiss Milk Company to the board, but in reply to a request from him (Mr. Cock) to the company. It was in justice to the company, which had its customers to consider, that he wished to make the position quite clear.

At the last meeting the board decided, on Mr. Collis's suggestion, to meet in the park one Thursday afternoon to consider the advisability of topping or removing the trees at the southern end, which obstructed the view of Mount Egmont. Owing to the weather not being favourable the meeting had not been held, and the chairman said he had spoken to the curator on the subject. He was agreeable to topping the tall trees in the main section, and would do so at the first favourable opportunity, but was very loath to touch any of the others. The meeting decided to meet in the park to discuss the question further.

Mr. Hughes brought forward his motion, of which he gave notice at last meeting, to effect permanent improvement to the more principal paths. He favoured asphalt, especially in the parts which were damp, and where the water continually lies. After some discussion, in which the need for improvement was never questioned, but the idea of asphalt being used was strongly objected to, Mr. Hughes asked leave to hold over the question until next meeting, when the weather should be more suitable for such work.

Mr. Ford was appointed visitor for the month.

TH, SEPTEMBER 2, 1913 KOWHAI IN FLOWER

There is an extraordinary growth of yellow kowhai, the handsome native shrub of the leguminous order, this season in Pukekura Park, and the hills at the southern end are at present a very pretty sight.

TH, OCTOBER 7, 1913 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Town Hall on Monday night, Mr. W. L. Newman presiding. There were also present: Messrs. F. P. Corkill, G. W. Browne, W. A. Collis, H. Ford, R. C. Hughes, and W. Ambury.

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator, reported that since last meeting a fortnight had been devoted to reforming and repairing the more important walks and those now used by suburban residents passing daily to and from their respective businesses in town. The curved walk near the old fish-races, the Vogelstown walk, the walks leading from the sports ground, and the lower part of the walk leading up to John Street had been reformed so far as the quantity of ashes supplied would permit them to apportion to each of them. They had a quantity of pipes to dig out near the old fish-races, which would be used in draining the reformed walks to prevent them scouring in future. Two of the four mentioned had already been well drained, and also the walk leading around the lower lake. The tea-rooms, racecourse walk, and the swamp near the rosebed had been well cleared. This long walk will require repairing considerably in the near future. It is now much used by visitors and race-going people. The remainder of the month was devoted to general cleaning, grubbing gorse, and numerous seedlings springing up under the deciduous trees. The native plants of all orders continued to make rapid growth, and displayed great vigour. He had received during the month a package of native trees in good order, but he did not know who presented them. Mr. Taylor White, of Wimbledon, sent some hybrid teal ducks, as also did Mrs. Butcher, of Te Kiri. Miss Graham, of Onaero, presented four dove pigeons, which were a source of delight to the young boys and girls who visited the park.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the various donors mentioned in the report, and also to Mr. C. Goodson, of Hawera, for a donation of a large collection of choice delphiniums.

It was decided, after some discussion, that Mr. Smith be authorised to continue the improvements to the paths on the lines he had been working during the past month, except that Marsland Hill gravel be procured, if possible, in place of cinders.

The Secretary (Mr. Drew) reported that there was a credit balance of £63.

Mr. Hughes was elected overseer for the ensuing month.

TH, NOVEMBER 4, 1913 DOG PROBLEMS

"Dogs still continue to work havoc in the park," reported the curator of Pukekura Park at Monday's meeting. "One of the Mexican top-knot ducks was chewed into pulp lately. I noticed the blood on the walk early in the morning, but the owner of the dog had apparently kicked or thrown the mutilated bird into the lake after the dog had done its ruthless work. Another of the two ducks sent by Mr. Taylor White to the park some time ago disappeared and cannot be found." After some discussion, during which proposals to "shoot them," "poison them," and other stern measures were considered, the board decided, on the motion of Mr. Collis, to lay poison in the park, and to put up a notice to this effect. For many years now this nuisance has continued, and it is hoped that if the poisoning is effective and one culprit is detected, that the effect will be to rid the park of the nuisance. The matter was left to the supervision of the curator.

TH, NOVEMBER 4, 1913
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of Pukekura Park was held on Monday evening in the Council Chambers. The chairman (Mr. W. L. Newman) presided and members present were: Messrs. F. P. Corkill, W. A. Collis, G. W. Browne, R. C. Hughes, R. Cock and Harris Ford.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The report of the curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) stated that as directed by the board he had appointed an extra workman, and with the 22 loads of gaul gravel received had proceeded to reform, drain and gravel the walks. Sufficient was not received to complete the walks around the lily pond and lower lake. The system adopted would undoubtedly prevent any scouring of the walks for many years. The paths would now be fit to walk on with safety and comfort in all weathers. The Governor's visit, continued the report, to Pukekura Park on 14th was fully enjoyed by his Excellency and suite. He (Lord Liverpool) remarked that it "was certainly a very beautiful place." After doing the paths the staff had been employed gorse grubbing, mowing grass and doing general cleaning. They had been somewhat hindered in their work by the wet and showery weather during the past fortnight. The report concluded with the forwarding of 5s from "another working man," towards the cost of re-forming the Vogeltown walk.—A vote of thanks to the donor mentioned above was passed.

GENERAL.

Mr. Newman was appointed visitor for the month.

Mr. Hughes mentioned the desirability of procuring a plan of the park for the guidance of members at meetings, and the matter of procuring one was left in his hands.

Mrs. F. C. Cory, lessee of the tea-rooms in the park, wrote informing the board that the roof of the kiosk was leaking badly in places.—The matter was left in the hands of the chairman with power to act.

Mr. Hughes directed attention to the practice which prevails in the Sports Ground on special festive occasions of people continually climbing up and down the terraces. Mr. Corkill supplemented Mr. Hughes' remarks, but it was thought that nothing could be done in the matter, the Sports Ground being under lease to the committee. This brought up the question of the tenure of the ground, and on looking up the lease the secretary (Mr. C. H. Drew) found that the first seven years of the lease had now expired. The chairman and Mr. Corkill were empowered to look into the question and report at next meeting.

The curator was granted his annual holiday of a fortnight.

Accounts amounting to 15s 8d were passed for payment.

TH, DECEMBER 9, 1913
KIWI DONATION

The Pukekura Park Board has received from Mr. C. Rumball, of Urenui, a fine specimen of the kiwi which that gentleman has had in captivity for some few months past. The curator, Mr. W. W. Smith, reports that it is a female, about two years old, and has arrived in excellent health and condition.

TH, DECEMBER 2, 1913
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

MONTHLY MEETING.

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Town Hall on Monday night, Mr. W. L. Newman presiding. There were also present: Messrs. F. P. Corkill, R. C. Hughes, G. W. Browne, and the secretary (C. H. Drew).

Apologies were received from Messrs. R. Cock, W. Ambury and W. A. Collis.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator, in his monthly report, stated that during the first week of the month the staff had been engaged in clearing and grubbing the gorse on the hill adjoining the racecourse. The two hands employed during his absence had continued the moving and clearing of the hills and both sides of the extension of the upper lake. All the walks around the hill where the little monument is placed had also been mowed. Notwithstanding the strong winds, no damage had been done to the trees. The growth and luxuriance of the general vegetation in the park continued apace. It was proposed to continue mowing the grass and grubbing the gorse appearing in every part of the park. Some time ago the big boat and two canoes moored in the boat-house had the safety plugs removed, and were sunk at their moorings. He intended to raise them during the week and after drying and cleaning, to repaint them later on in the dry weather. Two of the ducks had disappeared lately, but there were still about four dozen remaining in the park.

THE SPORTS GROUND.

Mr. Corkill, on behalf of the sub-committee appointed to go into the question of the lease of the Sports Ground, reported that the lease provided that during the last six months of the first seven years' term a new rent for the ensuing seven years' renewal should be assessed by arbitration. Unfortunately this condition had not been enforced, the term of the lease having expired a few months ago.

It was decided, on the motion of Mr. Corkill, to write the Sports Ground Committee that this lapse would be waived provided the matter went to arbitration at once, so that a new rental could be decided upon before Christmas.

GENERAL.

The secretary reported a credit balance of £56 3s 11d.

A number of accounts were passed for payment.

Mr. W. L. Newman was appointed visitor for the month.

Mr. Hughes reported that he had arranged to secure a plan of the park.

TH, DECEMBER 19, 1913
SPORTS GROUND WORKING BEE

A working bee was held at the Sports Ground on Thursday afternoon, when excellent work was done by those present. The grass on the western terraces was cut and the paths were tidied up, while the grass on the ground terrace was cut all round. The Sports Ground Committee wishes to thank those gentlemen who helped, for their assistance in putting the ground in a respectable state. At the same time it is a pity more did not turn up, for with a few more workers the whole of the terraces could have been tidied up.

Taranaki v Auckland

Taranaki Herald, September 5, 1913

THE RUGBY GAME.

AUCKLAND BEATS TARANAKI.

BY 11 POINTS TO 8.

Favoured with ideal playing conditions the much looked forward to meeting of Auckland and Taranaki took place on the Sports Ground, New Plymouth, on Thursday afternoon. This biennial fixture is recognised as the chief match of importance by the football public of Taranaki, and as usual there was a large attendance. After its inconsistent play since the great win over Auckland last month, and the unfortunate way in which the backs have been so disorganised, the Taranaki team was hardly expected to win, although an even fight was expected. And in this anticipation proved correct, for notwithstanding the fact that Auckland led all through, Taranaki

never showed signs of defeat until the final whistle compelled them to acknowledge it. The game was a sterling one from start to finish; not so stirring as the previous meeting in Auckland, yet one of the best seen here for many a day and a distinct improvement on the Australian match last week. It must be classed as one of the best of the many stubborn contests between the two provinces. While there were numerous knock-outs, and plenty of "ginger" was infused into the work by both sides, play was by no means rough. It was fast and at times exciting. The clever attacking movements of the Auckland backs aroused the keenest admiration and applause and it is to the superiority here shown that the visitors must attribute their victory. The Taranaki backs were patchy, and the quick passing rushes which used to figure so prominently in their play were hardly seen at all. On the other hand our forwards can claim to have outclassed their opponents, although here the difference was not so manifest as in the game at Auckland.

THE TEAMS.

AUCKLAND (Blue and White).
 Moffatt
 M'Gregor O'Brien Stewart
 Weston O'Leary
 Ross
 Hall
 Barrett Wylio
 Bruce Cunningham (captain)
 Downing
 R. Sellars G. Sellars

TARANAKI (Amber and Black).
 George
 Hill Roberts Cade
 Tocker M'Leod (captain)
 Brown
 Taylor
 Hawkins Whittington
 Tamu Pini
 Cain Prouse
 Dewar



Taranaki v Auckland. (*Auckland Weekly News*, September 11, 1913) H. M. Smith.

1914

Richard Cock was appointed chairman. C. W. Govett died while serving on the Board, he had been a trustee since 1892. C. H. Drew (Jeweller) was appointed in his place.

It is noted that at this time the Bathing House was no longer being used by bathers, but instead, as a tool shed for the curator. It remained in its original location next to the lake until 1931. When the new Tea House was built, the shed was moved to a location between the Tea House and the Fernery.

The major projects for the year were enlargement of the Lily Pond and the reclamation of the swamp (Sunken Dell) near the Tea House. The dell was drained and the main lake overflow channel that ran through it was widened to about 6 ft to improve the flow of water. Fill was added and a lawn was laid. A pathway through the dell was formed and the banks were planted with a collection of native ferns.

Smith also remodelled the Gilbert Street entrance, greatly improving its appearance and making it the prettiest entrance to the Park.

A new path was started from near the Tea House, going up past the racecourse and behind the eastern terrace of the Sports Ground.

Donations included:

Mrs Corbett, Okato, two Muscovy ducks; Sixty four hybrid ducks, bred from Chilean teal and the grey duck of New Zealand, from the estate of the late Taylor White of Wimbledon.

Plant donations included:

Mr K. Webster, Oregon pine (Douglas Fir) and white pine seed, obtained from a lumberman in the USA; Mr Hanreght, Taumarunui, a package of royal fern and other plants; Mesdames, Freeth and Carrie, seeds and pot plants; Miss Devenish, collection of azaleas; Mr Cock, three dozen tree ferns, comprising three species, nine were 3ft in height, and the others smaller; Mr A. Coxhead, Tongaporutu, a parcel of native plants and seeds; Miss Devenish added further to the collection of azaleas donating another half a dozen plants including two plants of azalea mollis; Mr Wm. Arthur, two dozen large leaved tainui (new to the Park); Mr W. T. Adams, Greendale, Canterbury, ten packets of American tree seeds; Mr Morshead, a fine collection of bulbs; Mr Cox, Tongaporutu, native tree seeds.

It was stated that some of the azaleas donated by Miss Devenish were planted on the eastern slopes of Cannon Hill.

Summary of significant events

- A plan of the Park was compiled by the Survey Department showing the Park to be 55 acres
- The death of Board member Mr. C. W. Govett, replaced by C. H. Drew
- W. W. Smith developed Sunken Dell and extended the Lily Pond (Hatchery Lawn)
- The old fish races were filled in to form a curved walkway near the Lily Pond.

Royal Artillery Band Play at Pukekura Park

TH, FEBRUARY 10, 1914

ROYAL ARTILLERY BAND.

The Executive of the Auckland Exhibition takes pleasure in announcing that arrangements have been made for a brief tour of the Dominion by this Famous Band, so as to allow those unable to journey to Auckland to hear this Magnificent Combination of Instrumentalists—undoubtedly the finest ever heard in the Southern Hemisphere. The time available for tour will allow

TWO CONCERTS ONLY

To be given in New Plymouth—
CORONATION HALL, THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 19, at 8 p.m.
RECREATION GROUNDS, FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 20, at 3 p.m.

H. HARDCASTLE,
Advance Representative.

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TH, FEBRUARY 21, 1914
R.A.B. PERFORMANCE

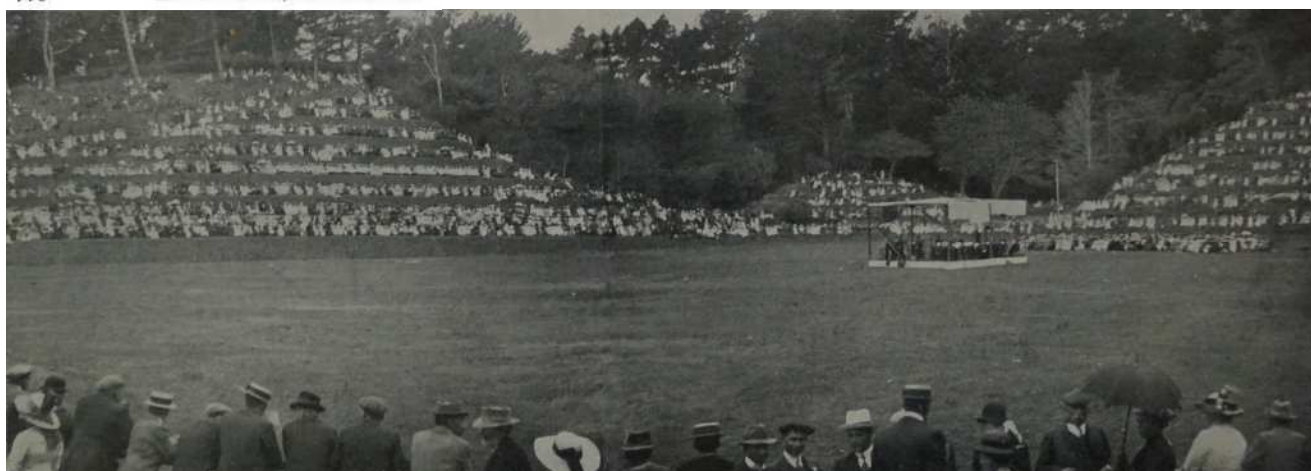
ROYAL ARTILLERY BAND.

The Royal Artillery Band gave an open-air concert in the Recreation Sports Grounds on Friday afternoon, and it is estimated that there were about 6000 people present. The music was greatly enjoyed, although, unfortunately, the lighter passages in several of the selections could not be heard very distinctly by the people who were crowded together at the back of the terraces. The programme was as follows:—March, "La Reine de Saba" (Gounod); selection, "Lieder Ohne Worte" (Mendelssohn); "Humoreske No. 7" (Dvorak); overture, "Tannhauser" (Wagner); ballet suite, "Coppellie" (Delibes); (a) "Cradle Song," (b) "Hungarian Dance, No. 6" (Brahms); scenes from "Cavalleria Rusticana" (Mascagni); overture,

"Zampa" (Herald). The crowd was particularly enthusiastic, and numerous encores were demanded and generously responded to. The piccolo solo by Corp. Reynolds, accompanied by the band, which was given as an encore number, was one of the most popular of the items of the afternoon, and in response to calls from all parts of the amphitheatre for an encore Corp. Reynolds gave another equally delightful solo. The band left by the Rarawa last night for Auckland.

TH, FEBRUARY 21, 1914
R.A.B. PRAISE PARK

The members of the Royal Artillery Band were lavish in their praise of the Recreation Grounds, all saying that they were the finest they had seen in their travels. The experience of playing on the Sports Ground surrounded by thousands of people on the terraces they described as absolutely unique, and one which they would never forget.



Royal Artillery Band. (Auckland Weekly News, March 4, 1914.) W. A. Collis

TH, JANUARY 9, 1914
POHUTUKAWA IN FLOWER

The beautiful crimson bloom of the native tree pohutakawa, commonly known as the Christmas tree, seems this year to be more profuse than usual, and the hundreds of trees in and around New Plymouth are presenting fine sights with their load of fiery flowers. There are some particularly fine specimens in Pukekura Park and Kawaroa Park, while there is a splendid tree on the vacant section at the corner of Liardet and Gilbert Streets.

TH, FEBRUARY 3, 1914
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The ordinary meeting of the Board of Trustees of Pukekura Park was held in the Town Hall on Monday evening. The chairman (Mr. W. L. Newman) presided, and there were also present: Messrs. R. C. Hughes, G. W. Browne, Harris Ford, and C. W. Govett. The Chairman welcomed Mr. Govett back to his seat after his trip to the Old Country.

WORK IN THE PARK.

The report of the curator for the past two months stated that the first two weeks in December were very wet and windy, which somewhat impeded the general work and left a lot of rubbish to be removed. The pine tree blown down during a gale, near the Carrington Road entrance, was cut up into firewood and sold, but it had not yet been removed. Since the weather had settled, three days before Christmas, they had been able to continue the grubbing of young gorse almost uninterruptedly. The whole lot had been burned and now the park was almost free from any danger of fire. They were still continuing the work of mowing and burning rough grass and pure rubbish.

He would call the attention of the board to the condition of parts of the floor of the verandah of the tool-house. Three of the corners required immediate repairing, the bearers being rotten beneath the floor. The work would require to be done by a practical carpenter, as three of the verandah posts were also defective.

He must again state that after the recent Maori sports held in the Sports Ground the place was left in a disgraceful condition. Unless the loose paper scattered over the ground was cleared up, every wind blew it along the walks and gave them a lot of work in gathering it up.

The matters referred to in the report were duly attended to.

GENERAL.

Reporting on the question of arbitrating on the Sports Ground lease the Chairman said that Mr. Corkill and himself had been moving in the matter, but the holidays had somewhat upset the arrangements. Mr. W. N. Ewing had been appointed to act for the Sports Ground Committee and Mr. J. S. S. Medley for the board. He understood that some agreement had been prepared by the solicitors to assist the arbitrators in making their decision binding. The matter had been put in train before Christmas, but owing to one of the arbitrators being away for two or three weeks, nothing definite had been done.

Mr. Kenneth C. Webster wrote that when recently in the State of Washington, U.S.A., he asked a prominent lumberman to procure a quantity of Oregon pine (Douglas fir) and white seeds. This duly came to hand by the last American mail and he intended to hand them on to Mr. Smith for presentation to the park. He trusted the board would make good use of these and watch carefully their future growth.—Mr. Webster was thanked for his kindness.

It was resolved to request the borough engineer to deliver the balance of the metal, donated by the gael authorities for improvements to the paths, as soon as possible and while the fine weather lasted.

Mr. Hughes, who had offered to secure a plan of the park, presented a complete plan given by the Survey Department, and a vote of thanks was accorded the department.

Mr. Hughes was appointed visitor for the month.

Accounts amounting to £1 11s were passed for payment.

The credit balance standing to the account of the board was shown as £58 10s 6d, recently augmented by the receipt of rents and the borough subsidy.

TH, FEBRUARY 3, 1914
DUCKS MISSING

"I regret to mention," reported the curator to the Pukekura Park Board on Monday evening, "that between December 19 and January 12 nine of the tamer and finer ducks disappeared from the lower lake. I do not think it was the work of dogs, otherwise we should have found some trace of them. We now have two dozen young birds coming along very well." Members of the board received the news with regret, Mr. Harris Ford remarking that two more of the ducks had disappeared since the report was written. It seems a great pity that better protection cannot be afforded the animal life in the park.

TH, FEBRUARY 6, 1914
TEA KIOSK AD

SPEND SUNDAY AFTERNOON in Pukekura Park listening to Mrs. Wood and Mr. Van Heck's Orchestra. Strawberries and Cream and Refreshments at the Tea Kiosk.

TH, MARCH 3, 1914
PERMISSION TO FELL PURIRI

The chairman of the Pukekura Park Board (Mr. W. L. Newman) mentioned at Monday night's meeting that the curator desired permission to fell one of the puriri trees on the flat near the fountain. He mentioned that the tree was unsightly and a continual nuisance. The board granted the request, and one member suggested that they should pay a visit to the park with a view to deciding which trees could wisely be removed from the grounds. Another member went so far as to say that they could take out a couple of hundred pines with every benefit to the park. The chairman introduced a business aspect to the question by recalling a paragraph he had read in that evening's Herald to the effect that orchardists were paying as much as £1 per tree for pinus insignis, and that he hoped to see a portable sawmilling plant erected near the park some day, when the bigger trees could be turned to profit. Nothing was done in the matter.

TDN, MARCH 3, 1914
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

At the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board last night there were present: Messrs. W. L. Newman (chairman), C. W. Govett, H. Ford, W. A. Collis, F. P. Corkill, and R. C. Hughes.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that since the meeting held on March 2 the work of the Park staff had been that of general maintenance. He hoped soon to complete mowing the grass, grubbing the gorse, for the second time this spring and summer, and burning all rubbish before the rainy season set in. Owing to a complete stoppage, by roots getting into the 15in. pipe carrying the water from the upper lake to the waterfall at the old hatchery, it had been necessary to open the deep drain and remove the matted mass of roots. This took two days. The bridge over the overflow of the upper lake near the tea-rooms had also required a day's attention during the month. Two of the bearers were rotten, and gave way. He had put in strong manaku stems to last until he could spare the time to remove the decaying bearers, which he hoped to replace with iron rails in a few weeks' time. Four of these heavy rails were on hand, which would make secure work of it for many years. He had also found it necessary to put posts in the centre of the two walks leading up from the Sports Ground to the upper lake, to prevent motor-cars, cabs and traps from going up to the flat at the tea-rooms. The practice had become quite a nuisance by cutting up the walks and destroying the grass edges. Since last meeting the carpenter had repaired the flooring of the verandah round the tool house. It was now very secure. Up to the present time he had not been troubled this year with pond weed in the lakes. There were traces of it in a few places, but these will be easily kept under later on. A week ago, Mrs. E. Corbett, of Okato, presented a fine pair of muscovy ducks to the Board. They were quite at home with the other birds. The growth of the general vegetation in the park continued apace. The recent heavy showers had been very beneficial.

GENERAL.

Mrs. Cory, who is in charge of the tea-rooms at the Park, wrote enclosing £2 2s for improvements to the tea-rooms, which she asked to have treated as a donation to the funds of the Park.

She will be thanked for her donation. Mr. Newman was appointed visitor for the month.

A sub-committee, consisting of the chairman and Messrs. Hughes and Ford, was appointed to confer with a ladies' committee relative to the taking up of the Park Saturday collections.

Accounts amounting to 8s 4d were passed for payment.

TH, APRIL 7, 1914
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board of Trustees was held on Monday evening. The chairman (Mr. W. L. Newman) presiding. Other members present were: Messrs. F. P. Corkill, C. W. Govett, Harris Ford, R. Cock and R. C. Hughes. The main business of the evening was the receipt of a report from the curator (Mr. W. W. Smith), who stated that there was little of importance to report on for the past month. As in the month of February, the work had been chiefly that of mowing and general cleaning of the park. As was usual at this time of the year, the recent high winds had given the staff a considerable amount of extra work, but there was no damage done to the park. Mr. Cock was appointed visitor for the month. It was decided to paint the Poet's Bridge.

The annual Saturday collection for Pukekura Park has been fixed for Saturday, April 25. At Monday's meeting of the board members asked whether, in view of the many recent appeals for funds by other local bodies, it would not be as well to postpone the collection till later in the year. It was decided, however, that there was no time like the present, and the previous date was adhered to. It may be stated in advance that "exemption badges" will be given to all donors of 10s or over.

It was mentioned at the Pukekura Park Board meeting on Monday that under the new valuation the 46 odd acres of the park were valued at £5100 (improvements £1810). The park is, of course, not taxable.

TH, APRIL 7, 1914
CURATOR'S REPORT

"I propose shortly to start planting native trees and shrubs extensively in the park. For this work I would be glad to receive donations of plants and seeds from country friends who are in a position to send them. The present is an exceptionally fruitful year for most species of native plants, which is an inducement to me to ask for such per medium of the board."—Extract from the report presented by the curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) at the meeting of the Pukekura Park Board on Monday.

TH, APRIL 7, 1914
DUCK IN THE PARK

The annual migration of ducks from the country into Pukekura Park is now beginning as the shooting season becomes nearer. A fortnight ago there were two dozen ducks on the Park lakes, now there are over 100, and it is confidently expected that before May 1 comes round the Park will be thickly populated with birds seeking a haven from the regions made perilous by sportsmen. This happens in various other places in New Zealand, and there can be no surer indication of illegal shooting before the season begins, for the arrival of the birds cannot be put down to any other reason than the desire to escape danger.

TDN, APRIL 25, 1914

"PARK SATURDAY."

It is questionable whether our Pukekura Park Board is sufficiently aggressive in the matter of soliciting financial assistance from the people. One appeal annually is made, by means of "Park Saturday" collections, and "Park Saturday" for 1914 arrives to-day. The contributors can depend upon their money being put to good use; in fact, one of the most striking features of the administration of the most beautiful park in the Southern Hemisphere, and one of the most delightful pieces of man-helped natural beauty in the world is that the Board manages to do so much with such small revenue. The state of the Park is undoubtedly a credit to the talented gentleman in charge of it. The balance-sheet for the financial year just ended is not yet available, but from that of 1913 is gleaned the information that wages cost only £245 3s, and of this £186 went to the permanent staff, while the hosts of water-fowl were fed for a little over £4. The Board could spend much more money to very great advantage. Some of the beauties of the Park remain to be developed. This staff is far too small, but the Board, on its slender means, cannot afford to bring it up to the required standard, its total revenue for 1913 having been only £276 odd, of which £150 came from the borough subsidy. New Plymouth people are pardonably proud of their Park. But what help is forthcoming from the average citizen? He is prepared to enjoy its shady walks and sylvan glades, and to leave the business of maintaining them to "the other fellow." We hope that to-day the people will remove this reflection upon their love of the beautiful, and make Park Saturday a success. We must confess that we would like to see a little more life infused into the arrangements for the annual collections, the work seeming to fall upon the secretary and a little band of devoted women. There is no reason why the members of the Board should not get busy themselves, and also promote, say, an annual Park fete, which, properly run, should prove one of the most popular, successful and profitable fixtures that could be arranged. By its means and with the Park Saturday, the Board should be lifted from its state of chronic impecuniosity and be enabled to effect further improvements in one of New Zealand's greatest scenic heritages.

TH, MAY 19, 1914
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD A.G.M.

The annual meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Town Hall on Monday night, Mr. W. L. Newman presiding. There were also present: Messrs. R. P. Corkill, W. A. Collis, W. Ambury, R. C. Hughes, H. Ford, and the secretary (Mr. C. H. Drew).

An apology was received from Mr. C. W. Govett.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator, reported that when the year March, 1913-March, 1914, began the staff was engaged reforming and draining walks in the park, which was continued as long as materials lasted. The nine pine trees ordered to be cut down were next attended to. The planting of young native trees and tree ferns occupied a fortnight; grubbing gorse and broom, mowing fern and rough grass, followed, but was much hindered by wet weather. Two days were given to scraping the bottom of the lakes with a strong scythe to prevent the growth of pond-weed, which had given no further trouble. Wet weather and strong winds up till December 20 caused much work. Except a small patch near the racecourse, the whole park had been mown twice during the year. During the winter it was proposed to slightly remodel the entrance of the park at Gilbert Street. The growth of the trees was so rapid that it was intended to make the broad walk two or three feet narrower on the waterfall side, to enable transplantation of rare and valuable trees to form an additional row inside the turf edging. It would consist of olearias and senecios, which would greatly improve the entrance. The planting of native trees and tree ferns would occupy some time. A considerable amount of trimming off the lower branches of pine trees would be required to enable the ferns and general undergrowth to make headway. Reforming of walks and cutting down pine trees, etc., could be authorised by the board after inspection. The beds on the lawn and the rose-bed had made vigorous growth during the year. The flax-bed contained 34 varieties of native flax, all flourishing well. All the senecios and olearias received from Kaitia in the far north and those from 3000ft. to 5000ft. from the mountains of the West Coast of the South Island and the Chatham Islands had flourished vigorously side by side. Miss Devenish had sent some new plants, Mesdames Freeth and Corrie seeds and pot plants respectively, and an anonymous donor had also sent some fine native plants. Seeds had also been received from Kawhia, and Mr. Hauright, of Taumarunui, sent a package of Royal fern and other plants.

Hearty votes of thanks were accorded to the various donors of plants, seeds, etc.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Chairman, in his annual report, stated that, thanks to the initiation of "Park Saturday" and the generosity of donors, the finances of the board were in a satisfactory state, and it was pleasing to know that the item of interest upon overdraft had almost vanished from the board's account. Commencing the year with a debit balance of £37 10s, the year ended with a credit balance of £25 12s. In addition to general upkeep an appreciable sum had been expended upon the paths, and more would have been accomplished

but for the difficulty of obtaining suitable gravel. The special beds of New Zealand flax, olearia, senecios, and roses had been of much interest to visitors, and further improvements were contemplated along the path leading from the Gilbert Street entrance, which was by far the prettiest entrance to the park. The members of the board were fully alive to the necessity for doing away with a number of the large pinus insignis trees, but the matter of expense was at present a difficulty. The preservation of both aquatic and land birds in the park called for consideration and should interest every member of the community. It was to be regretted that the portion of the park under the control of the Sports Committee did not show such signs of improvement as could be wished for, but it must be recognised the disabilities under which that body was labouring. The tea-rooms under Mrs. Cory's capable management had become quite an institution and were much appreciated by visitors. The report concluded with special reference to the zealous services of the curator, Mr. W. W. Smith, which, he said, could not be estimated by mere money, and to the valued services of the hon. secretary, Mr. C. H. Drew.

GENERAL.

The Secretary reported a credit balance of £133.

The custodian, Mr. W. W. Smith, was voted a bonus as a slight token of appreciation of his zealous services.

On the motion of Mr. R. C. Hughes, a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the ladies who had so kindly undertaken the collections on "Park Saturday."

On the motion of Mr. F. P. Corkill, a hearty vote of thanks was also accorded to the chairman and to the hon. secretary for their valuable services during the past year. Several members of the board spoke in appreciative terms of the keen interest that had been taken in the welfare of the park by Mr. Newman and Mr. Drew.

TH, MAY 19, 1914 CHANGE OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. R. Cock has been elected chairman of the Pukekura Park Board for the ensuing year.

TH, MAY 21, 1914 PRAISE FOR THE PARK

"A DELIGHTFUL PLACE."

"BEST GARDENS I'VE SEEN."

The above comments, and many others of a similar nature, were uttered by General Sir Ian Hamilton and members of his party when they visited Pukekura Park on Wednesday. Messrs. W. L. Newman and F. P. Corkill (members of the board) and Mr. W. W. Smith (curator of the park) accompanied the party and showed them as many beauty spots as possible in the limited time available.

It was originally intended that only a very short time should be spent in the park, but so charmed were the party with the many beautiful walks that a much longer time than at first anticipated was occupied by the visit. The party entered by the Gilbert Street entrance, thence proceeding round the big lake and over the Poet's Bridge to the smaller bridge beyond. Here, much to the regret of all members of the party, the lateness of the hour prevented any further extension of the visit.

Despite the recent storm, the park was in splendid order. The paths were trim and neat and there were practically no indications of the heavy wind experienced. The rotunda looked fresh and bright in a new coat of paint, whilst additional brightness was lent to the general scene by the bright red which figures prominently in the decoration of the two bridges, which are also being re-painted. Seen from a spot close to the springboard at the north-eastern end of the big lake, the view was magnificent. The reflections of the trees in the lake first pleased the eyes, but directly one looked towards the mountain a still more glorious view presented itself. In the foreground the various shades of green made a striking picture, but crowning all, clear and snowy white, Mount Egmont towered in the background.

"Oh! that's perfectly magnificent," said General Godley; "it reminds one of the gardens in Santiago (Chili), where there is a view something like this. Altogether, these gardens are perfectly delightful; I had no idea they were so beautiful. Yes, they are certainly the best I've ever seen," he concluded.

General Sir Ian Hamilton was also astonished at the beauty of the place. "Well, it certainly is a treat to come to such a place as this," he said. "I hope the park and all these beautiful trees will always be preserved; to cut the trees down would be nothing but desecration. This place is really splendid," he concluded.

And with many other similar words of astonishment and appreciation at the beauty of the park, the party regrettably left the gardens and proceeded to the next stage of their programme.

TH, JUNE 2, 1914 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING SUNKEN DELL

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of Pukekura Park was held in the Council Chambers on Monday evening. The chairman (Mr. R. Cock) presided, and members present were Messrs. W. L. Newman and R. C. Hughes, with the hon. secretary, Mr. C. H. Drew.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that the first week of the month was devoted to trimming the lower branches of the larger trees after the storm. Several of the younger trees in the more exposed parts required to be set up and fastened in by ramming fresh soil around the stems and roots. The trimming of the fern trees required several days. Except two days spent in planting and two in mowing rough grass and grubbing gorse the remainder of the month was spent in cleaning up and burning rubbish. Some thin planking with which to mend a number of steps was required. During the month Mr. William Arthur presented the board with two dozen plants of large-leaved tainui. They were very acceptable, as they were new to the park. He had also received four packets of Native plant seeds by post from Taumarunui, but did not know who sent them.

Hearty votes of thanks were accorded Mr. Arthur and the Taumarunui donor for their generosity.

The planking asked for will be procured.

PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS.

In his report the curator said there were two pieces of work still on the staff's hands which had been delayed

for 2½ years, namely, cleaning, remedelling and planting the rough swamp at the entrance to the park (beyond the Sports Ground) and also the head of the water lily lake. The rushes in the latter would have to be removed, and by cutting back the waterfall side of the lake (utilising the spoil for filling up the old unsightly fish races) and planting the banks of the lake with ferns a great improvement would be effected. When commencing the work on the swamp it would first be necessary to cut a deep drain through it to thoroughly drain it before it could be cleared and cleaned, when they could see the conformation of the area to be remodelled and planted.

The chairman said this report was the outcome of a chat he had had with Mr. Smith, when the speaker had asked him to report on these matters. His idea was to show the people of New Plymouth some permanent work as the result of the money which they had so readily subscribed. The swamp referred to was between the band rotunda and the tea kiosk, and had always been an eyesore. Mr. Smith's idea was to first put in a drain 6ft. wide to drain the place, and possibly later to make a miniature cascade. The extension of the lily pond as suggested would also improve that portion greatly, and by raising the paths they would always be kept dry. The board had now £130 to deal with, and the speaker's opinion was that if the works proposed were carried out and at the end of the year the board found itself with empty chests, the people would be satisfied with the improvements and would readily subscribe again.

After a brief discussion the board adapted the scheme, and instructed the curator to proceed with the work.

GENERAL.

The Town Clerk notified that the Mayor (Mr. J. E. Wilson) and Messrs. W. Ambury and W. A. Collis had been appointed the council's representatives on the board.

The curator forwarded £1 10s. being the amount received from the sale of six loads of firewood.

Captain A. C. C. Stevens, Area Group Officer, tendered his thanks to the chairman and members of the board for their courtesy shown on the occasion of the visit of General Hamilton.

In response to a communication from the secretary, the Town Clerk advised that the council had only two yards of asphalt mixed, and the board could have it at £1 10s. per yard.—It was decided to leave the matter to the visitor for the month, Mr. Ford. The asphalt was required for the re-flooring of the band rotunda.

The Town Clerk also intimated that in future the annual grant from the Borough Council, together with the share of revenue from reserves, would amount to £150.

Accounts amounting to £39 1s 9d were passed for payment.

TDN, JULY 3, 1914 DONATION

The Pukekura Park Board is in receipt of a donation of £10 from Colonel Heard, of the New Zealand Defence Forces.

TH, JUNE 12, 1914

C. W. GOVETT - OBITUARY

MR. CLEMENT W. GOVETT.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Clement W. Govett, which occurred at his residence shortly after midnight last night. About a fortnight ago he underwent a very serious operation, from the effects of which he was slowly recovering. Yesterday he was not quite so well, and in the evening his condition rapidly changed for the worse and he gradually sank.

The late Mr. Govett was a son of the Ven. Archdeacon Govett, and was born in New Plymouth. He received his early education in Auckland, and then went to England, where he entered the Middle Temple, and was called to the bar in 1874. Upon his return to New Zealand he was appointed assistant-solicitor to the Crown, a position which he resigned in order to follow the practice of his profession in New Plymouth, where he has practised with great success since the beginning of 1877. In 1901 he admitted Mr. J. H. Quilliam to partnership.

Outside his profession Mr. Govett took an active personal interest in many movements which had for their object the advancement of the town and the well-being of the people. A keen lover of Nature and an enthusiastic horticulturist, he took a special interest in scenery preservation and the conservation of the native bush, as well as in the beautification of Pukekura Park, to the upkeep of which he was a generous contributor, as well as devoting much time to the duties of a member of the Park Board. He was one of the prime movers in the formation of the Taranaki Scenery Preservation Society, the first of its kind in the Dominion, and thus may be said to have had much more than a local influence in that respect. For other districts followed the lead of Taranaki and formed similar societies. The setting aside of the Egmont National Park as a reserve for all time was largely due to his efforts. In local politics he was known as a keen and fearless critic, while as a member of the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce, at one time its president and for many years on the council, he was a hard worker in the interests of the town. The Tennis and Bowling Clubs found in him a generous supporter. In private life he had very many warm friends, who admired and respected him for his excellent qualities, especially for his unstinted generosity in matters which appealed to him and his charitableness in genuine cases of distress. He will be greatly missed in many circles.

TH, JULY 7, 1914

TRIBUTE TO GOVETT

At the meeting of the Pukekura Park Board on Monday the following resolution was carried:—"That his surviving colleagues hereby express their high appreciation of the services rendered to the board by the late Mr. Clement William Govett, who during the long period of his trusteeship was ever active in promoting the interests of the Park and to whose influence several substantial benefactions were entirely due. That the name of Clement William Govett be engraved on the marble tablet dedicated to the memory of deceased benefactors."

TH, JULY 7, 1914

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Monday night, when there were present:—Messrs. R. Cock (chairman), W. L. Newman, R. C. Hughes, F. P. Corkill, and W. Ambury. An apology was received from Mr. Harris Ford.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that the first week was devoted to mowing grass, and young fern, and grubbing gorse in the bush at the head of the lake. The accumulated rubbish had been burnt. General clearing occupied about a week. He had remodelled the Gilbert Street entrance, and the alteration would be a great improvement. He was now altering the upper part of the lily pond, which would be completed during the week. He would drain the swamp near the tea-rooms and let it dry for a few days before the rank tangled growth was cleared. A few places in the walks required repairs, and he asked for a few loads of ashes in order to do the work. He had been offered the material by Messrs. Honnor and Clark, and Mr. Nichols, and it was only a question of carting. He urged that the flag-pole now lying on the sports ground be put in place.

The report was adopted.

FINANCIAL.

The bank balance was reported to be £42 0s 10d., and cash in hand £10.

TH, AUGUST 4, 1914

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of Pukekura Park was held on Monday evening. The chairman (Mr. R. Cock) presided, and members present were: Messrs. W. L. Newman, S. Percy-Smith, J. E. Wilson, and R. C. Hughes.

WORK IN THE PARK.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that owing to the unsettled and showery weather the work of enlarging the water-lily lake and draining and clearing the swamp near the sports ground entrance had been hindered. The latter work was now sufficiently cleared to enable the members of the board to inspect the site and determine how it was to be remodelled. Meantime the staff would level the rough surface and set a series of level pegs at various levels, which would afford a perfect idea or method of how to finally finish the proposed work. He would suggest that members visit the park as soon as may be convenient for them. There were a few other proposed alterations which he would like to submit.

In addition to this work the staff had given all their time to planting and tree trimming.

The curator again drew attention to the absolute and urgent necessity of erecting a new w.c. for gentlemen.

"During the month," continued the report, "a good collection of azaleas were presented to the board by Miss Devenish, and a fine collection of various bulbs were also presented by Mr. Morshead, the nurseryman. The azaleas were planted along with a quantity of the bulbs on the east slope of the cannon hill. Five packets of native plant seeds were received from Kawhia, and three packets from Tarata, both from anonymous donors. Mr. Cox, of Tongaporutu, also sent seven packets."

The Chairman, remarking on the meeting held in the park during last month, reported that those few members who had attended had gone over

the works in progress with the curator. They had taken it upon themselves to instruct the curator to reduce the height of the elaeagnus hedge on the edge of the embankment at the head of the lily pond. This would effect a great improvement, as it would enable people standing on the terrace near the band rotunda to look down on the beauties of the lily pond and lower lake.

Members generally agreed with the chairman that the work would improve the locality.

The Chairman went on to say that during the month six loads of cinders, at a total cost of 27s, had been used in the grounds. Personally he was not altogether in favour of this material for pathmaking, and had applied to the new gaoler for the balance of the rejected metal from the quarries. In the past this had been given gratis, but now, as the Borough Council was paying 2s 6d per load for it, the board was asked the same amount. However, something was needed for the paths, and he thought that at least ten loads of this metal should be procured.—It was decided to adopt the chairman's suggestion.

GENERAL.

The secretary (Mr. C. H. Drew) reported that the credit balance at the bank stood at £83 1s 11d, which would be reduced to about £60 when unpresented cheques had been paid.

The secretary of the Sports Ground Committee wrote that a strict watch was now being kept at all football matches and other functions held on the grounds for anyone climbing down the terraces.

Reference was made to the disgraceful state of the dressing shed at the sports ground, which one member described as a disgrace to the young men of the town. Nothing was done in the matter.

It was decided to hold a meeting in the park to confer with the curator on the works now in progress, and also future improvements to be undertaken.

Mr. Newman was appointed visitor for the month.

Votes of thanks were passed to the various donors of seeds and plants referred to in the report.

TH, AUGUST 24, 1914

RANFURLY SHIELD DEFENCE

FOOTBALL! FOOTBALL!

**RECREATION SPORTS GROUND
NEW PLYMOUTH.**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1914.

**RANFURLY SHIELD CHALLENGE,
SOUTHLAND v. TARANAKI,**

At 3 p.m.,

**Preceded by Curtain-raiser,
NAPIER HIGH SCHOOL v. NEW
PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL,**

At 1.15 p.m.,

Admission 1s. Stand Seats 1s.

P. SKOGLUND.

Hon. Sec. T.R.U.

d712

TDN, AUGUST 28, 1914

THE RANFURLY SHIELD.

ANOTHER CHALLENGE STALLED OFF.

TARANAKI DEFEAT SOUTHLAND.

Yesterday Taranaki for the fifth occasion was called upon to defend the Ranfurlly Shield, the challenge in this instance being Southland. The southern team had suffered seriously owing to the war having made inroads upon its representative players, no less than ten of the fifteen originally chosen having volunteered for the front. Nevertheless, the players chosen to fill the vacancies must have worked hard to get into training, for the team fully extended the local fifteen and had the backs been better might have annexed the shield. Forward they were good, all being solid, honest workers, who did not let up from whistle to whistle. Though Taranaki were victorious by 6 points to nil, their performance was very ragged and left much to be desired, and it was hardly possible to believe that they can withstand such teams as Wellington and Auckland will bring for their challenge matches. It was hard to credit that this was practically the same team as played Auckland so brilliantly last Saturday. It was a game of lost opportunities yesterday. Taranaki had all the better of the game in the second spell, when their backs were throwing the leather about, and at least half a dozen tries should have been scored, instead of only one, but the work lacked finish. The game was spectacular and open, and at times delighted the spectators, but the movements were seldom carried to a successful finality. A feature of the game was the fine play of Don Cameron, who has again come out to assist his province, and if he can come back to old form—and on yesterday's play such looks likely—he will be a valuable adjunct to the team. With the exception of Taylor, who played a fine game, the local forwards did not display their customary dash, showing that Taranaki is still an in-and-out team. The visiting forwards, on the other hand, were the main-stay. Their backs seldom essayed to pass, but defended well. Martin was a tower of strength in this respect. The ground was in capital order for the match, the slight breeze not affecting the play much. There was an attendance of about 2000. The teams lined out as follows:—

SOUTHLAND (Maroon)

Lilley
Robertson Martin McNece
Scully Kavanah
Forde

Sheed

Roach McDowell
McDonald Scully Baird
Lindsay Barry

TARANAKI (Amber and Black)

S Cameron
D. Cameron Loveridge C. Whittington
Roberts Stohr
Brown

Taylor

Paul Patterson
Kissick Young Robertson
Cain Whittington

TH, SEPTEMBER 26, 1914

DUCKS DONATED

The Pukekura Park Board has received from Mr. Gordon Lloyd, executor of the estate of the late Mr. Taylor White, of Hawke's Bay, a handsome donation consisting of five large cases of ducks, which came to hand this morning and will be liberated on the waters in the park.

TDN, OCTOBER 6, 1914

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING SUNKEN DELL

The usual monthly meeting of the Board was fixed for last night, but lapsed owing to there not being a quorum of members present.

The following are the reports from the curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) for the months of August and September:—

AUGUST REPORT.

As directed by the members of the Board, who met in the Park on the 16th ultimo, the reclamation of the swamp near the tea-house, and the enlargement of the water-lily lake, have been completed as far as it is practicable at present. The weather is now suitable for continuing the work on the freshly-dug ground, and for finally forming and planting it. I would therefore be glad if the Board members could pay a visit of inspection, and determine what remodelling it may require to complete the work. We have already planted two dozen large tree-ferns, comprising four species, on the banks of the newly-cleared area. All other details can be settled when the Board members visit the Park.

Owing to the high winds recently, we have had to devote several days to cleaning and burning the accumulation of leaves, etc., in several parts of the grounds. The work is necessary as a safeguard against fire now that the drier weather is coming on. We have also devoted four days to grubbing gorse on the side of the Old Carrington road, near the Park cottages. There are a few more important jobs which, I think, would prove a great improvement were they sanctioned to be done by the Board. These will be submitted to the members for consideration on their next visit to the Park.

During the month Mr. Cock presented three dozen tree-ferns, comprising three species, to the Park. Nine were 3ft in height and the others smaller, but all are very healthy plants and very acceptable. Mr. Cox, of Tongaporutu, also sent another donation of native tree seeds. Miss Devenish added further to the collection of azaleas by bringing in half-a-dozen plants, including two plants of Mollis.

SEPTEMBER REPORT.

During the past month nine days were devoted to re-modelling the newly-cleared swamp, forming a walk along the side of, and planting the banks of the same. We have also widened the channel of the stream passing through it, which is an improvement. We will require 8lbs of lawn grass seed with which to sow the flat. The banks will be planted with a collection of native ferns, and we hope to complete the whole work in another week, or perhaps a little more. Much of our time is

now required in mowing and burning grass and leaves. The two days' strong easterly winds that blew a month ago deposited a salt spray on the tree-ferns and turned them brown. They are now making vigorous growth, and will soon throw off the effects of the saline wind. During the month Mr. Arthur Cox, of Tongaporutu, has sent a collection of native plant seeds to the Park. Mr. Wm. Arthur also brought a parcel of trees and shrubs from the mountain. Mr. T. W. Adams, of Greendale, Canterbury, sent ten packets of American tree seeds. They have now all been sown. The trustees of the late Taylor White, Windblodon, presented the Board with five dozen and four of hybrid ducks bred from Chilean teal and the grey duck of New Zealand. Two have died since receiving them, and one was killed by a dog. Our own stock of native and hybrid ducks are nearly all nesting at present.

TH, NOVEMBER 3, 1914

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Board or Trustees of Pukekura Park was held in the Town Hall on Monday night, Mr. R. Cock (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Messrs. E. P. Corkill, Harris Ford, R. C. Hughes, W. L. Newman, and the secretary (Mr. C. H. Drew).

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that all work directed by the board at the two meetings held in the Park had now been completed. The staff was now engaged mowing the rough grass and young fern around the head of the valley between the tea-house and racecourse. Owing to continuous dry weather until a week ago, they had devoted four days to raking and burning rubbish, but the recent high winds had again caused considerable litter.

At the last meeting of the board held in the Park the question of removing the large macrocarpa tree near the tin shed in the Sports Ground was discussed. In submitting this matter for the board's consideration he suggested it be removed. It was already half-dead, and when removed a much better view would be presented behind it than at present.

In regard to the centre or small bed left on the newly-sown lawn on the site of the recently cleared swamp, he asked if the board would consider the placing of a small neatly constructed rookery with a small fountain on the site. The water-pipe passed nine yards from the bed, so the expense would be small for its erection.

The five dozen ducks received two months ago and all the other aquatic fowl in the Park were thriving well. The growth of the general vegetation was also very rapid this season.

In applying for a ten days' holiday, the curator mentioned that this was the only time in the year that he could get away conveniently. During his absence the work would be attended to by Mr. Robert Old.

Leave of absence was granted as requested.

It was decided to cut down the macrocarpa tree in accordance with the recommendation.

THE SPORTS GROUND.

Messrs. J. S. Medley and W. N. Ewing, the arbitrators appointed to fix the annual rent to be paid by the Sports Ground Committee to the Park Board, reported that they had decided upon £20 per annum.

The Chairman said it was considered that a certain amount of clearing up should be done before a new lease was entered on.

Mr. Hughes stated that he did not like the prospects.

Mr. Corkill explained that the Sports Ground Committee owed the board £85 on the seven years' lease which had expired at the end of August.

Mr. Newman said it appeared to be immaterial whether a lease was entered into or not.

Mr. Corkill moved that the committee be written to asking what they proposed to do with regard to the outstanding rents, £85 up to August, 1913.

Members said it was necessary to know the exact position before deciding to issue a new lease. It was the only part of the Park that was earning any money, and then the board did not get it. It had been suggested that cricketers should take it over.

Mr. Corkill's motion was carried unanimously.

GENERAL.

Mr. Ford mentioned that the large iron gate at the entrance to the Park was being badly knocked about. The gate should be closed except when required to be opened for some particular function.—The matter will be inquired into.

Mr. F. H. Bovett wrote asking that some pine trees opposite his place in John Street be cut down, as at present they threw too much shade on to his property.—It was decided that the board was unable to accede to the request.

TH, DECEMBER 16, 1914

C. H. DREW APPOINTED TO BOARD

Mr. C. H. Drew has been appointed a member of the Pukekura Park Board, in succession to the late Mr. C. W. Govett. The appointment should prove an excellent one, for Mr. Drew has taken a very active interest in the park.

TH, DECEMBER 22, 1914 NEW PLYMOUTH PROMOTIONAL AD

NEW PLYMOUTH

IS THE PLACE TO SPEND
YOUR

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

MAGNIFICENT SEA BEACH—

Surf Bathing, Baths, Boating, etc.

FAMOUS PUKEKURA PARK—

Unrivalled in the World.

MOUNT EGMONT—

Mountain Hostel only 1½ hours by car, through wonderful bush.

MOKAU RIVER—

Three hours by car; unexcelled scenery en route and on river.

Write for Booklet, Tourist League,
Box 42, New Plymouth.

1847

TDN, DECEMBER 22, 1914 NEW PATH IN PROGRESS

The Pukekura Park Board is at present constructing a path which will be a great addition to the grounds. Starting by the triangular belt of native trees about eighty yards from the kiosk, it winds over the heights overlooking the racecourse, zig-zagging around the tops of the hills about the sports ground. The new path, which has been laid off by Mr S. Percy Smith, and is already partly made, will be completed shortly after the Christmas holidays, and will open up some of the finest native bush in the Park, and will be much appreciated by lovers of the Park. The Park ought to look very well next year. The curator, Mr W. W. Smith, has been promised from two sources a great supply of bulbs for autumn planting, and intends to plant these on the hillsides surrounding the lake.

TH, DECEMBER 23, 1914 DRUNKARD FALLS INTO POND

A man more or less under the influence of liquor created a little amusement among the crowd returning from the races through Pukekura Park on Boxing Day. The path was not wide enough for him to carry out his zig-zag course successfully, and he toppled over the bank and rolled into the lake just above the tea kiosk. One of the crowd who witnessed the incident by means of a walking stick hauled the fellow out, and he appeared little the worse for his immersion.



Early Photo of Sunken Dell. (Puke Ariki, A.4.85)

1915

New Plymouth had its first meteorological station installed near the curator's cottage on Carrington Road (now Victoria Road). The location was chosen because Smith lived in the cottage. He took daily readings and once a month they would get posted in the newspapers. This is another example of Smith's contributions.

Because of the war it was decided not to have a Park Saturday fundraising effort. This had been a major fundraiser, and indeed a lifeline for the previous three years.

A new rose bed was established on the site of the old peacock house, which was at the southern end of what is now Palm Lawn.

A new path was completed (Claffey Walk) which ran from the John Street (Rogan Street) entrance, around the top of the Sports Ground Gulley (King Fern Gulley).

Several pine and macrocarpa trees were felled and sold for firewood.—another source of income for the Board.

Around this time, Walter Smith and Percy Smith were being called upon by several authorities in town to help with planting layouts, including: the Hospital Board, the Technical College and East End Reserve.

Donations included:

Mr W. Good, Pohokura, a muscovy duck; Captain Thunell, an Alaskan goose.

Plant donations:

Mrs Coker, Fillis Street, a collection of rare plant seeds; Mr E. F. Sandford, Christchurch, new varieties of native flax; an anonymous gentleman posted a large package of native plant seeds; Mr Stevens, Inglewood, native plant seedlings; Mr Cock, a kourcroya (*Furcraea foetida*), banana and annuals; Miss Devenish, a number of plants new to the Park; Mrs John Wheeler, some rare plants new to the park; Mr Billing, Frankley District, six new species of water lilies which were planted at the head of the water lily lake; a Palmerston North gentleman, a large collection of roses, which were transplanted in a new bed on the site of the old peacock house; Two New Zealand beech trees, one each by Messrs Davis and Morshead; Mr Robert Stevens, Eltham, a package of native plants; Miss Devenish and Miss Douglas, parcels of native plants; a Gentleman in the Mokau district, package of seeds and seedlings; Mr Tribe, who had recently returned from a trip to Hawaii, large package of seeds from the Agricultural Department of that country; Messrs Duncan and Davies, 18 varieties of trees and shrubs and 100 roses, the large express load sent comprising 180 plants, some of them being new to the Park; Mr Hicks, a Tikorangi nurseryman, a large package of valuable plants, comprising chiefly ornamental foliated species, with four exceptions, all were new to the Park; Mr Mitchinson, a box of nemesia.

Summary of significant events

- Meteorological station installed in the park
- Curator shot several shags as they were too numerous and eating all the carp
- A lawnmower is purchased. Until this time the lawns were cut with a scythe
- Claffey Walk formed from the John Street (Rogan Street) entrance round the back of the eastern terrace of the Sports Ground.



Top: Photograph taken from inside Sunken Dell sometime between 1915—1920.
(Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections 35-R940)

Bottom: The camellia in the picture above next to the girl is still in the park in 2021.
Photograph, Alan Metcalfe.



TDN, JANUARY 5, 1915
CURATOR SHOTS SHAG

Shags have been in evidence to an unwanted extent in Pukekura Park lately. During the last few days the curator has shot four large specimens. One that he bagged yesterday was in the act of swallowing a carp, for which the shag has a special weakness.

TDN, JANUARY 5, 1915
METEOROLOGICAL STATION

The Government Meteorological Department is establishing a weather station in New Plymouth. It will be located near the caretaker's cottage. Some of the instruments have arrived, and a place is being cleared for the erection of the station. Mr W. W. Smith, the curator of Pukekura Park, who has considerable experience in meteorological record and research work, will be in charge of the station.

TH, JANUARY 7, 1915
FETE FOR WAR RELIEF FUND

The Mayoress (Mrs. J. E. Wilson) intimates that the ladies of New Plymouth will hold a fete in Pukekura Park for the Poor in Britain, Ireland, and Belgium Relief Fund, on Thursday, February 4.

TH, JANUARY 11, 1915
FETE FOR WAR RELIEF FUND

Mr. W. Good, Pohokura, has presented the Pukekura Park Board with a fine specimen of the Muscovy duck.

On the voyage down from Puget Sound the crew of the H. D. Bendixsen caught an Alaskan (Brent) goose, which was brought on to New Plymouth and has now been presented by Captain Thunell to the Pukekura Park Board.

TH, JANUARY 12, 1915
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in the Town Hall on Monday night, when there were present: Messrs. R. Cock (chairman), S. P. Smith, F. P. Corkill, W. L. Newman, W. Ambury, H. Ford, R. C. Hughes, and C. H. Drew (secretary).

The Chairman said that at the last meeting a resolution was passed recommending the Government to appoint Mr. C. H. Drew as a member in place of the late Mr. C. W. Govett. The appointment had been made in due course. In extending his congratulations to Mr. Drew he expressed the opinion that the new member would be the right man in the right place.

The Chairman also mentioned that since the last meeting Mr. W. Good, of Pohokura, had presented a Muscovy duck to the Park, and Captain Thunell, of the Bendixsen, had also forwarded an Alaskan goose. The committee of the recent collection for the Poor in Britain and Belgium Relief Fund had presented the board with eighteen collecting boxes.—The thanks of the board will be tendered to the several donors.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

In his report the curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) stated that the annual mowing of the rough grass had occupied the man's time chiefly. Owing to the high winds and heavy rains since the late fine weather, the assistants' time had been devoted to the general cleaning of the walks and prominent parts of the park. For the past fortnight two hours had been given each morning to mowing and raking off the pond weeds in both lakes. They were much more plentiful and persistent during the present year than in any previous year. It would require another week of such work to get the three species of weeds thoroughly suppressed for the season. The cutting of the fence around the fern trees overlooking the lily lake had been completed. It would, he feared, be impossible to make a neat fence of it without planting it all again with young plants. This could be arranged during the next visit of the board members to the Park. The new walks leading up to the hills overlooking the Sports Ground would be completed this week. The mowing of the rough grass and the grubbing of the gorse on the hill east of the Sports Ground valley was half finished, and would also be completed this week.

GENERAL.

The committee of ladies in charge of arrangements for the fete on Thursday, February 4, for the Poor in Britain and Belgium Relief Fund was granted the use of Pukekura Park free of all charges, providing that the ladies make satisfactory arrangements regarding cleaning up the grounds and maintaining law and order.

Some discussion took place as to the best means of raising funds for the Park, and it was decided that a fireworks display and general entertainment be given in the Park on the night of Wednesday, February 10, the first day of the races. It was stated that a good stock of fireworks was now in hand, and Mr. Corkill was authorised to purchase some additional pieces.—Members expressed the hope that the function would be largely attended and that the finances of the board, which were at present about £30 overdrawn, would be put into such a state that with the annual subscriptions, the borough contributions, and the Park Saturday collection in April, the board would be enabled to carry on as usual for the next year.

The Sports Ground Committee will be notified that unless it advises the board by next meeting as to what it proposes to do with regard to the outstanding rent, the board will resume possession.

TH, FEBRUARY 1, 1915
FUNDRAISING
FIREWORKS!
FIREWORKS!

MONSTER DISPLAY OF BOMBS
AND ROCKETS.
ILLUMINATIONS.
And
PROMENADE CONCERT

At
PUKEKURA PARK
On
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10.

Come and meet your Friends from
Town and Country.

The Illuminations make the Park a
PERFECT FAIRLAND!

Come and See!

Proceeds in aid of Park Funds.

GRAND FETE

PUKEKURA PARK.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4.

In Aid of Poor of Great Britain, Ireland, and Belgium Relief Fund.

Committee: The Mayoress, Mesdames Burgess, Cock, Messenger, Ronnell, and Miss Stephenson Smith.

GREAT DECORATED PROCESSION
(Parasols, Bicycles, Violins, Musical Instruments, Hats, Pets, Toys, Fancy Costumes, and Miscellaneous).

FLORAL DECORATIONS.

Best Turnout (Gig, Motor-car, and Express); Decorated Motor Bike (with or without side car); Decorated Push Bicycle, Child's Tricycle, Go-Cart, Push-Cart, Doll's Go-Cart, Doll's Pram, Parasol, Pet, Hat; Best Fancy Dress (Boy), Best Fancy Dress (Girl). Natural or artificial flowers may be used. Good Prizes will be given in each class. Entrance free.

FLOWER, PRODUCE, SWEETS,
ART, DOLL, NOVELTY, AND
JUMBLE STALLS.

SIDESHOWS. FORTUNE-TELLING.

MUSIC BY CITIZENS' BAND.

AFTERNOON TEA.

BOATING ON LAKE, DONKEY
RIDES, MOTOR RIDES,
Etc., Etc., Etc.

Intending competitors can obtain information from the Secretary or from Miss Hamerton, 49, Devon St. Central.
ADMISSION: Adults 1s; School-children over 12, 6d; under 12, 3d.

Strenuous efforts are being made to make the Fete an immense success, and every patriotic person in the district is asked to compete or to attend.

In the event of it being wet, the Fete will be held in the Coronation Hall.

929
M. SIMSON,
Hon. Sec.

TH, FEBRUARY 6, 1915
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Monday night, when there were present: Messrs. R. Cock (chairman), J. E. Wilson, W. L. Newman, S. Percy Smith, R. C. Hughes, Harris Ford, and C. H. Drew (secretary).

The ladies of the Floral Fete Committee were given power to charge admission at all the gates of the Park on Thursday next.

For the fireworks display on February 10 a gates committee was appointed, consisting of the chairman, the secretary and Mr. W. L. Newman. Mr. F. P. Corkill was deputed to take charge of the fireworks.

SPORTS GROUND LEASE.

The question of dealing with the lease of the Sports Ground Committee was brought up.

It was stated that a deputation from the Sports Ground Committee was expected to wait on the board that night concerning the lease of the Sports Ground, which terminated on August 1, 1913.

No deputation, however, appeared. Notice of motion was given by Mr. R. C. Hughes that the board resume possession of the ground failing a settlement of the claim in the meantime.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The following report was submitted by Mr. W. W. Smith for the month of January:—"The new parts of the walk leading on to the hill west of the Sports Ground, to meet the old disused walk around the valley, have now been completed. The old walk has also been widened and cleaned. The hill-top east of the Sports Ground has been thoroughly mown and grubbed of gorse, and the rubbish burned. The new walk leading up from the valley to join the top walk has been finished, and will prove a great advantage to visitors to view some of the best scenic features of Pukekura Park. The general work of maintenance of the Park occupied the remainder of the staff's time. Four half-days were given to mowing the weeds in the lake. It is the species that gives the least trouble of all to suppress. The large macrocarpa tree near the Sports Ground shed will be felled and cleared on Friday. It is already sold to purchasers of firewood. I would now mention that Mr. Mitchinson presented a box of nemesia to the board. Mr. Sole, blacksmith, of Lizard Street, has most generously done any blacksmithing work required in the Park during the last twelve months gratuitously. Shags have been unpleasantly numerous on the lake for some time past. To destroy them Mr. Whittle lent me a good gun and cartridges, which enabled me to get four of them. The growth of the general vegetation in the Park continues apace. It is very fresh and beautiful at the present time."

The report was adopted.

TDN, FEBRUARY 6, 1915 GARDEN FETE

Last Thursday a garden fete was held in Pukekura Park, in aid of the Poor in Britain and Belgium funds, and the ladies who took such an interest in this function, and worked so untiringly, deserve the greatest praise for its unqualified success. Each individual, who worked for his or her stall, treated it as a labor of love, so smiles and beams of delight greeted one everywhere.

Each stall, representing one of the Allies, was prettily decorated with its Nation's colors, but the two which stood out in greatest prominence were the flower stall and Vogelstown Tea Kiosk. The frontage of the former was prettily trellised with emerald green ribbon intermingled with mosses and asparagus fern, deftly backed with masses of sweet peas and gorgeous bowls of shaded pink roses. Truly it was a lovely sight. The Vogelstown kiosk was of a bolder design, but on the exquisite site on the side of the top lake, it looked brilliantly gay, with its flags of every nation, encircling it. No more need be said, as the detailed description has already been given, only a hearty congratulation to all those concerned on a very gratifying result of all their labors.

Amongst those present were:—Messdames Paul, Percy Webster, Cholwill, Dempsey, Standish, Street, Martin, R. Bayley, Collins, Whetter, R. George, W. D. Webster, F. Robertson, Simpson, Bewley, Quilliam, Newman, Honeyfield, Fraser, R. A. Gray, G. Fraser, Hill, Waller, McKellar, Abraham (Wellington), G. Millar (nee (Miss G. Roy), S. A. Cottier, Rankin (Wanganui), McDiarmid, Balharry, E. Gilmour, Morrison, McQuade, Mackay, Jenkinson, Les, Webster, Dockrill, F. Fookes, L. Nolan, E. Griffiths, Ambury, Arden, Misses Hill, Waller, Mackay (2), E. Bayley, Dempsey, Fookes (2), Evans (2), Devenish, Marshall, Matthews.

TH, FEBRUARY 11, 1915 FUNDRAISING

FIREWORKS AND ILLUMINATIONS.

NEARLY £50 REALISED.

It is frequently said of New Plymouth people that they do not fully appreciate the beauty of Pukekura Park. However that may be—and there is more than a little truth in the assertion—no one who was present at the display of fireworks and illuminations in the Park on Wednesday night could do other than join in expressing admiration at the bewitching beauty of the scene.

The effect was such that a visitor might have been pardoned for thinking himself transported to Fairyland. The main avenues leading to the big lake were lined with dainty little fairy lamps which swayed to and fro and produced a charming contrast of colours. Here and there, gleaming from the dark shades of the tree from which they were suspended, Chinese lanterns issued gentle rays which added to the general beauty.

The lake itself, fringed with the tiny fairy lamps and illuminated with the constant flood of light from the fireworks, was the main centre of attraction. All sorts and kinds of fireworks were set off and the spectacle was one never to be forgotten. There was a boat on the lake, decorated with Chinese lanterns, whilst immediately over the Poet's Bridge was a miniature airship which attracted a lot of attention.

That the board acted wisely in fixing the attraction for the first night of the races was shown by the good attendance. Fully 2000 people must have been present and all spent a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Fortunately, the night was an ideal one for the purpose, it being calm and dark, so that the effects produced by the varied brilliant colours of the fireworks, and the vivid hues of the burning powders among the trees and shrubs were seen to the greatest advantage. It was a feast of colour that was enhanced by the natural beauty of the Park, and a sight that could not be equalled in the Dominion. All concerned are to be congratulated on the striking success achieved.

A feature of the gathering was the excellent musical programme, vocal and instrumental, that was rendered in the Band Rotunda. The Citizens' Band, under Mr. J. J. Cummins, gave the following selections:—March, Command-

ant; quickstep, The Conqueror; selection, Zampa; walse, Sweet Seventeen; overture, Elin Revels; march, Western Boom, The Marseillaise, Tipperary, and the National Anthem. The vocalists were Mrs. T. C. List, who sang, "The Carnival," Mr. Haslam, who contributed two songs, and Messrs. A. Gray and A. C. Dewees, who sang a duet. The effect of these exceptionally well rendered items in the open air, amid such beautiful surroundings was exquisite, and the singers were justly accorded very hearty applause, as was Mr. Gray's glee party for their artistic rendering of the "Hunting Chorus." The accompaniments were excellently played by Miss D. George.

The board wishes to thank the musical helpers, the members of the Band, the Boy Scouts, Messrs Collier and Company for lending a piano, and all others who assisted in the various ways. The gross proceeds amounted to about £57, and it is anticipated, that after all expenses are paid the sum of nearly £50 will be available for the good work of improving and keeping up the Park. This must be very gratifying to the members of the board, who have spared no effort to make the affair the undoubted success it was.

TH, MARCH 9, 1915 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in the Town Hall on Monday night, when there were present: Messrs. R. Cook (chairman), W. L. Newman, S. Percy Smith, R. C. Hughes, Harris Ford, and C. H. Drew (hon. secy.). Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor (Mr. J. E. Wilson) and Councillors W. Ambury and W. A. Collis.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith), in his report of the work of the park staff during the month of February, stated that as the weather had been dry and warm, several days had been devoted to cleaning and burning the rubbish accumulating under pine trees. The chief work of the month, however, had been that of general maintenance of the park. The large macrocarpa tree standing near the sports ground shed was felled and readily sold as firewood. Next month, or during the month of May, the vacant site would be planted with mamakas and pungas for immediate effect. There were several other half-dead macrocarpas and pines, which he would suggest be removed immediately and sold to the citizens for firewood. Their sites would also be planted in May with fine species of native plants, which were on hand. He would beg to suggest to the board that it purchase a small lawn mower for use on the three lawns. It was somewhat time-killing to have to do all the work with a scythe. The recent rains had been very beneficial to the park which looked fresh and vigorous at the present time.

It was decided to purchase the mower as desired.

The board will meet on March 21 to decide as to the trees to be cut down.

GENERAL.

The chairman and Mr. Hughes were appointed to wait upon the electrical engineer, Mr. H. Black, in connection with formulating a scheme to light the grounds with electricity.

Appreciation was expressed at the fine work done by Mr. Fred Tribe, the secretary, the curator, and a number of other helpers in connection with last month's fireworks display.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Taranaki Jockey Club for a donation of £5 5s to the funds of the board.

Mr. Percy Smith agreed to continue as visiting member for the ensuing month.

TH, MARCH 9, 1915
NO PARK SATURDAY FUNDRAISING

APPEAL FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS.

NO STREET CANVASS THIS YEAR.

At the meeting of the Pukekura Park Board on Monday night the matter of holding the annual "Park Saturday" collections was fully discussed, and it was ultimately decided not to have a street canvass this year on account of the war, but to collect as usual for the annual subscriptions.

The matter was brought up by Mr. Drew, who reported that the takings at the recent fireworks display totalled £56 17s 8d, and as the expenses were roughly £15, there was a credit balance of about £41. After paying this amount into the bank, the finances of the board were practically "square," and as the quarterly payment of the borough subsidy would shortly be made, they would be able to carry on until after the collections, which were generally held in April.

Mr. Percy Smith said he understood from several prominent collectors that in view of the many other calls on the people they would prefer to ask only those who promised subscriptions, and that they would have a strong objection to canvassing the general public.

The Chairman remarked that last year's canvass had realised about £140, of which £99 was made up of annual subscriptions. Assuming that the expenses of keeping the ground in order for the ensuing year would be in the neighbourhood of £350, they could probably reckon on £100 from the annual subscribers, whilst the borough subsidy was £150 and the rents nearly £40. The remaining £60 should not be hard to raise by holding some entertainment or other function during the year.

This view was endorsed by the other members of the board, and it was decided that on account of the war no street collection be held, but that the usual canvass be made during April for annual subscriptions. Members were confident in the opinion that the donations from this source would equal, if not exceed, the amounts raised in this manner last year.

TH, APRIL 13, 1915
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Monday evening. There were present: Messrs. R. Cook (chairman), W. L. Newman, R. C. Hughes, S. Percy Smith, H. Ford and the secretary (C. H. Drew).

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. J. E. Wilson, W. Anbury, W. Collis, and F. P. Corkill.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) submitted the following monthly report:—

Since the last meeting of the board the work of the Park staff had been of a general nature. A week was occupied in mowing rough grass, grubbing seedlings of gorse and broom and burning them. Three of the eight trees sanctioned to be removed by the board had been felled and cut into firewood. Owing to a fortnight's illness of one of the staff the work was discontinued until Monday, when the staff again continued with the work.

The equinoctial winds gave them a week's general cleaning, but very little injury was done in the Park. Re-forming of walks, building two seeds, and repairing fences required seven days to complete them. There were still other fences to be repaired, for which work they would obtain posts from the macrocarpa trees which they were cutting down this week. During the present fine weather the staff intended to complete the tree-felling and fence repairing before proceeding with other work authorised by the board. He called the board's attention to the loss of the tamer ducks from the Park. Since the first week in January they had lost over thirty, some of them being the finest specimens of those received by the Taylor White bequest. He had been snaring a number of wild ducks lately, which was the only means he now had of maintaining the stock and number in the Park. Quite a number of ducks were lame at present, showing that they had been struck with sticks or stones. These criminal acts were of course done during the night. The two posts which they put in the centre of the walk at the triangle bed to prevent carts driving up to the upper lake, had been twice wrenched and dug out and thrown into the lakes. He would hand the names of those who did those acts to the board at next meeting and would urge that proceedings be taken against them. He referred to a matter which sooner or later would have to be adopted. Although the board might have tolerated and might continue to tolerate people passing through the Park at night, no one had any legal right there after sunset. There were, of course, many law-abiding citizens who passed through the Park at night; such freedom nevertheless afforded opportunities to those criminally disposed as he had shown. There had been an individual frequenting the Park at all hours of the night lately. They might rest assured that he was after no good purpose.

A member stated that it was a rule of the board that only persons who lived adjacent to the Park were allowed to pass through the Park after dark. It was suggested that the gates be locked after sunset, but members said this would be of no use as entrance could be easily effected in other ways. The matter then dropped.

It was the feeling of the board that those persons who had been responsible for the removal of the posts should be prosecuted.

CONTROL OF THE SPORTS GROUND.

The control of the Sports Ground was the source of considerable discussion. Eventually it was decided to invite Messrs. J. Clarke and A. L. Humphries to attend the special meeting of the board on Monday next to discuss the control of the Sports Ground.

GENERAL.

Mr. Percy Smith was appointed visitor for the month.

Accounts amounting to £2 17s 6d were passed for payment.

BOB.

TDN, APRIL 22, 1915
SPORTS GROUND CONTROL

SPORTSMEN TO RETAIN CONTROL.

A meeting of the Sports Ground Committee was held last night. Mr. A. L. Humphries presided.

The chairman said the object of the meeting was to place the position of the committee before the local sporting bodies. He said that the most important feature of the position was that

the committee was weak financially. The committee had been unable to pay the Pukekura Park Board for three years, and naturally the board wanted to know where their money was coming from. The committee owed the Park Board £85 for rent, and owed the Rugby Union £125, while other debts amounted to £85 5s 1d, making a total liability of £297 5s 1d. It would be a pity, he thought, to have to hand the ground back to the Park Board now that so much had been done. Altogether the committee had spent £2500 on the ground, and now that, for various reasons, the present committee was unable to continue in charge of the ground, it was a question as to whether a new committee could be formed to carry on the work, or whether the ground should be handed back to the Park Board.

Mr. J. Clarke said that one of the principal causes which put the Ground Committee in this position was the popularising of the beaches, while the splitting of the half holiday also assisted to take away revenue. Mr. Clarke referred to the work which the present committee had done, and said he thought that younger men who were more in touch with sport than the members of the present committee should come forward and form a new committee. It rested with the men who were using the ground to come forward, or else the ground would have to go back to the Park Board. He was sorry to see that, while cricket was well represented at the meeting, other sports were not so well represented; football clubs, for instance, were not represented at all.

In answer to a question the chairman said he thought that if the ground was handed back to the Park Board it would be well looked after.

Mr. F. T. Bellringer said he hoped there would be no question of handing the ground back to the Park Board. The Park Board did very good work, but he felt that the sports ground should remain under the control of a committee representing sports. He heard that there was a proposal to hold a carnival and if this was done, and the profits were divided between the Belgian Fund and the sports ground, he felt sure very good support would be received, and sufficient money would be obtained to wipe off the debt.

Some discussion followed on the question of holding a carnival. It was stated that it was proposed to hold a carnival for six days at New Plymouth at Christmas, and the idea was that each day should be at a different place in the town, so that there would be no clashing in the programme.

Mr. G. B. Purdue said that as far as cricket was concerned the ground was not an ideal one for the game. The football season lasted too long for cricketers to procure a good wicket the ground when they required it.

The Rev. S. S. Osborne said the question was: Were these men who had done so much for the ground to be left in the lurch? He considered it would be a disgrace to the sportsmen of New Plymouth if the present committee was

not supported. He thought the ground would be better under an active sports committee than under the control of the Park Board. Cricketers did not want to see the committee losing any money, and he did not wish to see the control of the ground lost. The committee should be put in a strong position financially, so that it could pay off its debt and then improve the ground. In regard to the complaint that the ground was not given up by cricketers sufficiently early by footballers, he thought it would be better if the ground was given up by footballers in August.

Mr. Bellringer said that personally he would like to see football finished in August, but the position was that representative matches only commenced in August, and the Taranaki Rugby Union could not afford to say to southern unions that if they did not come here by August they must stay away. The union must have these representative matches. Mr. Bellringer then moved that a new committee should be formed, and the different sporting bodies be asked to elect representatives to serve thereon.

Mr. J. McLeod, in seconding the motion, said the Taranaki Rugby Union did not control the football season. The end of September was fixed as the close of the season for all New Zealand. He was quite sure that if a united effort was made by the sporting bodies ample funds could be obtained. He did not think £1000 was an unlikely amount that could be raised, and then the debt could be wiped off, and there would be funds for improvements. It would be advisable to share the profits with the Belgian und.

TDN, APRIL 27, 1915 VARIEGATED KAWAKAWA

Mr. S. Percy-Smith stated at the Pukekura Park Board meeting last night that he had discovered in the park near the two pools a variegated kawakawa, than which there was not such another in New Zealand.

TH, APRIL 28, 1915 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The adjourned meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in the Borough Council Chambers on Monday night, when there were present: Messrs. R. Cock (chairman), S. Percy Smith, J. E. Wilson, Harris Ford, W. A. Collis, W. L. Newman, and C. H. Drew (secretary).

THE SPORTS GROUND.

The chairman stated that the meeting had been adjourned so as to enable the Sports Ground Committee to bring down some proposal in connection with the control of the sports ground.

Mr. A. L. Humphries, on behalf of the Sports Clubs, detailed what had been done at the meeting convened to discuss the position. Until the meeting of the various clubs had been held and delegates had been appointed to form the new committee, he could not define their position. He pointed out that the committee had the sympathy of the majority of the public in their efforts to right matters, and he hoped soon to have something satisfactory to report.

Mr. Gray, of the Technical School, had promised to give the assistance of sixty boys in clearing up the ground, and was also prepared to go on the committee. Mr. Brooks was to be thanked for painting the flag-pole. It was said Mr. Humphries, their intention to go ahead with a big function in aid of the grounds.

The chairman said he was pleased to see the enthusiasm that was being evinced in the matter. Through the help of the Technical School boys the flag-staff would soon be placed in a position on the terraces, where it would show right down Devon Street. He felt that the board should not interfere if the committee was prepared to work, and if the same energy was displayed as in years gone by the grounds would look better than ever. He also expressed his pleasure that Mr. Gray had interested himself in the grounds.

Mr. R. C. Hughes urged that more care should be taken in seeing that the terraces were not destroyed, after they had again been put in order.

Mr. S. Percy Smith considered that the wrong grass had been used on the terraces, and he pointed out where a good holding grass could be obtained.

It was decided to defer consideration of the control of the sports ground until the annual meeting, which will be held about the middle of May.

LIGHTING THE GROUNDS.

Mr. Hughes remarked that the board had gone further into the matter of lighting the grounds by electricity, and as soon as a plan of the ground was prepared by Mr. W. W. Smith, the borough electrical engineer (Mr. Black) would submit a report.

THE JOCKEY CLUB DRIVE.

The secretary of the Taranaki Jockey Club (Mr. E. P. Webster) wrote as follows:—"As your board is no doubt aware, it is the intention of the club to form a members' carriage drive from our main entrance, coming in around the back of the outside public stand; and in order to do this, certain earth-work filling is necessary to obtain the required width to the drive. It will also be necessary to remove certain pinus insignis trees. The proposed filling is on part of reserve 'M,' which is part of the land vested in the borough under the New Plymouth Recreation and Racecourse Reserve Act, 1887, and which the Borough Council advise is leased by your board. On our club applying to the council for the necessary permission to carry out the work, the following resolution was passed by them: 'That, subject to the consent of the Pukekura Park Board being also obtained, permission be given to the Taranaki Jockey Club to form a carriage drive over reserve 'M,' owned by the council and leased to the Pukekura Park Board, such permission, however, to be at the will of the council.' We therefore respectfully request that your board grant the necessary permission to enable us to proceed with the work at once."

The Chairman stated that he had been shown over the proposed work with several members of the board, and considered that it would be a distinct improvement. The Jockey Club also undertook to keep the paths in order if the earth from the filling rolled on them.

Mr. J. E. Wilson said that the proposed drive would open up some beautiful views across the park, and those visitors to the races now unacquainted with its beauties would, from the glimpse they obtain in driving past, be anxious to become better acquainted with the park.

Members generally favoured the proposal.

Mr. R. C. Hughes considered that a plan of the proposed work should be submitted, as it would be very unbusinesslike to grant permission otherwise.

The Chairman did not think a plan was necessary. Four or five of the members had been over the ground. Moreover he pointed out that the Jockey Club was anxious to proceed with the work.

In further discussion it was stated that the board only had a year-to-year lease of the piece of ground in question.

The Chairman moved that the request be acceded to.

This was seconded by Mr. C. H. Drew and carried, after an amendment, proposed by Mr. R. C. Hughes and seconded by Mr. Harris Ford, to the effect that the Jockey Club be asked to submit a plan of the ground required, had been lost.

TH, APRIL 15, 1915 THIEVING FROM THE PARK

In his latest report to the Pukekura Park Board, Mr. W. W. Smith, the curator, stated that someone had been stealing ducks from the park and that posts had been removed and other mischief done. Frequently in the past he has found it necessary to report the theft of flowers, bulbs, and even shrubs, but apparently the depredators are becoming emboldened by the immunity from punishment for their misdeeds that they have generally enjoyed. It is a most discouraging state of things, and reflects to some extent upon the community, that public property, especially of this nature, is not safe from marauders. Nor is it easy to provide a remedy. The curator cannot be expected to spend his evenings and nights in patrolling the park, nor has he a sufficient staff to detail a man or two to keep watch. Locking the gates at sundown would be useless, because there are so many means of access to the park, and a locked gate would not keep out the class of individual who can be guilty of such misdemeanours as have been reported. Possibly the police might have time now and again to take a walk at night through the park, though we fear that would not be much use. No doubt if the board was inclined to employ a special watchman for a period there are those who would willingly subscribe the wherewithal to pay him, or perhaps it might be possible to enrol a kind of vigilance committee, or special police, to undertake watchmen's duties until one or two of the culprits were caught. And when one is caught and his offence proved the punishment ought to be heavy, made in fact to fit the crime, which is really a very serious one.

The annual meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Town Hall on Monday evening, Mr. W. L. Newman, in the unavoidable absence of the chairman (Mr. R. Cock), presiding. There were also present: Messrs. S. Percy Smith, R. C. Hughes, H. Ford and C. H. Drew.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator, submitted a resume of the work completed in the park during the past twelve months. As directed by the board, the work of clearing and draining the swamp situated between the upper lake and the sports ground and the east of Cannon Hill was undertaken, but owing to the weather continuing showery for several weeks and the large volume of water flowing through the swamp, the work had to be discontinued for a while. By August 12 the levelling and planting of the new ground was completed and the lawn sown down. There were still a few unlevel parts of the lawn, due to the soft and spongy nature of the accumulated rubbish used in filling in decaying rapidly. All the trees, ferns, and other plants transplanted had grown well. Its altered condition was a great improvement on the unsightly and tangled mass of introduced plants that previously overran the swamp. The whole work of clearing, draining, levelling and planting to date had cost the board £15 16s 6d. The winter of last year being very mild and damp, and the spring months being also wet and mild, produced great growth of the general vegetation of the park. Some of the rougher grassy parts had, therefore, to be mown and burned three times during the year. Gorse seedlings, which germinated more or less in number every year, gave considerable work in grubbing. The weed in the upper lake claimed overtime for a week in moving and raking it off the water. The new walk from the triangle bed, near the sports ground, formed over the hill and around the top front edge of the sports ground valley, was completed in December. The large macrocarpa tree which grew near the tin shed at the sports ground was, as directed by the board, felled and sold for firewood. The site had now been planted with tree ferns and native shrubs, which would much improve the aspect in a few months. Other large trees ordered to be removed were also felled and disposed of. Owing to the illness of two members of the staff for several weeks they had had to postpone felling the pine trees near the Carrington Road. The fences around the park had received attention, but there were some yet requiring attention. Some of the more uneven walks had been repaired, and others required repairing, but they could only continue the work according to the amount of gritty material supplied to finish the surface with. When the staff was all at work they would continue reforming and draining the walks. In the month of December the board granted permission to Mr. Bates, Government Meteorologist, to found a weather station or observatory in the park. Owing to the difficulty of getting a contractor to erect a suitable and safe structure around the instruments the work of mounting the latter was considerably delayed. The instruments now adjusted were working perfectly. Others were to be mounted which, when working, would make the station an interesting and valuable acquisition to the board and the town.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

The statement of accounts showed receipts amounting to £460 17s 8d, including a credit balance at the bank at the commencement of the year of £25 12s; donations—Hon. O. Samuel £25, C. W. Govett £10, Colonel Heard £10, annual subscribers £74, Park Saturday £62 13s 9d; Borough Council subsidy £112 10s, rents £30 2s 6d, fireworks display £56 17s 8d; and, after meeting all expenditure, there was a credit balance of about £10.

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, referred briefly to a number of the improvements which had been effected at the park during the year, notably that near the tea kiosk. So far as the balance-sheet was concerned, Mr. Newman said he felt the board had just cause for congratulation in being able to show a credit balance. Owing to the many calls that were being made upon the public as the result of the war, the board could hardly expect to receive the same voluntary financial assistance during the ensuing year, and it would therefore be necessary for them to conserve as much as possible their expenditure.

Mr. Ford seconded the motion, which was carried.

GENERAL.

A plan was submitted embodying suggestions for installing the electric light through the park. This will be submitted to Mr. Black, electrical engineer.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the honorary auditor, Mr. R. Pepperell, for his services during the year.

The election of chairman for the ensuing year was deferred.

Mr. S. Percy Smith was appointed visitor for the ensuing month.

LYTTELTON TIMES, MAY 22, 1915 DECLINE OF DUCKS IN THE PARK

In support of the statement that wholesale slaughtering is responsible for the decrease in the numbers of feathered game, Mr. Smith quotes from his own experience and observation. "Reliable proof of the rapidly diminishing numbers of grey duck and teal," he says, "is the few and fewer that annually take refuge on lakes in public gardens and private grounds during the shooting season. When I took charge of the Pukekura Park at New Plymouth seven years ago, from four to five hundred of these interesting and valuable game birds frequented the lakes daily during the winter months, and became quite tame. This year there are only about one hundred. To keep a stock of them on hand for the interest of visitors and amusement of children, I have snared a la Maori several dozen annually and piouned them. When I left Ashburton eleven years ago from fifteen hundred to two thousand took refuge annually on the lakes in the Domain there. What approximate number have come in this year of grace and German sportsmen it would be of interest to know." In Mr. Smith's opinion, the native game will continue to decrease unless the legislature further limits the season for shooting certain birds, and also enforces the limit-

ation of bag clause more strictly. But these interdicts probably will be of little use unless public spirit discourages the brand of sportsman who brags of his big bag and delights in getting his photograph taken in company with a whole poulterer's shop full of dead birds.

TH, MAY 31, 1915 PUKEKURA PARK SUBSCRIBERS

The following subscriptions to Pukekura Park have been received:—Mr. B. King 10s; Rev. Osborne 10s; Mrs. Dowling, Sen. 10s; Miss Nicholson £1; Judge Kenny 10s; Captain Wilson 10s; Messrs West and Sons 10s; Hon. O. and Mrs. Samuel £1; Miss A. Evans 10s; Miss E. C. Evans 10s; Messrs Burgess and Fraser £2 2s; Melbourne Clothing Company £1 1s; Messrs Sladden and Palmer £1 1s; Mr. J. McNeill 10s 6d; Messrs Jackson and Paul 10s; Messrs L. A. Nolan and Co. 10s; Mr. A. S. Hascl 10s 6d; Mr. E. Dingle 10s; Mr. J. L. Stocker 10s; Mr. W. C. Weston 10s 6d; Herald 10s 6d; Mr. G. Ramson 10s 6d; Messrs White and Sons 10s 6d; Mr. A. Vaale 10s 6d; Mr. P. Hopkins 10s 6d; Mr. C. Hughes £1 1s; Mrs. R. C. Hughes 10s 6d; Mr. Stanley Shaw 10s; Mr. Newton King 10s 6d; Messrs Morey and Son 10s 6d; Mr. E. F. Blundell £1 1s; Messrs Weston and Weston 10s 6d; Colonel Ellis 10s 6d; Mr. J. H. Quilliam 10s 6d; Mr. E. Dockrill 10s 6d; Mr. T. K. Skianer 10s 6d; Mr. J. E. Wilson £1 1s; Mr. E. Whittle 10s 6d; Mr. T. C. Lister 10s 6d; Mr. L. Newman 10s; Mr. C. E. Foote 10s; Mr. E. W. Garner 10s; Mr. C. H. Drew 10s 6d; Mr. A. S. Brooker 10s 6d; Messrs Bellringer Bros 10s 6d; Mr. J. Paton 10s 6d; Messrs Nippert Bros 10s 6d; Messrs McLeod and Shade 10s 6d; Messrs Okey and Arnold 10s 6d; Messrs Hallenstein 10s 6d; Mr. N. Greiner 10s 6d; Messrs Ambury Bros 10s 6d; Mr. McHardy 10s 6d; Messrs Webster Bros 10s 6d; Mr. Geo. Coghill 10s 6d; Mr. C. Ward 10s 6d; Mr. N. K. McDiarmid 10s 6d; Mr. R. Cock 10s; Mr. T. Furlong 10s 6d; Mr. W. A. Collis 10s; Mr. J. McKean 10s 6d; Mr. John Avery 10s 6d; Mr. Thomas Avery 10s; Mr. E. Messenger 10s 6d; Messrs McEwen Bros 10s 6d; Mr. A. E. Sykes 10s; Egonoff Brewery 10s.

TH, JUNE 8, 1915 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Board of Trustees of Pukekura Park met on Monday night. They were present: Messrs. R. Cock (chairman), W. L. Newman, F. P. Corkill, Harris Ford, W. F. Short, C. H. Drew and R. C. Hughes.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. S. Percy Smith, J. E. Wilson and W. A. Collis.

The chairman said the latter two were, with Mr. W. F. Short, the Borough Council representatives. He extended a hearty welcome to Mr. Short on taking his seat for the first time. Mr. Short briefly returning thanks.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

The adjourned annual meeting was first proceeded with. Mr. Cock said that, in order of rotation, it was Mr. Corkill's turn to be chairman, but that gentleman desired that for this year, at any rate, Mr. Percy Smith should hold office.

Mr. Corkill said the position was that Mr. Smith did more for the park than all the rest of the members put together, and he thought that if there was any honour in the appointment—and he certainly believed there was—then that honour should rightly belong to Mr. Smith. He moved that that gentleman be invited to act as chairman.

Mr. Cock said that Mr. Smith would certainly be the right man in the right place. He had much pleasure in seconding the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A GREAT IMPROVEMENT.

Mr. Cock said he was unavoidably absent when the annual meeting was commenced. He had not prepared an annual report, because this was almost unnecessary, as the curator presented complete reports from month to month. He felt, however, that he must refer to the great improvement effected by getting the old swamp near the tea kiosk converted into such a pretty little spot, which would be even more beautiful when the shrubs had properly established themselves. He also mentioned the beautiful plantation of New Zealand trees and shrubs. These had grown wonderfully well; in fact, they were perhaps too thick, and a little thinning out might be judicious. He paid a tribute to the work done by the curator and his staff, and said he felt sure that the public were pleased at the way their subscriptions were being spent in further perfecting their beautiful park.

MONTHLY MEETING.

The ordinary monthly meeting was then held.

The secretary said there would be about £50 from annual subscriptions.

The chairman moved that the best thanks of the board be tendered to Mrs. Dockrill and Miss Stephenson Smith for the labour devoted by them in canvassing for the subscriptions.—Mr. Ford seconded, and the motion was carried.

The chairman, Messrs. Newman and Corkill were elected an emergency committee for the ensuing year.

The secretary stated that Mr. J. Clarko had reported that delegates were being appointed from the different sports bodies to act on the new Sports Ground Committee. Two of these had not yet had their meetings, but when all were elected a meeting would be held to further the movement.

Mr. Cock was appointed visitor for the month. He was instructed to see the curator with regard to spreading the gravel on the paths.

Mr. Hughes reported that Mrs. Cory had relinquished charge of the tea kiosk, which was now conducted by Mrs. Phipps, and for the winter was open only on Thursdays and Sundays. Some discussion took place on the question of erecting a new tea kiosk, but the members were unanimously of opinion that, much as they would like to see a new one built, the matter of finance was at present the obstacle.

TH, JULY 6, 1915

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Town Hall on Monday evening, Mr. S. Percy Smith presiding. There were also present: Messrs. W. L. Newman, R. C. Hughes, H. Ford, and C. H. Drew (secretary). Apologies were received from the Mayor (Mr. J. E. Wilson), Messrs. F. P. Corkill, Councillors Collis and Short.

Before proceeding with the ordinary business, the chairman thanked the board for the honour they had conferred upon him in electing him chairman for the ensuing year.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The secretary reported that the amount of annual subscriptions received to date amounted to £54 11s.

SPORTS GROUND.

The question of upkeep of the Sports Ground was raised, and it was suggested that the board resume possession.

Ultimately, however, it was agreed that the chairman should interview the Sports Ground Committee with a view to bringing the matter to finality.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator, in his monthly report, stated that the period being very wet the work of the staff was delayed considerably. Several days were given to transplanting trees, shrubs and bulbs, and general cleaning when practicable. Four of the number of pine trees ordered to be removed were felled and cut up for firewood. Two days were devoted to repairing the walk between the tea rooms and the racecourse. This was a very soft walk and was easily eroded in rainy weather. They would have to reform it and treat it with clay and gritty sand to make it a good permanent walk. Since R. Old returned to work they had been busy reforming and draining the worst parts of the walks around the upper lake and treating them with the sandy grit received from the gaol some time ago. They would soon require more gravel, or the work would have to be postponed for a time. They would also require some scantlings and battens to drain the walks with, which material is much cheaper than drain pipes. When the walks were completed as they were doing them now they should last many years. Whilst the weather was favorable for such work he would be glad to have more gravel from the gaol, or elsewhere, to finish them with. In the meantime he would proceed with the tree felling, tree planting, and transplanting. He would also be glad to have about seven pounds of lawn grass seed, with which to replenish the lawn at the tea rooms and other places. The high winds and hail storms in June did no damage in the park. The season up to the present time was the earliest during the last seven years. Some bulbs and shrubs were blooming two months earlier than usual. The one degree of frost during the month did no damage in the park.

The chairman and members commented upon the very satisfactory work that was being done to improve the paths, and it was decided to secure a further supply of gravel to enable the work to be proceeded with.

It was also decided to obtain the necessary timber required in connection with the drainage of the paths.

TH, AUGUST 2, 1915

TYPICAL WEATHER REPORT FROM THE PARK WEATHER STATION

WEATHER REPORT FOR JULY.

Mr. W. W. Smith has forwarded us the following weather report for July, recorded at Pukekura Park weather station:—"The weather throughout the month has been unseasonably mild. Heavy rain storms were recorded on the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th, and again on the 20th and 21st, resulting in heavy floods in many parts of the North Island. Locally, the uniform temperature prevailing both day and night for four days during the period of the heavy warm rains caused the rapid melting of the snow on Mount Egmont, thus adding greatly to flood waters. The rain storm on the 21st gave the heaviest rainfall recorded in one day at New Plymouth for eleven years. Rain fell on 14 days, the heaviest, 3.066in., on the 21st, the lightest, .002in., on the 25th; total, 8.083in. The sunshine recorder registered 8hr. 47min. on the 4th and 9min. on the 20th, being the highest and lowest on one day respectively.; total sunshine, 131hr. 13min. There were six sunless days. The maximum shade thermometer registered the highest temperature 63deg., on the 9th, the lowest, 53deg., on several days. The minimum thermometer gave 55deg. on four days and 30deg. on two days. The radiator (sun's heat) recorded 128deg. on the 30th and 101deg. on two days. The wind blew from the north on 3 days, north-east 9 days, south 2 days, south-east 8 days, south-west 8 days and west 1 day. Cloudiness exhibited great range of form and density. The masses of cumulo-nimbus preceding the heavy rain storms were of immense volume. Stratus occurred around Mount Egmont on three days. Cumulus were numerous throughout the month; alto-cumulus occurred on four days and cirrus (highest of all clouds) on two days. Frost was recorded on the grass on four mornings, ranging from 1deg. on the 3rd to 2deg. on the 30th and 31st."

TH, AUGUST 10, 1915

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

MONTHLY MEETING.

The monthly meeting of the above board was held on Monday night, when there were present: Messrs. Percy Smith (chairman), R. Cock, R. C. Hughes, Harris Ford, and C. H. Drew (secretary).

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported:—"Since last meeting the board's staff has been employed reforming walks, tree-felling, general cleaning and burning of rubbish under the trees, and planting. Our work was hindered somewhat by the stormy weather at the beginning of and from the 18th to the 22nd of last month. When cutting down the cupressus macrocarpa trees we obtained between three and four dozen excellent and lasting posts with which we have repaired the fences along John Street and along the Carrington Road. The spare wood is also first-class firewood and found a ready sale at the price we ask for it. We were unable

to continue the tree-felling until finished, but will return to the work and fell the remainder of the macrocarpas this week. The old pine trees near the Carrington Road will also be felled and removed. When the work we are doing at present is finished we will be engaged for two or three days transplanting shrubs and trees at the Gilbert Street entrance. These native plants have grown so rapidly and vigorously that they are now crowding and must be thinned to enable the various species to form good specimens. The winds and floods of last month did no damage in the Park. Owing to the extreme mildness of the autumn and winter many of both the indigenous and introduced plants are blooming two months before their due time. The general growth of plants in the neighbourhood of New Plymouth are at least a month earlier than in former years. As usual at this season of the year when the finer bulbs are in bloom, the latter are being stolen in considerable quantities. Although last night was one of heavy rain, a quantity of narcissi blooms were taken from the borders. Since my last report several ladies and gentlemen have sent new plants to the Park. Mr. Cock sent plants of kourcroya, banana, and annuals. Miss Devenish also presented a number of plants new to the Park. Mrs. John Wheeler also sent some rare plants new to our collection. Mr. Billing, of Frankley district, presented six new species of water-lilies which are very acceptable. They have been planted at the head of the water-lily lake. A Palmerston gentleman sent a large collection of roses which have been planted in a new bed made on the site of the old peacock house. Two local gentlemen presented valuable new plants, but I am not permitted to use their names. Two New Zealand beech trees were presented, one each by Messrs. Davis and Morshead.

GENERAL.

With regard to the sports ground lease, Mr. Cock moved that the matter be held in abeyance pending a decision being arrived at in connection with the proposed carnival.

The motion was carried.

The request of the Hospital Board that Mr. W. W. Smith be allowed to visit the hospital grounds for the purpose of advising the board with regard to laying-out the ground and tree-planting was granted.

On the motion of Mr. Cock, the application of Mr. Denny Brown for the lease of section 118, which was not required by the board, for a period of seven years from September 1, at a rental of £2 per annum, was granted.

With regard to the installation of electric light in Pukekura Park, a letter was received from Mr. H. Black, borough electrical engineer. He suggested that three posts on the sports ground which were not required by the Sports Ground Committee be obtained. These with sixteen others would be sufficient, if suitable trees were utilised, to light the Park according to the plan which he had drafted. He estimated the total cost for installing 19 lamps at £85.

Mr. Ford was appointed as visitor for the ensuing month.

The following accounts were passed for payment:—W. M. Rowe £1 6s 8d, Sash and Door Company 12s, Bellringer Bros. 10s.

TH, AUGUST 11, 1915 NEAR DROWNING

A child named King, who had been taken for a walk in Pukekura Park on Tuesday afternoon, fell into the pond, and in all probability would have been drowned had it not been for the timely appearance of Mr. Nelson Hill, who, without any hesitation, jumped into the water and rescued the youngster.

TDN, SEPTEMBER 8, 1915 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in the Borough Council Chambers on Monday evening, Mr. W. L. Newman presiding in the absence of the chairman, Mr. S. Percy Smith. There was also present: Messrs. R. C. Hughes, R. Cock, H. Ford, and C. H. Drew (secretary).

The curator, Mr. W. W. Smith, reported that the fine weather experienced during the earlier part of the month enabled the staff to proceed apace with the re-forming and gravelling of the walks around the upper lake and part of the racecourse walk. The new walk leading from John Street gate at an angle on to the main walk around the top of the sports ground valley had been formed. During the month Mr. Robert Stevens, of Eltham, sent a package of native plants to the park; Miss Devenish and Miss Douglas have also sent parcels of native plants. A gentleman residing in the Mokau district, who had sent trees for three seasons, also sent a package of seeds and seedlings. He did not know who the gentleman was, but the seeds, etc., were very gratefully received. Mr. Tribe, who recently returned from a trip to Hawaii, brought back with him a large package of seeds from the Agricultural Department of that country. As an exchange was solicited, he would shortly collect a good series of varieties of seeds of our best native plants and post them in exchange to Hawaii. He was extremely pleased to have those brought by Mr. Tribe.—Hearty votes of thanks were accorded to the various donors of seeds, etc.

Mr. E. H. Tribe wrote that on arrival at Honolulu he went to the Bureau of Agriculture to ascertain if he could get some seeds of native flora for the park. Mr. David Haughs, the director of the department, was exceedingly kind, and gave him a packet of seeds, which he (Mr. Tribe) had handed to Mr. Smith. Mr. Haughs said if at any time they required any more he would be only too pleased to send some. If the board could send Mr. Haughs anything of the kind by way of exchange it would be much appreciated. Mr. Tribe added that he tried to do the same thing at Fiji, but the office of the department was closed. If Mr. Smith would like seeds from Fiji it was suggested that the board write to Mr. Whitcombe (an old New Plymouth boy), who had said he would be pleased to see the Agricultural Department and do what he could in the matter.—It was decided to forward letters of thanks to Messrs. Tribe and Haughs.

Owing to the impossibility of the Borough Council's representatives attending meetings on Monday evenings, it was decided to meet in future on Tuesday evening.

It was resolved that the seats in the Park be overhauled and repaired.

Mr. Ford was appointed overseer for the work, and a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Black, borough electrical engineer, for a special report he had presented in connection with a proposal to instal electric light in the park.

Accounts amounting to 19s 6d were passed for payment.

TH, OCTOBER 6, 1915 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, there being present, Messrs. S. Percy Smith (chairman), W. L. Newman, H. Ford, W. A. Collis, R. C. Hughes, and C. H. Drew (secretary).

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator, Mr. W. W. Smith, presented his monthly report, which was as follows:—The weather being fairly good, we were able to proceed with the re-forming and gravelling of the worst parts of the walks around the upper lake. Nearly twelve loads of the gravel have been used, but more will be required to complete the work. Several days were given to removing the unsightly overhanging branches and rough grass around the upper lake. The remainder of the time was devoted to mowing, gorse grubbing and general cleaning. Messrs. Duncan and Davies' donation of 18 varieties of trees and shrubs and 100 roses required two days to plant. The large express load sent comprised 180 plants, some of them being new to the park. Mr. Hicks, nurseryman of Tikorangi, also donated a large package of valuable plants. They comprise chiefly ornamental foliaged species and, with four exceptions, are all new to the park. Mr. Hicks has on several occasions brought some rare plants to the park. Owing to the abundant warm moisture and continued warm weather the general growth of vegetation in the park is rapid and luxuriant.

GENERAL.

The curator reported a case of infringing the by-laws in bicycling on the walks. He added that one person had knocked a little girl down and had callously ridden on.—In respect of the first case the board decided to take proceedings.

The matter of lighting the park was brought up by Mr. Hughes, but was adjourned until next meeting.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Messrs. Duncan and Davies and R. T. Hicks, of Tikorangi, for donations of plants.

Mr. F. P. Corkill was granted three months' leave of absence from the board.

Mr. Hughes was appointed visitor for the month.

TH, OCTOBER 28, 1915
CHARGES OVER BICYCLE RIDING

BY-LAW CASES.

The Borough Inspector (Mr. B. Tipples) proceeded against a man named Symons for leaving a vehicle unattended. Accused pleaded guilty and was convicted and fined 5s and costs 7s.

The inspector proceeded against J. Bestford for riding a bicycle on the paths in Pukekura Park.

Accused pleaded guilty, but said he was in ignorance of any law prohibiting bicycle riding in the park. There was no notice about the matter.

Mr. Quilliam, who appeared for the Pukekura Park Board, said that the proceedings were instituted to put a stop to the practice of riding bicycles in the park. A few days before Bestford was caught a little girl had been knocked down and narrowly escaped serious injury. The case was brought to give publicity to the matter. There was a notice about bicycling and moreover Bestford had been warned.

The magistrate entered a conviction and inflicted a fine of 5s and costs 7s.

J. Bestford was further charged with taking a bicycle into the park, but as there was no appearance of the informant (B. Tipples) the case was dismissed.

TDN, OCTOBER 28, 1915
DIRECTION POSTS ADDED

Notwithstanding the fact that the Park Board have had to work on very small funds, quite a number of improvements have been effected in Pukekura Park since war was declared, the latest being direction posts, which have been placed in positions to enable visitors to find their way about the grounds. Visitors will appreciate the thoughtful act of the Board.

TH, NOVEMBER 3, 1915
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in the Town Hall on Tuesday evening. Present: Messrs. S. Percy-Smith (chairman), H. Ford, R. Cock, W. A. Collis, W. L. Newman and C. H. Drew (secretary).

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. R. C. Hughes and his Worship the Mayor.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that the work of the park staff for the month had been of a general nature. After the strong winds and rains from the 1st till the 5th, and again from the 16th to the 21st, they were kept busy cleaning for several days. Owing to the rapid growth of grass and gorse in the park they had been kept busy mowing and grubbing them. The pond-weed had required some time to mow and suppress in the parts of the Upper Lake most affected with the weed. It was exceedingly strong this season, and would require a lot of work to suppress. As instructed by the board a year ago, he would mention that nothing had been done by the Sports Ground Committee to improve the condition of the ground. It was in an exceedingly rough condition at present, and the longer it was left undone the more labour it would require to put it in order. The great growth of vegetation continued in the park. There were now fifty-six water-fowl—all very healthy.

The secretary brought up the matter of having notices printed setting forth the by-laws relating to Pukekura Park, to be displayed at the various entrances. —It was resolved that it be left in the hands of the secretary to arrange for the work to be carried out.

Mr. W. L. Newman was appointed visitor for the ensuing month.

TH, NOVEMBER 22, 1915

CENTRAL SCHOOL CARNIVAL.

THIRD ANNUAL GRAND DISPLAY.
THIRD ANNUAL GRAND DISPLAY.

GYMNASTIC, EQUESTRIAN, MILITARY,
SPECTACULAR And PATRIOTIC,

In the

RECREATION SPORTS GROUND
RECREATION SPORTS GROUND

On

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2,
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2,

In aid of

No. 1 STATIONARY HOSPITAL.
Admission: Adults 1s, Children 6d.

TH, DECEMBER 3, 1915

CENTRAL SCHOOL CARNIVAL.

FOR HOSPITAL FUNDS.

SPLENDID PROCESSION AND SPORTS

NEARLY £250 REALISED.

The Central School Carnival held in Pukekura Park yesterday afternoon was a brilliant success, and provided a variety of amusements for over four thousand people. It was an enjoyable outing for young and old, but really it was a great play day for the school children of New Plymouth, and in glorious summer sunshine amidst the fresh and picturesque surroundings of the park, they spent an afternoon which, to them, will be retained in memory with those little landmarks which add joy to school days. This is the third annual carnival which has been held in connection with the Central School, and all the happy features which children remembered appeared again yesterday brighter and better than ever, while there was a budget of new attractions. Even the elements joined heartily in the conspiracy to make the day a memorable one. Nothing more pretty or effectual in the way of a gala spectacle has ever taken place in New Plymouth, and the children revelled in it from morning to evening. They sustained a magnetic animation throughout the afternoon, showing no signs of fatigue, but only eagerness and zest, and even when the end came hundreds of children showed a reluctance to go home. The children gave free play to all their youthful instincts in sports, they paraded in fancy costumes and found fun at the side-shows, they gave splendid exhibitions of various kinds of

exercises, they tripped merrily round the maypole, and generally enjoyed themselves, while also providing the spectators with a full measure of amusement. And above all was the thought that in their pleasure the children were nobly assisting their brothers at the war by providing them with care and comfort, for the carnival was in aid of No. 1 New Zealand Stationary Hospital and for providing comforts for those going to the front, with the highly satisfactory result that an amount approaching £250 was realised.

THE PROCESSION.

A striking feature was the procession, which was acknowledged to be one of the best ever seen in New Plymouth. Towards midday the town filled with people eager to witness the spectacle and by one o'clock, when the procession moved off, the route of the procession through the town was lined with crowds of people. The holiday spirit was abroad and in the hot sunshine the crowd awaited with suppressed happiness the signal for the day's fun to begin. Lieut.-Colonel F. T. Bellringer was the chief marshal and he had a busy task in attending to the great number of vehicles "dressed for parade," which assembled outside the old drill hall in Gill Street. Shortly after one o'clock the Citizens' Band took its place at the head of the procession, which extended from past the drill hall well up into St. Aubyn Street, and, with a stirring march, the band stepped off and released the pageant for the journey to Pukekura Park. To describe it as a pageant is not to belittle that expression, for the most optimistic could not have expected to see such a splendid and varied array. There was an extravagance of tasteful and vivid decorations on a great variety of vehicles representing equally varied phases of business life, while the comic element was generously provided. On all hands the procession drew spontaneous applause from the spectators, who cheered it on its way. After passing along St. Aubyn Street the procession turned into Queen Street, entering Devon Street at the Post Office corner. As the procession slowly wound its way down the hill into the town one had visions of one of those grotesque repitilian creatures which are happily only found in the pages of children's books, the great variety of color and form employed intensifying this aspect, and when the tail swept round the corner the head was well up the further rise of Devon Street. Every section of this glad chain arrested attention by its beauty of decoration, its novelty, or its mirth-provoking features. There were grotesque fellows, gay and serious, who would be more at home in fairyland, a weird band composed of ragged lads who would do credit to any street in the East End of London a variety of beautifully decorated vehicles, and some splendidly arranged trade displays. The predominant note was a patriotic one, for the colors of the Aliles flew gaily here and there.

SOME FINE DISPLAYS.

Immediately following the band were "Mr. and Mrs. Tiny." This couple has been seen in the streets of New Plymouth before, but they are cheery folk and their grotesque attitudes produced

roars of laughter. There were many children in fancy dress, including the following:—Eileen Moller, Noel Moller (Maori), Daisy Reed (England and France), Maud Roper (Red Cross nurse), Dorothy Smale (England), M. Bennoch (tattered Belgian), A. Bennoch (clown), T. Bennoch (sundowner), and C. Spurdle, who was dressed in a little khaki uniform and appealed to all to "Help the Wounded Soldiers." At the rear of the procession was the ragtime band with its wonderful collection of instruments. Among other displays which caused hearty laughter was the one-horse shay in which Uncle Rastus and Auntie Clo drove to the park. Mr. P. J. Flannagan's troupe of donkeys were ridden by several gaily-dressed youngsters, and added a picturesque touch to the scene.

There was a long string of decorated motor cars, the first of which contained the Mayor (Mr. C. H. Burgess) and a few members of the executive committee. Other cars, which were prettily decorated, included those of Miss Bishop, Mrs. J. Hawkins, Messrs G. Gibson, T. W. Ward, J. McNeill, and M. L. Holah. A splendid display was made by Messrs May and Co. with seven decorated bakers' carts. Each of these was tastefully got up in the colors of one of the Allies, Britain leading the way with red, white and blue ribbons. The other carts represented Russia, Italy, France, Belgium, Japan, and Serbia. Other decorated carts were those of Messrs P. Lealand, City Meat Stores, Lealand Bros., W. E. Bendall and Co., Sole Bros., C. Bond and J. Lister. Mrs. A. P. Ennis drove a decorated gig, and Miss Ivy Doughty rode a decorated bicycle. The posters included those of Messrs J. K. Hawkins and Co., A. Veale and C. Carter. The City Meat Stores had a lad riding a little pony, and the Taranaki Motor Transport Company had one of their big char-a-bancs in the procession.

The trade displays were particularly effective. Mr. Newton King had a motor lorry, on which were piles upon piles of Amber Tips tea boxes. Messrs Burgess, Fraser and Co. made a good display of Desert Gold tea, whilst Messrs Bellringer Bros. were represented by a miniature castle of Portland cement. The Hygienic Tea Rooms were shown on a lorry, visitors being helped to afternoon tea by the staff. The Red Post Furnishing Company had a striking display, showing a number of employees at work, while Messrs Boon Bros. had a similar display, and Mr. M. O. Butcher provided a scene of a branch of the work carried on at his carriage building factory. The Technical College was represented by two impressive and instructive exhibits. The first of these showed boys of the engineering class, clad in overalls, busily attending to the forge and also working at other engineering implements. Just behind were the commercial and agricultural boys energetically typing, and carrying out milk tests.

THE PROCESSION AWARDS.

Meanwhile all roads had led to Fukekura Park, where the large crowd that had assembled was greatly increased by the crowds which followed the procession. The arrival of the procession in the park was the signal for generous lengthy cheering, and when the pageant passed on to the arena and

moved round in a complete circle it provided an imposing spectacle. This gave Mr. A. M. Bradbury an opportunity to judge the displays, and he made the following awards:—

Best working exhibit.—Boon Bros. 1, Hygienic Bakery 2.

Best patriotic display.—May and Arrowsmith 1.

Best trade display.—Mr. Newton King (Amber Tips Tea), 1.

Most original trade display.—Bellringer Bros. (Wilson's Cement) 1.

Best decorated vehicle.—Mrs. Ennis, trap and pony, 1.

Best decorated motor-car.—Mrs. C. H. Burgess, 1.

Best decorated bicycle.—Miss Doughty, 1.

Best poster.—Dorothy Smale, "John Bull," 1.

Best fancy costume.—Tommy Bennoch, a swagger, 1.

SPORT ON THE ARENA.

The round of amusements on the arena was then set in motion, and the afternoon was occupied with an interesting programme, while the proceedings were enlivened by an enjoyable programme of music by the Citizens' Band. The first display of physical drill by sixty boys from the Central School, under Mr. Threadgill, physical instructor to the Education Department. The boys went through a number of movements in a manner which drew demonstrative applause from the onlookers. A may-pole dance by a number of girls from the Central School was a very pretty performance and reflected great credit on the girls and the excellent training they had received from Miss Drake. A flag march by pupils from the West End School, under Miss Ada O'Brien, seriously challenged the former event for spectacular effects, while a rainbow dance, performed by twenty-four Central School girls, under Miss Dempsey, drew general admiration by the excellent way in which the manoeuvres were carried out, and by the color effects. But beautiful as were these displays, they were eclipsed by the striking effect of the March of the Allies. This exhibition comprised companies of girls representing England (red, white and blue), the Colonies (white, with blue stripe bearing), Ireland (emerald green), Scotland (heio-trope), Russia (red, white and blue), France (white and red stripes), Belgium (yellow and red), and Italy (green, white and red). Some striking evolutions were carried out, and then, from a "mix-up," which suggested hopeless chaos, order was cleverly made by a series of movements which produced further impressive effects, and enhanced the beauty of the spectacle. Much credit is due to Miss Dempsey, who, assisted by Mr. Day, was responsible for arranging this splendid display. An exhibition of Swedish drill by a number of boys and girls from the Waihi School, under Mr. Bullans, was very well done. Graceful and attractive was a hoop march by girls from the Convent School, and pupils from the High School were responsible for some fine displays. A team of boys, under Sergt. Bruce, gave a fine exhibition of bayonet exercises, while a number of girls gave an interesting exhibition of first aid and ambulance

work. Gymnastics formed the subject of good work by pupils from the the Fitzroy School, and an interesting feature was a patriotic display by sixty Central School boys under Mr. Day.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

While these displays thoroughly pleased the spectators, there was a lighter side to the programme which gave enjoyment to young and old. The side-shows were numerous and varied. The Kaiser came in for a particularly bad time. By a unique device people were given the opportunity of "choking the Kaiser" by placing money in his mouth, for silver you could enjoy the satisfaction of having "shies at the Kaiser," while in other ways you were able to disturb his peace, and help to swell the funds. All sorts of other mediums were employed to amuse and to make money, and in this department Messrs L. Hoffmann, S. J. Smith, Sergt.-Major Williamson, and others were primarily responsible for the work of keeping the fun flowing. Golf putting, on a decidedly green "green", was a source of much amusement.

Set in pretty surroundings underneath the trees surrounding the arena were several stalls, at which excellent business was done. An attractive sweet stall was provided by the Victoria League, and was in charge of Misses Brewster, R. Clarke, Whitecombe, M. Thomson, M. Corkill, A. Ballard, and E. Greatbach. Other stalls were:—Sweets and ice cream, Mrs. Moverley; temperance stall, Mrs. Hoffmann; produce stall, Mrs. Wilkes and Miss Jameson; fancy work stall, Mesdames Dempsey, Firth, and Martin; Christmas tree and bran tub, Misses Henderson, Wilson, and Gleeson; cigarette stall, Miss Anthony.

An important feature of such entertainments is the afternoon tea, and the Mayoress (Mrs. C. H. Burgess) is to be congratulated on the excellent arrangements made. The tea tables were arranged under the trees near the band stand and around the top lake, and no more charming surroundings could have been found. Such was the extent of the arrangements that three separate committees had the work in hand, and, assisted by large numbers of young ladies, they have the reward of knowing they gave complete satisfaction. The committees comprised:—Mesdames Burgess, Blundell, Colville, Fair, Eberlet, Hursthouse, Courtney, K. Webster, Freeth, Bowden, Ewing, Foote, A. Robertson, D. White, G. Neale, Dinnis, Johns, Ambury, Stocker, White, J. Wilson, Carter, Matthews, Chappell, and Misses Devenish, Godfrey, Avery, and Marshall. They received valuable assistance from Mrs. Petch, Mrs. Tanner, and Misses McCoy and Sole.

COMPETITIONS.

The baby competition attracted a good deal of interest, and the results of the various classes were as follows:—Babies under 18 months (32 entries): Barton Revell 1, Kenneth K. Hawkins 2, Narissa Baldock 3. Babies under nine months (24 entries): Newton Cramer 1, Esmond Asquith 2, Alec. Mackie 3. Twins: Wm. and Mabel Schwam and Mrs. H. Moon's twins tied for first place.

The tug-of-war provided plenty of interest for the boys and produced keen competition. The competition was confined to school boys, and a side consisted of eight boys. Entries were received from Bell Block, Central School (two teams), Frankley Road, Fitzroy, Omata, West End, and Waihi. After some excellent contests Bell Block and West End were left in the final, which resulted in a victory for Bell Block.

An interesting competition which was responsible for much enjoyment was the discovery of "Abe Potash." A certain gentleman was set down as "Abe Potash" and tickets were sold to people, who were required to seek the gentleman. They could accost anyone, and on discovering the man they would receive half a sovereign. The winner was a lad, Bracken Wilson, who found that Mr. J. Hayden was posing as "Abe."

THE FINANCIAL RESULT.

It is expected the amount which will be realised by the Carnival will not be far short of £250—a splendid result on which the school is to be heartily congratulated. The returns available last night show that £233 1s 1d is in hand, and there are some further amounts to come in. The details are: Gate takings £110 6s, afternoon tea £34 18s 8d, auction sale £25 19s, fancy work stall £13 13s 11d, temperance stall £11 10s 10d, "Kaiser Bill" and "Hoop La" £10 4s 2d, Mrs. Moverley's stall £10 4s 2d, Victoria League stall £7 6s 5d, general items £8 0s 11d, Miss Connie Spurdle's (Waitara) collection £1 3s.

The officials responsible for the arrangements did splendid work. Mr. H. Dempsey, headmaster of the school, was a particularly hard worker, and he was ably assisted by Messrs F. T. Bellringer, S. G. Smith, P. J. Flanagan, J. R. Hill, N. D. Day and others.

large crowd present, there was no injury whatever done to the board's property. He would now earnestly draw the attention of the board to the very urgent necessity for immediately mowing and burning the masses of ox-eye daisies growing on the terraces in the sports ground. These plants and other noxious weeds were extremely plentiful and aggressive this year. They would begin to seed about the middle of this month, and should be mown and burned immediately. Owing to the abundance of rain and mellow weather during the spring and on to the present time the rapid growth and vigour of the vegetation in the park and throughout the district had been, and was, very much greater than in normal seasons. He regretted to say that a great many roses had been stolen from the rose-bed lately.

The Secretary reported on the financial position of the board. It was anticipated that they would have a debit balance of about £40 at the end of the present financial year. The board's share of the gate takings at the recent carnival was about £16.

With reference to the curator's remarks concerning the ox-eye daisies on the terraces of the sports ground, it was resolved that the chairman see the chairman of the Sports Ground Committee with a view to getting that body to have this weed cut and burnt.

In connection with the installation of electric lighting in the park, Mr. Hughes said he would not press the matter at present, in view of the unfavourable financial position of the board.

The Secretary reported having had 25 notices printed embodying the by-laws relating to the park and also four notice-boards to be placed at the entrances to and in prominent positions in Pukekura Park.

It was decided that, as the next meeting would come during the holidays, it be postponed until the first Tuesday in February.

Mr. Percy Smith was appointed visitor for the ensuing month.

Several accounts were passed for payment.

TH, DECEMBER 8, 1915 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in the Town Hall on Tuesday evening. Present: Mr. S. Percy Smith (chairman), Messrs. W. L. Newman, H. Ford, R. C. Hughes, W. A. Collis, and C. H. Drew (secretary).

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. C. H. Burgess and W. F. Short.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The Curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that the chief work of the board's staff for the month had been mowing, cleaning, and burning of heaps of stuff accumulating therefrom. Owing to the phenomenal growth of all indigenous and introduced trees this season it had been necessary for them to do a considerable amount of trimming of trees, etc., to keep the paths clear and open. The heavy drip from the overhanging trees in some parts always produced a more or less pitting and slight scouring of the walks during storms of rain. The heavy electric and other storms during the first twelve days of November entailed considerable work cleaning up after them, but no damage occurred to the board's property. The fête on behalf of wounded soldiers held on December 2 was a great success, and, notwithstanding the very

1916

F. P. Corkill resigned from the Board after serving for more than 30 years. C. E. Bellringer was appointed to take his place.

The management of the Sports Ground was returned to the Park Board. The Sports Ground Committee which had developed and controlled the Sports Ground since 1906 was finding it difficult to get the men to look after it. This was because many of the local young men were away at war. The Board came to an agreement with the Technical College in town, that they would use it as a sports field and in return look after grass cutting, etc.

Clement Wragge, a world-renowned meteorologist, on a speaking engagement in New Plymouth praised the Park but suggested it could be improved by planting a selection of suitable palm trees.

Newton King gifted an outrigger canoe which he had acquired from Rarotonga.

Robert Clinton Hughes wrote 'A Brief History', which was a history of the Park until that time. It was published in three parts in the *Taranaki Herald* on August 3rd, 4th and 5th. The whole article appears in this document on pages (94 – 99).

The John Street (now Rogan Street) entrance was improved, and native trees planted in the vicinity of the entrance.

Donations included:

Mr Chas Jerdan, donated a kiwi caught on the Kaitake ranges.

Plant Donations:

Garden seeds from the curator of the Public Gardens at Colombo (Ceylon). Package of trees and seeds from Paraguay (South America). Mr C. E. Bellringer, flower seeds; Webster Bros seeds and plants; plant seeds by exchange from the Botanic Gardens of Calcutta; Mr E. Brough, Christchurch, lily bulbs; Native plant and seeds from anonymous donors; Mrs Avery, a bag of bulbs; Mr Rockel, a small box of New Zealand orchids collected in the Ruahine bush, which were planted in suitable places in the Park where they could be easily seen and studied when in bloom; Mr C. List, from a New South Wales trip, a quantity of Australian plant seeds; a friend of the Park, some native plant seeds from Mokau.

Summary of significant events

- The Park Board took over the running of the Sports Ground
- Park Saturday was reinstated
- Emergency water supply taken from the racecourse
- Robert Clinton Hughes wrote a history of the Park
- Mrs. Hulke bequest of £100.

TDN, JANUARY 17, 1916
SPORTS GROUND UNKEMPT

A SIGHT IN NEW PLYMOUTH
RECREATION GROUND.

To the Editor.

Sir,—New Plymouth's Recreation Ground, an exquisite gem, its beauties almost all pure New Zealand, is rightly the pride of the town. As a visitor one naturally admires the beautiful features of the Park, but just at this time of world stress and conflict the finest sight in the Recreation Ground is to be seen just inside the Liardet Street entrance.

There one comes across the sports ground, now overgrown with long grass and weeds. The roller which used to keep cricket pitches in order is hard to find in its snug nestling of greenery. There is no use for it to-day. New Plymouth's athletes have a greater task in hand! They are evidently too busy doing their duty to the Empire to concern themselves about the state of the cricket pitches, and it is fine testimony to the practical patriotism of New Plymouth that the playground of its young men is now deserted. All honor to your town.—I am, etc.,

CHAS. E. WHEELER.

Wellington.

TDN, FEBRUARY 2, 1916
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last night. Present: Messrs S. Percy-Smith (chairman), W. L. Newman, W. F. Short, R. Cock, Harris-Ford, R. C. Hughes, and C. H. Drew (hon. secretary).

CURATOR'S REPORT.

Mr. W. W. Smith (Curator), reported, respecting the work of the Park staff for the two months, that owing to the continued rigorous growth of the grass and weeds, the chief work had been that of mowing and burning, which would continue for at least another month. Owing also to the dry weather there was greater accumulation of rubbish which had to be removed for safety against fire. Some of the younger tree-ferns were feeling the drought and these required daily attention in watering. Four of the arrow guides, prepared by Mr. Newman, which were placed as guides to visitors, had been removed and could not be found. During the holiday season he had cautioned many persons for cycling in the Park and for bringing in dogs. One of the men working for the Board asked for an increase of wages, to 10s per day. Four copies of the Board's by-laws had been securely fixed at the places directed. The Sports Ground required mowing, and should be attended to as soon as possible; it was now in bad condition.

SCHEME OF IMPROVEMENT.

Mr. R. C. Hughes suggested that the Board should set its mind to some definite scheme of improvement each year, in addition to the ordinary work of maintenance.

The chairman pointed out that they had in hand the formation of another lake and also the installation of the electric light.

Mr. Cock, in agreeing, said that that had been the Board's policy and instanced the work done at the Gilbert Street entrance. This from a waste spot and an eyesore had been transformed into one of the most beautiful entrances of the Park.

GENERAL.

The Board decided that it could not make any increase in wages during war time, as owing to the other demands on the public purse its revenue was considerably curtailed.

Some discussion took place over the state of the Sports Ground, but no action was taken.

A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. J. H. Quilliam, who gave his services free in connection with a case of cycling through the Park.

The action of the executive in allowing the Silver Band to take up a Sunday collection in the Park was confirmed.

It was resolved to ask the Borough Council if sufficient posts were available for lighting the grounds, and at what price.

Mr. R. Cock was appointed visitor for the month, and accounts amounting to £1 12s 6d were passed for payment.

TDN, FEBRUARY 2, 1916
EELS AND DUCKLINGS

Some visitors to the Recreation Grounds this week gained a vivid idea of the depredations made by the eels on the bird life in the lakes. Standing on the bridge they saw two young ducklings fall victims to a large eel in quick succession. The matter of clearing the lake of these pests was discussed at last night's meeting of the Board, but members expressed the opinion that as fast as the lake was cleared of eels, it would be freshly stocked as the eel was able to make its way overland. Indeed, members cited instances in which they had seen young eels by tens and thousands making their way up perpendicular waterfalls and reservoir walls.

TDN, FEBRUARY 2, 1916
HUGHES TO WRITE HISTORY

The associations of Pukekura Park from an historical and scenic point of view are many. Mr. R. C. Hughes has in hand the preparation of a history of the Park, and as he is familiar with his subject, it should prove interesting reading.

TDN, FEBRUARY 2, 1916
WATERFOWL STOLEN

The Curator of the Pukekura Park (Mr. W. W. Smith), reported to the Board that between Christmas and New Year several of the waterfowl were stolen from the lower lake, including the two most ornamental drakes. Members considered that it was scandalous that this should happen, but pointed out that nothing could be done further than making an example of anyone caught.

TH, MARCH 8, 1916
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

At the monthly meeting of the above committee last evening there were present Messrs S. Percy-Smith (chairman), R. C. Hughes, H. Ford, and C. H. Drew (hon. sec.).

The following letter (translated, the original being in Maori) was received from Mr. W. Swanson, jr., Maori interpreter, Auckland:—"Please accept from an admirer and appreciator of your beautiful Pukekura Park the enclosed cheque for 20s, as a subscription towards its upkeep. I consider that it is an ideal park, and the very best I have so far seen in New Zealand. May God preserve all you guardians of the Pukekura Park and grant you long life to continue your good work, for great is my wonder and pleasure in seeing its beauty. I regret that my poverty prevents my making my contribution larger. Please ask your secretary to remind me each 1st of January, that I may send my yearly contribution."

The curator, Mr. W. W. Smith, reported as follows:—As in the month of January, the mowing of rough grass, grubbing of gorse seedlings, and burning of dry rubbish accumulating under the areas of pine trees has been the chief work of the staff for the past month. Two days were devoted to mowing and dragging out by the roots certain objectionable plants that had made their appearance in the upper lake this season. Owing to the continued drought the water in the upper lake is now lower than it has been for eight years. There is, however, no offensive smell in the much lowered waters of the lake. The small streams flowing into the park from the Carrington Road and the one from the racecourse valley, are the only sources of water supply we receive to keep the lakes up at present. The dry season is also responsible for the rapid decay of some of the older seats in the park. Some of them on the brow of the cannon hill and others around the upper lake will require new planking immediately. Two small planks will also be required soon to replace others in the floor of the Poet's Bridge. The drought has caused a lot of extra work to the staff in watering tree-ferns, etc., planted last winter. The general and older vegetation of the Park is not showing any signs of the continued dry weather. Owing to the high price of fowl feed at the present time I would suggest to the Board that it dispose of two dozen of the tame ducks now inhabiting the lower lake. We have 28 native wild ducks on hand, and, as the sporting season is drawing near, numbers of others will come to the lakes. They soon become tame, and are very much more interesting to visitors.

Mr. Newton King offered to present to the committee an outrigger canoe that he had secured from Rarotonga, and the committee accepted the gift with thanks.

Mr. Harris Ford was appointed visitor for the month, and two small accounts were passed for payment.

TH, MARCH 8, 1916

CONTROLLING DUCK NUMBERS

Owing to the high price of fowl feed at the present time Mr. W. W. Smith (curator of Pukekura Park) suggested to the board on Tuesday night that it should dispose of two dozen of the tame ducks now inhabiting the lower lake. He added there were 28 native wild ducks on hand, and as the shooting season was drawing near, numbers of others would come to the lakes, some of which he could snare and pinion. They would soon become tame, and would be much more interesting to visitors.—The board decided to give effect to the recommendation.

TH, MARCH 8, 1916

LONG TERM SERVICE

Something of a record in long membership of local bodies is held by Messrs. R. C. Hughes and Harris Ford, of New Plymouth. It is forty years this month since these gentlemen were appointed members of the Pukekura Park Board of Trustees.

TDN, MARCH 18, 1916

KIWI DONATED

Mr. Chas. Jerdan caught a fine specimen of the male kiwi on the Kaitake ranges on Tuesday, and has presented it to the Pukekura Park.

TDN, APRIL 5, 1916

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met last night. Present: Messrs S. Percy-Smith (chairman), W. L. Newman, R. C. Hughes, D. Cock, and H. Ford.

THE SPORTS GROUND.

The chairman brought up the question of the future of the Sports Ground, which, he said, was daily getting in a worse condition, and the Board would have to decide whether to take it over or leave it under its present control.

Mr. J. Clarke, hon. secretary of the Recreation Sports Ground, wrote: "I am afraid things are not too good with the Sports Ground, as at the present all attempts to raise money for other than patriotic purposes seem doomed to failure."

Mr. Hughes thought there was no alternative but for the Board to take over the grounds. He expressed praise for the energy shown by Messrs J. Clarke and J. McLeod, who had done everything possible to raise funds, but had met with no support. Mr. Hughes moved that the Board's solicitors should be instructed to take steps to enable the Board to re-enter into possession of the Sports Ground and terminate the lease given to the Sports Ground Committee, action to be postponed until after the May meeting of the Board.

The resolution was carried.

PAST MONTH'S WORK.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported:—"Owing to the dry nature of the weather for the past month the Park staff continued the work of mowing grass and burning the masses of rubbish accumulated under the pine trees after the recent equinoctial winds. The long spell of dry weather is also responsible for the low condition of the upper lake. It is now two feet below the normal level of the water. The stream from

the Old Carrington Road, and the one from the spring in the valley above the tea rooms are the only supplies entering the lake, and these are greatly diminished in volume. During the month all the seats requiring repairs have been finished, as also were the faulty planks in the two bridges. The small half-dead trees on the slope leading up to Johns Street have been removed, as per order of the Board when the members last visited the Park. Fences have been repaired wherever they required such. Since last meeting I have received the outrigger canoe presented by Mr. Newton King. It requires a coat of paint before being put into commission. The old large boat now in the shed requires repairing and painting if it be worth the expense. It would be advisable for an expert to inspect it and the Board to see it before recommending anything being done to it. During the last month some friend of the Park sent forward some native plant seeds from Mokau. Although the weather continues very dry the vegetation, with the exception of a few tree ferns, in the Park is withstanding it very well."

GENERAL.

The chairman reported that the Okato Domain Board had approached him and asked that the services of Mr. W. W. Smith should be lent to the Board so that he could advise them in laying out public grounds at Okato. The chairman said he considered every assistance should be given Domain Boards in improving their towns, and he had arranged for Mr. Smith to go to Okato.—The chairman's action was confirmed.

Mr. R. C. Hughes was appointed the visitor for the month.

TDN, APRIL 19, 1916

Water Supply from Racecourse

It was decided to accede to the request of the Pukekura Park Board and authorise a 3-in. pipe to be taken off the Club's water main to enable the Board to obtain a supply of water for the top lake.

TH, APRIL 27, 1916

PUKEKURA PARK.

"A PEARL OF GREAT PRICE."

One of the objects which I had to particularly urge in my study of Australian forestry, continued Mr. Hutchins, was the national arboretum. In the whole of New Zealand there is a mine of undeveloped wealth in trees, but without arboretums no one can see exactly what trees will grow and exactly what they are worth. South Africa has 143 nurseries and tree planting centres, and when I came to New Zealand my first enquiry was for an arboretum where I could see and study the native timber trees of New Zealand planted side by side, and compare their merits under the same conditions of climate and soil. I have been six months in New Zealand and until I came to Taranaki searched in vain for such an arboretum of native trees. In the New Plymouth Pukekura Park I have found a collection of native trees which should be the delight of every New Zealand tree lover. It was an additional pleasure to find it set in the beautiful surroundings. I cannot help thinking that New Plymouth, in fact New Zealand, has a pearl of great price in this beautiful park, and its clever curator, Mr. W. W. Smith, has few if any equals in New

Zealand. I set so high a value on the attractions you have here—this beautiful park, the mountain, the mountain reserve, and the scenery generally—that I cannot understand why these attractions are not better known. It was almost by chance that I came to New Plymouth. In fact, had it not been for Mr. T. Humphreys, of Wellington, I should have missed a visit to a place from where I have learnt more about the native trees of New Zealand than is to be learned elsewhere in the same time."

TH, APRIL 27, 1916

LETTER FROM CURATOR'S SON

Sergeant Smith, writing to his father, Mr. W. W. Smith, curator of Pukekura Park, says:—"The Budget arrived last night. The first act one of the fellows did was to take out the wire that binds the paper and hand round a sheet to each as far as they went. One fellow got a sheet of advertisements. He thought the poem advertising meat—especially beef steaks—in New Plymouth was very good, but thought the steak would be better. There is real good feeling in the camp between officers and men, and all have to work very hard. The mosquitoes and flies are very vicious at times, but a soldier has to become inured to all these draw-backs. We are all very fit and eager for action. I am posting an Egyptian paper with an account of the last engagement in which our regiment took part."

TH, MAY 3, 1916

OFFER TO PAY FOR A PARK STAFF

At last night's meeting of the Pukekura Park Board, the chairman stated that a gentleman, who desired that his name should not be made public, had interviewed him, stating that he was prepared to pay a man to work in the park throughout the winter, under the curator. The chairman was authorised to convey to the donor the Board's appreciation of his offer.

TH, MAY 3, 1916

PARK BOARD TO TAKE CONTROL OF SPORTS GROUND

The Pukekura Park Board, last night, decided to instruct its solicitors to take steps to resume possession of the sports ground, which has been controlled for the past seven years by a Sports Ground Committee. The Board propose to at once place sheep on the ground with a view to keeping down the grass.

TH, MARCH 22, 1916

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD A.G.M.

The Pukekura Park Board met last night. Present: Messrs. S. Percy-Smith (in the chair), W. L. Newman, R. C. Hughes, W. A. Collis, R. Cock, H. Ford and C. H. Drow (hon. secretary).

An apology was received from the Mayor (Mr. C. H. Burgess).

The curator, Mr. W. W. Smith, submitted his report on the work completed in Pukekura Park during the year ending March 31, 1916, as follows: "On the occasion of the first meeting of the board members at the

park, after the annual meeting held a year ago, it was decided to purchase sufficient pipes and timber with which to drain the walks around the upper and lower lakes, and other parts of the park requiring draining. The work was undertaken and completed in a month, which proved a comfort to visitors, and now prevents much less scouring of the walks.

"The decaying trees ordered to be removed from several parts of the park were duly felled, cut into firewood, and sold. The walk leading up the hill from near the triangular bed at the sports ground, and around the top of the sports ground valley, was continued and completed. The floors of the four bridges were well repaired with new planking, and all are now in good order.

"The reclaiming and remodelling of the swampy valley situated near the tearooms was also completed and planted chiefly with native trees, shrubs and ferns. They have all grown vigorously whilst the work has greatly improved the entrance to the bank from the sports ground. On completion of the work at the swamp we resumed the work of reforming and shingling parts of the walks so long as the shingle lasted. We propose to return to the work when the forthcoming ten loads of shingle comes to hand from the gneiss quarry. All the seats and fences have recently been repaired, which work will not again be required for some considerable time. The planting and transplanting undertaken and completed during last season have proved a success. Several ladies and gentlemen living in different districts in the Taranaki province have offered to send packages of native plants. We propose to adopt a vigorous system of planting all the available spaces, and there are many, with native trees, shrubs and ferns, during the coming planting season. Some of the older trees and straggling undergrowth will require to be removed to enable us to continue the annual planting with success. The past season was one of exceptionally vigorous growth of the general vegetation of the park. Owing to the extremely dry season, the lowering of the water in the upper lake impaired its appearance much. The water has risen considerably lately, and is now almost normal. In addition to the work of the park staff noted above, the chief work during the spring and summer months was that of mowing and burning rubbish, grubbing gorse, cleaning, and the general maintenance of the board's property. Although the hoodlum element has asserted itself on several occasions during the year there was not so much of it as was practised during the two previous years. At the present time all the board's property is in good condition."

ANNUAL MEETING.

The statement of accounts for the year showed a debit balance of £20 2s 6d. The principal receipts were £187 10s borough subsidy, subscriptions £64 3s, rents £36 2s 6d, and cash in hand at the end of the previous year £36 5s 7d. The main item in the expenditure was £310 6s 7d for wages.

The secretary mentioned that amounts which had been paid in since the end of the financial year gave the board a slight credit balance.

The question of raising more funds was then discussed at some length, and Mr. Hughes proposed that the chairman convene a meeting of ladies to consider the best steps to be taken to pay off the bank overdraft, and of providing means for maintaining and improving the grounds.

The motion was carried.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

Mr. Cock, in proposing that Mr. Smith continue as chairman for the following year, paid a tribute to the splendid work he had done for the park.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Ford and carried by acclamation.

Mr. Smith, in returning thanks for his election a second time, said he had never known a board whose affairs were carried on so harmoniously. His only regret was that they were commencing the year with a deficit instead of a credit balance.

Mr. Drew expressed his satisfaction that Mr. Smith had seen his way clear to accept the position for another year, especially as the big water scheme in connection with the proposed new lake, near the racecourse path, would be launched.

Other members said they much appreciated the sacrifice Mr. Smith was making.

RESIGNATION OF SECRETARY.

Mr. Drew intimated that in view of his approaching visit to England he regretted that he had to tender his resignation as secretary.

The Chairman said he was very sorry, and he was sure the other members were too, that there was no other course but to accept the resignation.

The resignation as secretary was accepted, and Mr. Drew was granted six months' leave of absence as a member of the board.

Mr. Newman proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Drew for the services he had rendered to the board, and said he had displayed great ability and tactfulness in dealing with their friends, the subscribers, throughout the district.

Mr. Hughes seconded, and the motion was carried, Mr. Drew briefly returning thanks, and expressing the hope that on his return, when the war was over, he would be able to do something more for the park.

Mr. E. H. Tribe, who has previously occupied the office, was elected secretary.

A GENEROUS OFFER.

The Chairman announced that a citizen of the town proposed to give the board the benefit of a man's services from the present time throughout the winter. He did not wish his name to be mentioned publicly, and the chairman, after commenting on the very liberal offer, moved that the thanks of the board be tendered to him.

The motion was carried.

The secretary reported that donations had been received from Mrs. R. C. Hughes 10s, and Mr. O. Newman (Wellington) £1 1s. A special vote of thanks was accorded Mrs. E. A. Walker for a donation of £5.

THE SPORTS-GROUND.

No advice having been received from the Sports Ground Committee in reference to the resolution passed at last meeting, it was formally decided to terminate the lease and re-enter.

The Chairman said arrangements would be made to have the sports ground area kept in proper order, and mentioned that a mob of sheep would probably be placed on the ground to keep the grass down.

TH, JUNE 1, 1916

PARK SATURDAY RETURNS

SATURDAY'S COLLECTION.

WHAT MONEY IS WANTED FOR.

Arrangements have now been completed for the collection on Saturday on behalf of the funds of the Pukekura Park Board. The board, as is well known, has always depended largely upon voluntary subscriptions for the improvement and upkeep of the Park, its fixed revenue being small and quite insufficient to meet the expenditure. During the coming year, in addition to the ordinary upkeep, the board desires to undertake three special works—the improvement of the sports ground, of which it has had to resume possession, the completion of the pond in the gully near the racecourse, and the instalment of the electric light in the Park. The board's regular income will not cover the cost of ordinary upkeep, so that if these improvements are to be undertaken it must look to the public for assistance. The Park Saturday collection two years ago yielded a handsome sum. Last year it was given up in favour of patriotic fund collections, but the board's necessities this year are so great that an appeal must be made or the expenditure cut down very greatly. The public, we are sure, do not wish to see this happen, but will respond readily and generously to the appeal on Saturday.

Following is a list of the collectors and their districts:—

Devon Street East.—Miss Stephenson-Smith and Miss Curtis.
Devon Street West.—Miss Fabian.
Avenue Road, John Street, Cameron Street, and Gilbert Street.—Miss Percy Smith.
Carrington Road, Fillis Street, and Leach Street.—Miss Mona Corkill and Miss Bullard.
Pendarves Street and Liardet Street.—Miss G. Fookes.
Courtenay Street and Watson Street.—Miss M. Fookes.
Lemon Street and Hobson Street.—Miss M. Thomson.
Gover Street and Eliot Street.—Miss Doreen Healy.
Gill Street and Molesworth Street.—Miss W. Sole.
Buller Street and Woolcombe Terrace.—Mrs. Mackie.
Powderham Street and Vivian Street.—Miss Grant.
Bulteel Street, Fulford Street, and Dawson Street.—Miss M'Clelland.
Hine Street and Weymouth Street.—Miss Rollo.
Young Street and Gane Street.—Miss Wilson.
Morley Street, Mt. Edgecombe Street, and Cutfield Road.—Miss M. Humphries and Miss Batey.
Brougham Street and Currie Street.—Miss C. Mackay.
South Road and Belt Road.—Miss Mount and Miss Barnes.
Robe Street, Queen Street, King Street, and Egmont Street.—Miss Menzies.
Frankleigh Park.—Miss Arden and Miss Winfield.
Vogeltown.—Mrs. G. W. Browne and Misses Evans (2).
Westown.—Misses Norman (2) and Miss M. Collins.
Moturoa.—Scout boys.
Fitzroy.—Miss I. Foote and Miss Colson.
Old Hospital Road and Chidman's Estate.—Miss Palmer.
Morning and Afternoon in Devon Street.—Misses Devenish, K. Leatham, Collis, Warren, Roy, Greatbatch, Fouby, Bullard, Corkill, Peach, D. Bradbury, Grant, Roedel, Healy, Fortune, Gibson, D. Simpson and Mrs. M. Avery.

TDN, JUNE 6, 1916
CITIZEN BAND

SUNDAY'S RECITAL

The public of New Plymouth have awaited with interest the initial Sunday recital of the New Plymouth Citizens Band, under the baton of Mr. McLeod (L.T.S.), and yesterday afternoon the attendance at Pukekura Park numbered several hundreds, and that all were pleased and satisfied was proved by the keen attention displayed and the hearty applause given. Despite the fact that we are in mid-winter the grounds looked splendid, and it is safe to assume that the band could give frequent recitals in these surroundings without the public being surfeited. Yesterday's programme was a difficult and varied one, but every item was rendered in a manner which proclaimed the new bandmaster to be a master of his work. It was easy to see, too, that the bandsmen appreciated the fact that they were under the baton of a capable and sympathetic musician, and every action of the bandmaster produced the desired response. Eight items were given as follows:—Quickstep, "The Monarch" (Rimmer); grand selection, "For King and Country" (W. Rimmer); hymns, "Abide with Me" (Dykes) and "Lead, Kindly Light" (Purday); meditation, "The Druid's Prayer" (Dawson); cornet solo, "Alas, those Chimes" (Wallace), solo by N. Lovell; hymn, air varie, "Simeon" (Rimmer), introducing chimes effect by two cornets; memorial march, "Our Fallen Heroes" (Round), including "Let Me like a Soldier fall" and "The Vacant Chair." The playing of the National Anthem concluded the proceedings.

During an interval, the president of the Band (Mr. R. Cock) returned thanks for the people's attendance.

A collection taken up in aid of the Band funds amounted to £22 4s 6d.

TH, JUNE 6, 1916
PARK SATURDAY RECEIPTS

"PARK SATURDAY" COLLECTION.

TOTAL RECEIPTS, £166 18s 9d.

The total amount realised by the collections last Saturday for Pukekura Park was £166 18s 9d. This must be considered a very fine result, and shows that the numerous patriotic appeals of late are educating the people in the art of giving. It is gratifying also to see that the Park really is appreciated by residents of the district, and that the matter of its upkeep is being given proper consideration. The board expressed itself as very pleased indeed with the successful day, and is deeply indebted to all the ladies who made the house-to-house canvass and street collection. In addition to the £166 18s 9d there may be one or two small amounts yet to come in.

TH, JUNE 7, 1916
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday evening. Present: Messrs. S. Percy Smith (chairman), C. H. Burgess, R. Cock, W. L. Newman, W. A. Collis, R. C. Hughes, Harris Ford, and H. Tribe (secretary).

The Chairman referred to the very satisfactory result of the collection made on Park Saturday, £166 18s 9d resulting, and proceeded to move votes of thanks to Mrs. Dockrill for organising the day and all the ladies who so ably assisted in making the collection.

A letter was received from Mr. A. Gray, Director of the Technical College, suggesting that, as the board has resumed control of the Sports Ground, that the College take over the grounds for playing grounds, undertaking in return for the privilege to keep them in order. Members expressed approval of the proposal and a committee consisting of Messrs. Smith and Hughes was appointed to arrange the matter with Mr. Gray.

Mr. Cock, on behalf of the Citizens' Band, expressed their willingness to assist the board by playing in Pukekura Park. Mr. Cock considered that full use was not made of the Park at present and thought if advantage was taken of the band's offer their finances might be considerably assisted. Nothing could be done, however, until summer.

A motion, proposed by Mr. Hughes, was carried expressing the pleasure of members at again seeing Mr. Tribe occupying the position of secretary. Mr. Tribe suitably responded.

Mr. Ford was appointed visitor for the ensuing month.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported:—

The chief work of the staff since last meeting has comprised the reforming of walks, mowing and burning of grass, and the accumulation of debris after the recent strong winds. We have thought it necessary to remove a number of small trees, and the branches of others overhanging the walks to prevent the frequent drip from eroding them. It will also be necessary for us to continue this work around the two lakes. We propose to remove the half-dead limbs of small trees and shrubs growing on the edge of the upper lake within the box fence, and those overhanging the water. The several black gums are encroaching both on the walks and the water—so much so that it will be necessary to remove them during this month. We will commence this week with the planting of the young trees, shrubs, and ferns, and likewise the transplanting of the larger plants at the Gilbert Street entrance, where they are beginning to crowd each other out in places. We propose to treat the large bed of flax similarly where the plants are crowding up by vigorous growth. Several of the older pine trees now half-decayed will require to be removed this winter to enable us to plant their sites with tree ferns and native trees. Now that the board has resumed control of the Sports Ground we must cut all the fences as soon as possible, and clear away the rubbish, etc., near the iron shed. Some parts of the terraces are in a dilapidated condition, and will have to be repaired and strengthened. May I suggest that the board members visit and inspect the Sports Ground before we commence any work on it. There is other work to be undertaken which I would submit to the board before commencing it.

TH, JUNE 7, 1916
WRAGGE OFFERS ADVICE

"I consider that Pukekura Park is far and away superior to anything of its kind in the Dominion," said Mr. Clement Wragge at his lecture on Tuesday night. "But it can be improved. Not that I mean any reflection on Mr. Smith, the curator, for I have the very highest respect for him, and I can say no more. But additional interest could be given by the growing of Abyssinian bananas, and many kinds of tropical palms, such as *Coccoloba*, that could easily be acclimatised."

TDN, JUNE 28, 1916
W. W. SMITH IN HOSPITAL

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator of Pukekura Park, lies seriously ill in the hospital.

TH, JULY 5, 1916
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in the Borough Council Chambers on Tuesday evening. Present: Messrs. S. Percy-Smith (chairman), C. H. Burgess, W. F. Newman, H. Ford, R. C. Hughes, W. F. Short and E. H. Tribe (hon. sec.).

The secretary informed the board that a surrender of the lease of the Sports Ground had been signed by the representatives of the Sports Committee.

It was resolved that the Technical College be granted the use of the Sports Ground for a period of three years, on conditions imposed by the board, among them being that the lawn and terraces be kept in good condition, and that the ground be available for the use of the public for any functions, such as public gatherings, big football matches and similar gatherings.

The Chairman regretted having to report that the curator of the park was at present in the hospital. A resolution of sympathy was passed by the board, to be sent to the curator, Mr. W. W. Smith.

The secretary reported that after the payment of a few small accounts there was a credit balance in the bank of £56 12s 2d.

The park was placed in charge of Mr. E. H. Tribe during the ensuing period.

TH, JULY 5, 1916
LETTER PRAISING PUKEKURA PARK

At last night's meeting of the Pukekura Park Board the following letter from Mr. D. E. Hutchins, Inspector of Forests, was read:—"Before getting to work on my forestry report, I must send a line to you to say how much I enjoyed my visit to New Plymouth, but particularly to your beautiful Pukekura Park. I did not think there was anywhere in New Zealand so good a collection of native trees, nor a curator so well able to show these as yours. If I were a rich man, instead of a pensioner, I would give the gardens enough to provide a permanent laborer and free the curator altogether from that class of work. I hope soon to hear that he is quite restored to health."

TDN, AUGUST 8, 1916
MRS. ANN HULKE BEQUEST

At last night's meeting of the Pukekura Park Board, notification was received from Messrs Wilson & Gray that the late Mrs. Ann Hulke had made a bequest of £100 to the Park.

In a covering letter to the chairman of the Pukekura Park Board, Mr. R. Clinton Hughes says:—

I send you the story of the origin and development of Pukekura Park. It has been a pleasure to me to comply with the request of the board to collect and put these facts on record, and to do it now while some of those who took part in the work are still with us and able to assist with information. The narrative far exceeds in length what I had in my mind when I started, but as I proceeded, not only did the work become more interesting, but I felt it was due to those of our fellow-citizens who had by their personal services and by their donations helped to make the park so well and favourably known to bring to light what they had done. In writing of the services of the present members of the board I have been restrained by the fear of being accused of flattery and have spoken with diffidence as I feel it would be unbecoming of me to appear as assessing the merits of my colleagues.

When asked to write a short history of the origin and development of the park, a member of the board urged that mention should be made of the circumstances under which New Plymouth was deprived of park lands. This involves a brief retrospect of the history of the settlement.

ORIGINAL PARK RESERVES

When the town and settlement of New Plymouth was laid out in 1841 by Frederic Alonzo Carrington, Chief Surveyor of the Plymouth Company of New Zealand, extensive areas were reserved for a town belt and for parks and terraces in accordance with the Wakefield system of settlement.

The first settlers arrived in the ship *William Bryan* in January, 1841. Other ships with immigrants quickly followed, so that in three years much of the land around New Plymouth was occupied. But in 1844 troubles arose with the Natives. The New Zealand Company, from whom the Plymouth Company acquired its lands, had bought 60,000 acres of land north of the Sugar Loaves. The Native vendors were remnants of the Ngatiawa tribe then on the land. After the advent of the Europeans other members of the tribe who had fled south to Kapiti and elsewhere returned, and they, not having received any of the money or goods given for the land, disputed the sale. The Waitakato tribe also interposed, setting up a claim to the land by conquest. Acts of violence were committed against some of the settlers occupying lands at Waiongona and Mangaoraka on the road to Waitara. The trouble becoming serious, Governor Hobson appointed Mr. Spain, of Sydney, an English barrister, to investigate the Natives' claims. His award confirmed the legality of the purchases. Governor Hobson died shortly after the award was made. The following paragraph appears in *The Times* of May 26, 1916: "Lady Rendel, wife of Sir A. M. Rendel, K.C.I.E., died last week at Charlwood, Surrey, aged 86. She was the only surviving child of Captain Hobson, R.N., founder and first Governor of the Colony of New Zealand." He was succeeded by Governor Fitzroy, who, alarmed at the discontent of the Natives with the award, came to New Plymouth. A big meeting was held on Puke Ariki (Mt. Elliot) where the Governor heard the complaints of the Natives. He met them

again later on, with the result that he publicly repudiated the award and declared all the lands of the settlement forfeited. He then bought and paid the Natives a sum for a small area of about 3500 acres, comprising the site of the town of New Plymouth and the Fitzroy block.

Writing to Mr. Wickstead, the Plymouth Company's agent, Governor Fitzroy directed him "for the sake of the tranquility of the colony" to remove the settlers from Mangaoraka to the town of New Plymouth and its vicinity. He added: "To enable you to effect such changes more readily the whole of the town belt, including spaces intended for parks, will be placed at your disposal."

These lands were accordingly awarded to settlers from Mangaoraka and Waiongona, who had been dispossessed of lands in those localities—lands which they had bought from the Plymouth Company before they left England.

Thus it happened that New Plymouth was deprived of its endowments for parks and town belt.

NATIVE TROUBLES

Nothing was done to remedy this until 1875, chiefly because that in the interval the progress of the settlement was greatly retarded by Native troubles.

In 1854 quarrels occurred between members of the Puketapu tribe. One section, headed by Rawiri, wished to sell some land near Bell Block to the Government. Another party, under Katatore, opposed. One morning while a party under Rawiri were cutting the boundaries of a piece of land which they intended to sell, they were met by an armed party under Katatore, who fired, killing four and wounding eight, including Rawiri and Paora, both of whom died. The Government, though appealed to, feared to intervene. The trouble extended, the Waitara Natives, under Ihia, being drawn in. Desultory fighting continued for two years, sometimes on settlers' farms. The total casualties are said to have been 60 killed and 100 wounded.

But a far more serious event was the war between the Maoris and Europeans, which broke out in 1860 and continued off and on about nine years, the last incident being the White Cliffs massacre in 1869.

TARANAKI BEGINS TO PROGRESS

Vogel's public works policy, introduced in 1870, proved the commencement of a new era for Taranaki. Confiscated lands which the Government had not dared to sell or occupy owing to the opposition of the Maoris were acquired under the system of "takoha," really by payment of hush money. These lands were disposed of chiefly under the deferred payment system to settlers, mostly English, German, Danes and Italians.

By the year 1875 Taranaki was at last moving ahead. The provincial form of government then existed and extensive legislative and administrative functions were vested in a Superintendent and Provincial Council.

The Pukekura Park owes its existence to the Provincial Government of 1875. Mr. F. A. Carrington was then Superintendent. The Council consisted of the Provincial Secretary, Thomas Kelly (a member of the House of Representatives and afterwards a member of the Legislative Council), Arthur

Standish (Provincial Treasurer), W. M. Crompton (Speaker) and the following members:—Peter Elliot, David Callaghan, Captain Francis J. Mace, J. B. Connett, James Rattenbury, Felix McGuire, Francis Sherwood, Mr. Peacock, Major Charles Brown, John Andrews and Robert Clinton Hughes. Mr. Hughes was the youngest member of the council. He had been elected in opposition to Mr. James Paul in 1874 at a by-election rendered necessary by the resignation of Mr. W. H. Burton, who had been appointed Immigration Agent for Taranaki.

The Provincial Council met on January 12, 1875. The Herald reports:—"The Speaker announced the election of Messrs. Hughes, Sherwood, and Thomas Kelly." This was not Mr. Kelly's first appearance in the Council. His first election was in 1863. He resigned in 1869.

On the 16th Mr. Kelly presented a lengthy financial statement, in the course of which he said: "I consider that we have now arrived at the turning point of our career. We are at peace with the Natives indicated by their large land sales. Our revenue from land will steadily increase if judiciously administered. This makes the construction of a harbour an absolute certainty."

RECREATION GROUNDS

Mr. Hughes, who had long been impressed with the disadvantage to the town through the complete absence of a park or public gardens or recreation ground, resolved to take the opportunity of his being in the Council to try to obtain for New Plymouth such a boon as Auckland possessed in its domain. He accordingly tabled a question to the Government on the subject.

Mr. Kelly has kindly supplied the writer with the following extract from the minutes of the Council:—

"January 18, 1875. The Provincial Council met. Mr. W. M. Crompton, Speaker, in the chair; Mr. F. A. Carrington, Superintendent; Mr. Thomas Kelly, Provincial Secretary.

"Mr. R. C. Hughes asked the Provincial Secretary whether the Government have at their disposal any lands near New Plymouth which can be utilised as grounds for public recreation, and, if so, whether they are prepared to make any provision for acquiring any outlying grounds for such purpose.

"The Provincial Secretary replied:—The only lands at the disposal of the Government are those situate at the back of the cemetery known as the Botanic Gardens. All other lands round the town have been sold or granted for various purposes. The Government might make some arrangement with the Education Board to procure some of their reserves and alter the trust by ordinance. If the Council would vote the money the Government would have no objection to purchase the lease of the racecourse and hand it over to the Town Board for purposes of recreation. But a legal difficulty exists."

The Provincial Executive took the matter up heartily and about five months afterwards they selected the site of the present park, comprising a large number of town sections and unmade streets. The land was hilly and cut up by gullies and streams and was covered with fern, furze and tutu.

The Executive prepared a Bill to vest these sections and streets in the Town Board. It was due to the late Major Brown that this was possible, as he, when Superintendent, had obtained from the New Zealand Government the unsold sections in New Plymouth as an endowment for education in Taranaki.

PARK BILL BEFORE THE COUNCIL.

On June 24, 1875, the Herald thus reports the proceedings of the Provincial Council:—

"Mr. Kelly moved the second reading of the Botanical Garden and Public Recreation Grounds Bill, 1875. The object of the Bill was to vest in the Town Board certain land (about 30 acres) situated between Carrington Road and the racecourse as a Botanical Garden and Public Recreation Grounds. It was at present held in trust for educational purposes, but the Government intended to give an equivalent to the Education Board. The land was of an inferior quality, but would be suitably adapted for the purpose for which it was intended. The Government had fully considered the question as to what body should have control of the grounds and had arrived at the decision that the Town Board was the best party to have the management of it if they would undertake it. He had arranged with the chairman of the Town Board to meet the deputation from that body on Saturday, and some understanding would then be arrived at. The Government considered it would be best for an elective rather than a nominated body to have control of it. He intended recommending that a sum of money be devoted to getting the land in order. An influential petition had been presented from residents in the town praying that a piece of land should be set apart for recreative purposes, the petitioners undertaking to keep it in order. As the ground was some distance above the level of the town it was thought a sufficient fall of water could be obtained for extinguishing fires, watering the streets, etc. After some discussion the Bill was read a second time and ordered to be considered in committee next sitting day."

The Herald of June 29 reports:—

"The Council went into committee on the Botanical Garden and Public Recreation Grounds Bill, 1875. Mr. Kelly explained that the Bill had been delayed in order to allow the Town Board to give an opinion on the question. A letter had been received from the secretary conveying certain resolutions which had been passed by the board on the previous evening to the effect that the board had decided to accept the old gaol and also that they would undertake the management of the Recreation Grounds if all the town reserves inland of the Devon Line were also handed over to them. The Government could not agree to hand over all the town reserves, but they would be prepared to deal liberally with the Town Board for the purpose of recreation. He was surprised that they had refused to take over this valuable reserve. The Government had offered to hand over the land free of charge, build a cottage on it and also to place a sum of money on the estimates for the purpose of getting it in order. If the Town Board would not undertake it the Government must get some other body to do so. A memorial influentially signed had been received asking that a reserve might be set aside for such a purpose, the memorialists undertaking to attend to it without any additional expense to the province, whereas

the Town Board would not undertake it on the very liberal terms offered by the Government. Mr. Brown said he failed to see the generosity of the Government in this matter. The Town Board could not see its way to take this reserve over as it considered the ratepayers would not consent to be rated for the purpose of keeping it in order. The Government had simply promised to place £200 on the estimates for clearing and fencing the land, but no mention was made of an annual vote. A long discussion ensued, when it was decided that as the Town Board could not see its way to take the reserve the consideration of the Bill be postponed to enable the Government to alter it in order to convey the reserve to a Board of Trustees."

During the long discussion referred to, Mr. Kelly said he would abandon the Bill, so disappointed was he at the action of the Town Board. Mr. Hughes urged him not to do so, and undertook to find a number of citizens who would act as trustees for the park. Mr. Kelly then said that if Mr. Hughes would next morning submit the names of suitable persons as trustees he would recast the Bill.

As the Council was about to be prorogued, immediate action was necessary. Next morning, on his way down to the Council Chamber, Mr. Hughes called on several townspeople and asked them to act as trustees. They readily consented. They were Messrs. Isaac Broad, John Gilmour, Harris Ford, James Thomas Davis, Thomas King and Augustus Weyerang. All these, with Mr. Hughes himself, were accepted, save one. For Mr. Weyerang, Mr. Robert J. Collins was substituted. Of these trustees only two now remain, Mr. Ford and Mr. Hughes.

PARK BILL PASSED

A new Bill was introduced vesting the lands in these trustees. It was put through all its stages and passed on the same day, June 30, 1875. The Herald of July 3 thus referred to the subject:—"We are glad to learn that the Government did not abandon the Bill for giving to the public recreation grounds near the town, although the Town Board refused the valuable gift of the Government. The land is now to be vested in trustees for the purposes stated, and we have no doubt that in a few months some show will be made in providing for the wants of the public in this respect."

The Council was prorogued on June 30.

This ordinance was its last legislative enactment, for, before the Council could re-assemble, the Colonial Parliament abolished the provincial form of government. One may be pardoned for adding that the abolition of provinces was not an unmixed blessing for Taranaki; one result was that its land revenue became colonial revenue. The South Island provinces had been for many years revelling in peace and prosperity and the full enjoyment of their land revenue while Taranaki was the battlefield of New Zealand—a place to be avoided. That last session will be memorable if only for one thing—the passing of the New Plymouth Harbour Board Ordinance, a carefully prepared measure of 70 clauses (chiefly the work of Mr. Kelly), which provided for the constitution of a Harbour Board, and gave power to raise a loan of £350,000—one fourth of the land revenue having been set aside for an endowment as security for the loan.

The writer is indebted to Mr. Kelly for information as to the fate of the Recreation Grounds Ordinance. "The ordinance," he says, "was duly forwarded by the Superintendent to the Colonial Secretary for the Governor's assent, but Ministers could not advise the Gov-

ernor to assent to it, the Council having assumed legislative power which it did not possess under the Constitution Act by appropriating Crown revenue to local purposes. This was considered ultra vires, and the Governor was advised to disallow the ordinance. No remedy could be provided for the disallowance. However, during the recess of Parliament, the members for Taranaki, namely, Major H. A. Atkinson, Mr. F. A. Carrington and Mr. T. Kelly, who all recognised the importance of the measure, conferred together and requested the Colonial Government to introduce a Bill in the following session similar in all respects to the Provincial Ordinance, omitting only the part objected to. The Government consented, and accordingly a Bill was introduced by the Colonial Secretary and passed through all its stages and sent to the Upper House, where it passed without opposition and became law on September 12, 1876, as the New Plymouth Botanic Garden and Public Recreation Grounds Act, 1876." This Act provides for a board of seven members nominated by the Governor. He also fills all vacancies, the board submitting the name of a suitable person.

Unaware of the invalidity of the Ordinance, the members of the board entered upon the exercise of their functions. On August 3, 1875, they, accompanied by Mr. Standish (Deputy Superintendent), paid a visit to the grounds and found them admirably suitable.

No time was lost after the first meeting of the board in getting to work, for early on the following morning Mr. Davies and Mr. Hughes pegged out the first pathway, a low level one, leading from the Carrington Road to the Brooklands Road, alongside the Pukekura Stream.

The formal opening of the grounds took place on May 29, 1876.

The public were present in large numbers. Mr. King, the chairman, made a short speech, and concluded by inviting Miss Jane Carrington to plant the first trees. It was a fitting compliment to Miss Carrington, because her father, Mr. Frederic Alonzo Carrington, was the member for the district in the House of Representatives, as well as the Superintendent of the province, but, more than that, it was he who had surveyed the town of New Plymouth in 1841. Mr. Carrington himself was present and spoke. He said that 35 years before that day he had planned out the town, making ample provisions for public grounds of various descriptions. As those grounds for the most part had been taken away by the action of the Government, he had decided during the next session of Parliament to try to get other lands in lieu thereof. A neat little polished spade was presented to Miss Carrington by Mr. J. T. Davis, and she, assisted by Mr. Harris Ford, then planted an oak as representing Great Britain, a puriri for New Zealand, a Norfolk Island pine for the South Pacific Islands, and pinus insignis for America. Townsend's Band played, and hearty cheers were given. The public were then invited to plant trees in commemoration of the event. A large number of persons availed themselves of this mode of associating themselves with the grounds—Mr. Mitchinson having brought on to the ground a large variety of young trees for this purpose. The first tree, a pinus insignis, is still to be seen on the northern brow of Cannon Hill.

It was in September of that year that the Colonial Parliament passed the Taranaki Botanic Garden Act, 1876, which took the place of the Provincial Ordinance, and in November following a proclamation by the Governor notified the appointment of the following persons as trustees:—Isaac Broad, John Gilmour, Thomas Colson, Robert Joseph Collins, Harris Ford, Robert Clinton Hughes and Thomas King.

Mr. Thomas Colson was a trustee for several years. He took a deep interest in the development of the grounds, and, living close by, he devoted much time to the supervision of the custodian and other workmen.

ADDITIONAL LANDS ACQUIRED.

The original area of the park was not so large as it is now. There were several sections of land privately owned within the boundaries which seriously affected the laying out of the grounds and of the footpaths. The board had to buy these, and they did so from time to time as opportunity offered and money could be provided. One property acquired was an acre and a quarter extending from Davy to Fillis Streets. It was bought from Mrs. Harriet Fookes for £125, a very moderate sum, and on easy terms of payment. This, with land acquired afterwards, and situated westward of Mrs. Eyre Kenny's residence, now affords a charming entrance from Gilbert Street to the park, having been well laid out and planted.

The last addition to the park was an area of 3½ acres adjoining Brooklands, and containing some beautiful native bush. This was received from the Jockey Club in exchange for part of section in Wakefield Street required to give access to the racecourse. The board recognises that the club dealt generously with them.

One of the earliest and greatest works was the formation of the upper lake, which was undertaken in 1878. A stranger who, to-day, admires the lake, does not stop to ask by what means that immense mass of water is retained at a considerable height above the adjoining lily-pond. The great dam which holds it securely was not completed in a day. For many years the work of strengthening it went on—the board realising what a disaster it would be if in some great flood the dam were swept away and the waters let loose upon the town.

Plans and specifications prepared by Mr. Kelly were adopted. A deep and wide excavation was made across the gully until the solid clay below the creek bed and on each side was reached, and galleries were cut in solid ground.

The core of the embankment was formed by enclosing with boards a space about 6ft. wide across the gully and filling the space with clean clay. Water was thrown on it and the clay was puddled as in making bricks. On each side of the core clay was deposited and rammed—the building of the core and the adjacent embankments proceeding simultaneously until the full height was reached. Provision was made for a bye-wash and an undersluice. In the course of the work much controversy arose as to the design of these. The board therefore in August, 1878, obtained the advice of Mr. G. M. Barr, a well-known Dunedin engineer. Mr. Reginald Bayley, who voluntarily worked on the job in his spare time, also furnished a long and well-considered report.

SWIMMING CLUB

Before the end of the year the dam was sufficiently completed to permit the water to be let in, and slowly a lake was formed. The appearance of such a fine sheet of water suggested swimming. A public meeting was held in January, 1879, to form a swimming club. Messrs.

C. W. Govett and Ralph H. Thompson were appointed to interview the board. The board cordially agreed to co-operate, a club was formed, and public subscriptions enabled the committee to build the bathing house. Swimming sports were instituted, and for many years were held annually, affording much pleasure to the public as well as to the competitors.

SPORTS GROUND

The first effort to form a sports ground was made by the board, who partly filled in the swamp at a cost of about £70. After some years a movement to complete the work was initiated at a meeting held on October, 1889, when a committee was appointed to ascertain what financial support could be had from the public.

1889 COMMITTEE

The committee reported that promises of help justified them in advising that an athletic sports ground be formed and that for this purpose £100 be raised by debentures. The report was adopted and the following gentlemen were elected to carry out the work: W. H. Skinner, A. Goldwater, F. Watson, R. B. Roy, J. M. Lightfoot, E. Humphries, H. Dempsey, W. Bennett, and W. Parker, the last being appointed secretary. Messrs. George W. Browne, R. H. Kivell, Harry Ainsworth, Fred Watson, W. Webster, and W. Perry were afterwards added.

The Park Board granted them a 7 years' lease of the locality required for sports.

The committee, having obtained plans and specifications from Mr. T. K. Skinner, called for tenders. That of George Bros. for £95 was accepted, and they carried out the work with certain additions so satisfactorily that a bonus of £5 was voted to them.

Mr. Parker having left for Napier, Mr. W. H. Skinner was, in August, 1892, appointed secretary and performed the duties of that office with great ability until February, 1897, when, the lease having expired, the committee handed over the sports ground in good order to the Park Board.

The work done comprised putting in underground drains, excavating the adjacent hillsides, and filling in the swamp and the forming of terraces and construction of seats on the south side, besides forming paths. The total cost was £140.

1900 COMMITTEE

In 1900 a meeting of delegates from various athletic clubs was held with a view to enlarging and improving the sports ground. Messrs. C. T. Mills, A. H. Holmes and W. H. Skinner, on behalf of the delegates, had several conferences with the Park Board. A plan of the proposed works, which were estimated to cost £2000, was prepared by Mr. T. K. Skinner and submitted to the board, who approved, and a lease was ultimately granted to nominees of the athletic clubs.

An energetic committee to carry out the work and raise funds was appointed. They comprised the following gentlemen: A. L. Humphries (chairman), J. McLeod, R. H. George, W. H. Perham, H. H. Ford, H. J. Hobbs, H. Southam, George Griffiths (treasurer), James Clarke (secretary), E. Whittle, H. Stocker and F. T. Bellringer. Of this committee the chairman, the secretary and the treasurer were a host in themselves, and their valuable services during many years call for special recognition. The committee entered upon their work with great enthusiasm, and, being

ably assisted from time to time by various committees of ladies, they in a few years raised and spent about £2266 and produced a beautiful and commodious sports ground.

In the early years of their lease the income from the ground enabled the committee to effect many improvements, but from various causes, the income in late years has fallen off to almost vanishing point, and the ground has got into a bad condition. With much reluctance, and while gratefully recognising the great work accomplished by the committee, the board has recently been compelled to re-enter and resume control.

ENTRANCE GATES

The iron gates and the railings set in concrete at the Lizardet Street entrance are the result of the efforts of the late Mr. Robert Hughes, who initiated and supervised the work and patiently collected, mostly in one shilling subscriptions, the amount required.

A labyrinth, modelled on the celebrated labyrinth at Hampton Court, was many years ago one of the attractions of the park. The late Mr. Archibald Hood was the promoter of this work, and did not spare himself either in time or money to achieve his object. The winding walks were bordered by hedges of African box thorn. The cost of trimming and maintenance, however, proved after a few years to be beyond the means of the board. The labyrinth became overgrown and was finally removed.

One of the earliest decorations was a pretty fountain situated above the lily pond. It threw jets of water, which fell back into a basin and thence into a round pond beneath, in which gold fish sported. This fountain was the gift of Mr. Thomas Furlong. The work was executed by Mr. E. M. Smith.

The first white swans which graced the lake were the gift of Mr. E. M. Smith. He brought them all the way from England after a visit to that country.

A short account of the custodians and secretaries may prove interesting.

The first custodian of the grounds was Mr. Charles Carnell, formerly of the 65th Regiment, who lived close by. He had a happy and placid Sancho Panza appearance, but his age and stoutness were rather against him. After a year or two he gave place to one Breidecker, a German lately out from the Rhine district. Breidecker was keen on planting a vineyard. Accordingly about an acre of ground near the racecourse was set aside. Part of this was carefully prepared, being deeply trenched, and choice vine cuttings, some from Australia, were planted. Owing, however, to some defect in the climate or soil, the vinery was not a success. Breidecker remained two or three years and then went to the Hokianga district, where he successfully cultivated grapes and made wine.

He was succeeded by Mr. Darby Cluffey, a young man fresh from County Cork. Darby, as he was generally called, knew little of botany or horticulture, but he was hardy and strong and not afraid of work. He was skilled in making sod banks, and most of his work of this kind stanes well to this day. He was a good sample of an Irish peasant. His native wit and droll sayings amused visitors, and also brightened many an hour which the writer has spent working alongside of him. To him fell most of the heavy and rough work involved in turning a wilderness into a garden.

He served the board for many years, but when the development of the grounds seemed to demand a better knowledge of trees and of horticulture and landscape gardening, Darby (to the regret of the writer) was superseded.

His successor was Mr. Charles Edgecombe, a gardener, and one who had a good knowledge of native trees. He served the board for some years. He was followed by Mr. Robert Mace, a gardener, who also had a good knowledge of native trees. He resigned owing to deafness. The board was then fortunate enough to secure the services of Mr. W. W. Smith, the present curator. He had had valuable experience as curator of the Ashburton Domain and the Palmerston North Gardens, and had been a member of the Royal Commission for Scenery Preservation in New Zealand. By giving more attention to horticulture, Mr. Smith has done much to beautify the grounds.

The marked improvements leading from the Gilbert Street entrance are wholly his work, so also are those at the outlet of the lake near the tea rooms. His extensive knowledge of botany and animal life enables him to be instructive and interesting to visitors. His services are freely given to students and to town beautifying associations.

SECRETARIES.

The office of secretary of the board has always been honorary. The first secretary was Mr. Robert J. Collins. His business capacity and powers of organisation, of which he had given proof in comparatively small matters, were of great service in the initial work of the board. He resigned in January, 1877, to take a Government position in Wellington, where he has risen to the high office of Auditor-General. On his departure the board expressed its appreciation of his services and presented him with a gold ring, which he wears to this day.

The next secretary was Mr. Reginald Bayley, who held office for many years and worked with great enthusiasm and energy. In those days of limited revenue he was often to be found working in the grounds like a navvy, especially during the construction of the great dam of the large lake.

Desiring to lay out the grounds on some definite plan, the board, soon after its constitution, invited competitive designs and offered an honorarium of £5. The plan selected was one submitted by Mr. Bayley. This occurred before he became secretary.

He was succeeded by Mr. Harris Ford, one of the first trustees. Mr. Ford held the office from October, 1898, until December, 1903. He has also held office as chairman and has always been ready to assist the board, especially in the working-bees of the early days. He is still a member and is rarely absent from the board meetings.

He gave place as secretary to Mr. F. P. Corkill, who took much interest in his duties and has worked well, especially in connection with fireworks displays. He has been chairman several times. His business experience and commercial connections have enabled him to serve the board with advantage.

Mr. Edward H. Tribe followed Mr. Corkill. So energetically did Mr. Tribe discharge his duties that more than once members of the board suggested that he should accept an honorarium. He, however, refused, saying that he could not do so while the board was in debt, thus postponing indefinitely his reward.

Increasing professional duties caused Mr. Tribe's resignation. Mr. C. H. Drew succeeded him. He filled the office with much benefit to the com-

munity and credit to himself. Upon the death of the late C. W. Govett the board, in recognition of Mr. Drew's services and in order to strengthen the board by the addition of a young man, recommended him for the vacant seat, a recommendation which the Government adopted.

Mr. Drew continued to act as secretary also. He, however, resigned in May, 1916, having decided to serve the Empire in the Great War by joining the British Aircraft Service. With this object he disposed of his valuable business, broke up his home and now, with Mrs. Drew, is on his way to England.

The board has been fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. Tribe once more as secretary.

POET'S BRIDGE (J. T. DAVIS).

Among those who have done much for the park must be mentioned Mr. J. T. Davis. He was always very keen on the erection of an ornamental bridge at the upper end of the lake, a work contemplated in Mr. Bayley's design. Being a bit of a sport, Mr. Davis often took a ticket in a race sweep. He once said that if ever he made a good win he would devote the money to building the bridge. Some time afterwards he took a ticket in the Auckland Cup in 1886 and drew a horse called The Poet. His horse won, and £150 was received by Mr. Davis, who offered to devote the amount towards the cost of the bridge. The board called for competitive designs for a bridge. That of Mr. Barclay, engineer, was accepted and the present graceful structure known as the "Poet's Bridge" is the result.

Shortly afterwards Mr. Davis was elected chairman of the board. He devoted much time to his duties, and was ever ready to work for the development and beautifying of the grounds.

T. K. SKINNER

Another person who deserves special mention is Mr. T. K. Skinner, surveyor, who was appointed to the board on the resignation of Thomas Colson. With Mr. Skinner's professional qualifications were united a great admiration for the grounds and a capacity to foresee and provide for their development on permanent lines. He cheerfully gave his time and that of his cadet to take levels and do such other survey and engineering works as were necessary. He laid out nearly all the paths. A feature which he insisted on was to have one common level for the main paths, thus the level or altitude of the path at the Carrington Road entrance is the same as that of the paths around the upper lake, even up as far as Brooklands. He also laid out and supervised the work of converting the swamp near the Liardet Street entrance into a Sports Ground.

He suggested and supervised the cutting away of the southern extremity of what is now called Cannon Hill, which extended almost to the edge of the lake, to provide a site for the band rotunda. The material was found very useful in strengthening the dam of the large lake, the condition of which had given reason for much anxiety during many a winter flood. The planting of the puriri trees near the rotunda was his idea. He also designed and supervised the extension of the large lake and the forming of the little islands at the upper end, and he converted the swamp beyond into a long area of firm ground which was planted with a great variety of native trees. A love of flowers, a knowledge of native trees, unbounded enthusiasm, combined with his engineering ability, enabled him to render services to the public which deserve grateful acknowledgment. Mr. Skinner resigned in 1902.

LOCAL REMINISCENCES.

It may be well here to mention some matters of interest relating to the locality.

Before the Maori War of 1860 the gully was the site of the rifle range. The target stood near the bridge on the east side. Above the site is still to be seen part of the embankment raised to protect Brooklands from stray bullets. The 600 yards range was near where Mr. Perry's residence

During the war little New Plymouth was rendered less by being contracted within lines of trenches and palisades, the eastern extent of which was Liardet Street and the western Queen Street. The town was open to attack through the Pukekura valley. For the protection of the town a block-house, known as the Carrington Road Block-house, was built where the curator's cottage stands, and double sentries were posted at night in the gully. One wet night the sentries were the late Mr. Joe Ward and a Mr. Wolfe. The latter had occasion to leave his post for a few minutes. In returning he incautiously came by a track different from that which he took when he left. The sound of steps in this direction alarmed Ward, who challenged the on-comer. Wolfe, hearing the challenge and supposing it referred to a Maori, ran forward to his post. Ward fired in the darkness, shooting Wolfe, but not fatally.

FORT HERBERT.

In 1860, the military authorities, desiring to have some kind of control over the friendly Natives, interned them in a pa erected on the plateau eastward of the sports ground. A picket of the militia or volunteers was usually stationed in the pa at night. A fire broke out one night, and the whares were burnt. The sight of the flames caused some alarm. The captain of the guard was a merchant, one Wm. McKechney. He was subjected to much banter because his love of comfort caused him to take off his boots when he lay down for a sleep between rounds and his boots got burnt.

Another incident will show how closely the town was invested by the Maoris. One afternoon in 1864 Mr. Henry Gilbert ventured out to his little farm situated between the upper part of the park and Mill Road. While there a party of Maori rebels crept out of the Pukekura valley, near Brooklands Road, and from a position near where Mr. Sandford's residence now stands opened fire on Gilbert. The shots attracted the attention of soldiers at Marsland Hill barracks. They saw Gilbert run to where he had left his gun, pick it up, turn round and blaze away at the Maoris. The soldiers admired the coolness of the old Devonshire man.

BROOKLANDS AMBUSCADE.

Brooklands, which adjoins the park, was on Sunday morning, the 3rd of March, 1861, the scene of a little brush with the rebel Maoris. A number of volunteers, who had just come off night picket, arranged to visit some orchards to get peaches. Among them were Sergeant Hollis, W. S. and J. G. Ginger, Wilson Hursthouse, Charles Messenger, Edward Messenger, Henry Newland and William Smart, also H. W. Brewer of the Customs. After visiting Walker's and Hursthouse's farms they came to Brooklands and seeing peaches in the orchard they started gathering them. Some of the party in one part of the orchard hearing a shot fired called out to know the cause. The reply was a volley from about 30 Maoris in ambuscade close by. Smart was shot in the back. Although surprised, the volunteers returned the fire and some took cover. The Maoris fired a

second volley, and Edward Messenger, who had faced about and was about to fire, was shot dead. The Maoris attempted to get Messenger's body, but were driven off, the foremost man being shot dead and another was seen to fall. After more firing the Maoris disappeared. Shortly afterwards some men of the 65th Regiment, with Lieut. Baillie from the Carrington Road block-house, came up. Messenger's body was brought into town. He was a fine young fellow, a good shot, and only seventeen. Smart's wound was not fatal, but he carried the bullet in his body to the day of his death, about 40 years afterwards.

MURDER OF MALONEY.

More than one tragic event has occurred in the grounds since the board took charge. In a small cottage within the grounds lived a man named Maloney, once of the 65th Regiment, a quiet, inoffensive old man. Considerable excitement was aroused one morning (April 11, 1890), when his dead body, bearing marks of violence, was found on the path under the pines leading up to John Street.

Suspicion fell upon a young Maori named Mahi Kai. He was arrested. One of the features of the case was the fact that he, although known to have been hard up, had suddenly become possessed of a pair of new boots. It was suspected that these had been bought with money stolen from Maloney's cottage. The discovery and identification of the old boots worn by the Maori was deemed important. Accordingly a careful search in the grounds was made, even the large lake was emptied, and still they could not be found. Finally, Sergeant Duffin discovered in a hedge near the racecourse a parcel containing a pair of old boots, which were identified as the Maori's. In spite of a very able defence by his counsel, Mr. Samuel, he was convicted and sentenced to death.

In consideration of his youth the sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life, but after serving a few years he was released. The writer saw him in 1913 in Onehunga looking sleek and cheerful and showing no sign that he ever was haunted by Maloney's ghost.

The importance of the trial led to Mr. Fell, of Nelson, being retained for the Crown. Among the witnesses was Darby, the custodian. Prior to the trial he attended before Mr. Fell, who wished to check his evidence. "I'm glad to see you," said Mr. Fell. "You're the last man who saw Maloney alive." "You're wrong," said Darby. "Who, then, was the last person?" "The man that killed him," said Darby.

On one occasion a visitor having heard that there was a fine display of Native convolvulus in the grounds asked Darby where it was to be seen. Darby, who made no pretence of botanical learning and yet had no desire to proclaim his deficiency, led the visitor to a lovely clump of furze in full bloom.

While gratefully acknowledging that the public have generally responded well to all appeals for help, the fact remains that the funds of the board have always been inadequate. At one period much assistance was obtained from working bees. But sometimes the efforts of an amateur axeman in felling a tree would be ill directed. One such caused a tree on Cannon Hill to fall across the stays of the flagstaff, bringing down the topmast and its gear. On another day a tree on the point of the hill south of the tea rooms was felled so unskillfully that it crashed

down upon the roof of the bathing house. On that day the working bee comprised a band of sturdy settlers and some Maoris, from the Hua district, and Mr. Paul had generously sent up a barrel of beer.

Numerous fetes have been held in and for the benefit of the grounds. The most successful was "Ye Olde Englishe Fayre," which lasted a week and realised about £300 gross. A floral fete was for several successive years held on November 9. That for 1898 realised £150, clear of expenses. In the following year £71 was obtained.

Many years ago the board instituted the system of annual subscriptions of 10s 6d. This has been sustained with a few breaks until now. Some subscribers give a guinea or more. These subscriptions average about £50 a year. Some of our citizens have been specially generous. One, Mr. Oliver Samuel, has, quite unsolicited, often sent a handsome cheque for £25 and sometimes £50.

But the greatest relief was obtained through the institution of a Park Saturday collection, the suggestion of Miss Ethel Crompton Smith, of Cameron St. The first collection was a great success and enabled the board to pay off a heavy bank overdraft (guaranteed by some of the members) and to employ an extra man. Last year (1915) the collection was omitted in view of the large demands on the generosity of the public for various war funds. This year (1916) the board, impelled by necessity, resumed the Park Saturday collection, and although the appeals for war funds are as numerous as ever, the public freely subscribed £166 18s 9d, including £52 16s from annual subscribers. In connection with these two sources of revenue, the valuable services of Mrs. Dockrill, aided by a large number of energetic lady workers, call for grateful acknowledgment.

C. W. GOVETT.

The board has benefited much from the efforts of the late Mr. Clement W. Govett, who not only gave handsome subscriptions himself, but more than once was instrumental in diverting a legacy into the coffers of the board. The legacy of Mrs. Broham (Mr. Govett's sister), amounting to £100, supplemented from the board's funds, enabled the board to excavate the swamp at the end of the big lake and prolong the lake as far as Brooklands, a distance of about eight chains. This work was done under the supervision of Mr. Percy Smith. Now that the ferns and native trees are grown up along the banks and on the islands this locality has become one of the prettiest in the park. It was at Mr. Govett's instance that the board caused to be erected a large marble tablet on which has been inscribed the names of those who, by legacies or generous gifts, have helped to improve the park. A feature of this memorial is that no name is placed on it while the donor is living. This record shows the following names: J. T. Davis, Martha King, Peter Madsen, Isabella Small, R. H. Govett, Helen Romaine Broham and C. W. Govett.

THANKS.

So many persons, not only in New Plymouth but in the country districts and from distant parts of the colony, have aided the board by generous gifts of money and plants and specimens of bird life that it is not possible to record the names of all. One lady, however, cannot be overlooked—the late Mrs. Humphries, widow of Dr. Humphries. She was prominent in organising many floral fetes and other entertainments. In this she was ably assisted by the Misses Humphries and other members of the family.

THE PRESS.

The board feels greatly indebted to the local press—the Taranaki Herald and the Daily News—for their help at all times. Both journals have shown a genuine pride in the park and have done much to encourage and promote its development.

BALANCE SHEET.

The financial position can be ascertained from perusal of the following balance sheet for year ended March 31, 1916:—

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ending March 31, 1916.

Receipts.

April 1, 1915.	£	s.	d.
Cash in hand	36	5	7
Borough subsidy	187	10	0
Box donations	2	13	11
Subscriptions	64	3	0
Sale of firewood	4	2	0
Rents	56	2	6
Boat licence	2	2	6
Sale of drakes	0	13	7
March 31, 1916.			
Bank balance	45	2	6
	£398	15	7

Expenditure.

April 1, 1915.	£	s.	d.
Bank Balance	27	14	8
Wages	310	6	7
Cartage	2	10	0
Timber	4	5	1
Insurance	1	13	6
Bird food	10	10	0
Tools	2	16	0
Bank cheque and interest	1	15	9
Gravel	2	4	0
Petty cash	9	1	5
Cash in hand (petty cash)	0	18	9
March 31, 1916.			
Cash on hand	25	0	0
	£398	15	7

The total revenue from all sources, excluding the balance brought forward from the preceding year, was £317 7s 6d.

The chief receipt is the annual borough subsidy of £150, increased for the year 1915-16 by £37 10s, which should have been paid the previous year.

The borough recoups itself to the extent of the Park Board's share of the net income from the Avenue Road reserve derived under the New Plymouth Recreation and Racecourse Reserves Amendment Act, 1910.

The net income from this reserve for 1915-16 was £89 7s 7d, of which the board's share was one-half, thus reducing the borough grant for 1915-16 to £105 6s 3d.

The board's expenditure for the year was £336 0s 11d, of which £310 6s 7d was for wages. The revenue being only £317 7s 6d, there was not only nothing for new work, but there was a deficit of £18 13s 5d.

It is interesting to compare this balance sheet with the first balance sheet for year ended December 31, 1875.

Receipts.

1875.	£	s.	d.
September 25—			
To cash from Provincial Government	125	0	0
To cash from Provincial Government, two-thirds purchase money (a grant towards purchase of a house)	33	0	0
	£158	0	0

Although much has been done and a great transformation effected, the members of the board are by no means content. So conscious are they of the amount of work unaccomplished that they are inclined to blush at the praises of a delighted visitor. They, however, will be less sensitive when they have asphalted the footpaths, installed the electric light, provided sanitary conveniences, repaired and renovated the sports ground, re-erected the flagstaff, constructed concrete steps to all the terraces, erected a substantial fence enclosing the whole park so as to exclude those who would get in on foot days without paying, built a neat lodge for the curator and a pavilion, including dressing rooms, for the sports ground, extended and completed the little lake near the racecourse, raised the height of the lower waterfall by a small dam, formed a path on the western side of the stream leading from the waterfall to the lake above, raised the height of the waterfall near Brooklands Road and made paths to give access to it, restored the waterfall in the fernery at the upper lake and planted this locality with dwarf ferns. There are, it may be added, in some of the gullies (practically unknown) many beauty spots abounding in ferns and lovely native trees. These delis should be cleared of undergrowth, dead limbs, and useless trees, and made accessible by footpaths. A new and commodious tea kiosk also would only be in keeping with the park. But few, if any, of these improvements can be undertaken until the board's funds are substantially increased.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

The members of the present board are Messrs. Harris, Ford, R. Clinton Hughes, R. Cock, F. P. Corkill, W. L. Newman, S. Percy Smith, and C. H. Drew. The Borough Council's representatives on the board are his Worship the Mayor and Messrs. W. A. Collis and W. F. Short.

Of these members four have already been mentioned. Mr. Cock was appointed about 1885. He has taken much interest in the park and has worked well. He has been many times chairman of the board.

It was during his last term as chairman, and at his suggestion, that the curator carried out the long-contemplated improvement on the site of the old swamp at the outlet of the lake, an improvement now the gem of the park. Mr. Newman was appointed a member about 1901, in succession to Mr. J. B. Roy. He has filled the office of chairman several times. Quiet earnestness characterises his work. Having travelled widely, his knowledge of other parts of the world and of nautical affairs have enabled him to serve the board with great advantage. Mr. S. Percy Smith is the present chairman. When last re-elected to the chair he said that his connection with the board had been a very pleasant one—in no other board where he had held office had there been more harmony and pleasant co-operation between its members than in this. Mr. Smith was appointed in 1902 on the resignation of Mr. Skinner. He at once took more than ordinary interest in the park, and at the request of his fellow-members has frequently taken sole control of important works. His long official career terminating in the office of Surveyor-General, and his wide experience in connection with scenery preservation and his knowledge of native trees, enable him to be of good service. As to the council's representatives on the board, the present Mayor, owing to numerous other public engagements, is rarely able to be present at the meetings. Mr. Short, not long on the board, takes interest in the work. Mr. Collis has for many years been a borough representative. The continuity of his connection with the board is of great advantage. His asso-

ciation with the Scenery Preservation Society, the Mt. Egmont National Park and similar bodies are excellent qualifications. His assistance is much appreciated.

"PUKEKURA."

Mr. Percy Smith has been good enough to supply the following note:—"A word may be said here as to the name 'Pukekura,' and why it was adopted instead of the official name, 'Botanic Garden and Recreation Ground.' In the first place, 'Pukekura' is a name itself euphonious, is easy of pronunciation and, what is more important, it is the original Maori name of the stream that fills the lakes, and was in use centuries before the intruding pakeha, with characteristic self-sufficiency, applied one of his commonplace names to the ground. It became necessary to distinguish the sports ground from the rest of the park for financial and other reasons. Hence the change to the old Maori name of the part of the grounds outside the sports ground. Moreover, the name 'Recreation Ground' had degenerated into the vulgarism 'Rec,' a name often leading to misapprehension and by no means worthy of the dignity and beauty of the park."

RETROSPECT.

In conclusion one must apologise for the length of this narrative, which has far exceeded the original limits. But one may perhaps be pardoned in view of the fact that the park has afforded so much pleasure to the people of this town and will for ages to come be a source of delight and health to future generations.

What memories the sports ground recalls of strenuous contests in the football field! What a stirring sight on a fine day were the terraces filled with thousands of animated spectators, the bright costumes of the ladies showing well against the green background. With what pride we have watched the Taranaki boys meet the champion teams of New Zealand, England, and Australia! We might well be proud of them, for in those days Taranaki could produce the finest team in New Zealand. Did they not beat England on one occasion and fight a draw on another? Who can forget the play of such men as Jim Lambie, Dan Hughes, and Barnie O'Dowda in the forwards, Hughie Mills as wing-forward, and Alf Bayly, Allen Good, Hughie Good, "Snip" Allen, Arthur Humphries, Jim Hunter, and "Simon" Mynott in the backs?

Again, how sweet the memory of the music one has heard while seated on the sunny terraces listening, say, to the Royal Artillery Band or to the massed bands at a band contest. But, exceeding even this, was the sweet enjoyment of the evening concert on such an occasion, the calm warm night, not a cloud to obscure the star-lit sky, every seat on the terraces filled with an appreciative audience and no distracting noise in the vast dimly-lighted amphitheatre.

Attractive, too, have been the sports upon the lake. How cheerful to see the townsfolk hurrying up to the park on a fine day to sit beneath the trees and watch the fun and listen to the music. One can remember well some of the young men of those days, now grave and reverend signors, who took part. Arthur Morton was secretary of the swimming club for several years and took part in the races, for which he trained assiduously. What an inspiring sight to see Newton King competing with C. W. Govett in a tub race until both craft got full of water and foundered; to see Will Holford crossing the lake on a wire rope a la Blondin over the Falls of Niagara; and R. C. Hughes poising himself on the spring-board for the long dive; and Charlie Cornwall (now a major in the Imperial Light Horse in South Africa)

tearing through the water in the half-mile and wrestling the champion cup from R. C. Hughes; and Willie Gibson swimming with but one arm and yet winning his race. Souvenirs of those events are still prized. This day, while these lines are being penned, Mr. Richard Inch showed the writer with much pride a silver-mounted meerschau pipe which he was still using and which he had won in 1889 in a 75yds. swimming race against Bob Williams. Doubtless many a Taranaki boy in distant lands looks back with pleasure to the happy hours spent in these grounds, and many a lad now fighting for the Empire thinks kindly of the spot and cherishes the hope of seeing it again.

TH, AUGUST 2, 1916

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at Mr. Tribe's office on Tuesday evening. There were present: Messrs. S. Percy Smith (in the chair), R. Cock, W. L. Newman, W. A. Collis, R. C. Hughes, H. Ford and E. H. Tribe (hon. secretary).

Mr. R. Old (acting-custodian) reported that during the month the rose bed near the tea rooms had been dug up and the trees cut back. The ground near by had also been dug and cleaned. Several wattle trees near the tennis courts had been removed and native shrubs and ferns planted in their place. A very heavy growth of eucalyptus just over the bridge near the boat house, which was preventing the growth of some fine native trees, had been cut out and removed and additional natives planted. A good deal of over-growth had been removed during the period, together with mowing and the usual cleaning up of the park. Several drains to carry off the water from the footpaths had been put down. During the period 50 native trees and 66 ferns had been planted.

Mr. Tribe, who had acted as overseer for the month, recommended that the hard rotunda floor be cemented at a cost of about £76. The tea room buildings were in a bad state and were also in a damp position. The question of erecting a new building in a different position should be kept in mind and brought under public notice. The entrance to the park from Vogeltown required attention. Owing to the formation the pathway was gradually washing away. To make a proper entrance it would be necessary to remove a lot of earth to a depth of possibly 2ft. 6in., and then erect good iron gates. The probable cost would be about £10. Donations to the extent of £10 had already been promised for this work. Mr. Old had taken over two boats and he (Mr. Tribe) advised that they had been paid for. The big boat would be examined later.

Mr. F. P. Corkill wrote resigning his position as a member of the board.—The board passed a resolution regretting that Mr. Corkill had considered it necessary to send in his resignation and expressing their appreciation of his services to the board during the past thirty years.

The question of cementing the floor of the hard rotunda was discussed, but action was deferred until next meeting.

Mr. R. C. Hughes, who had just completed a full history of the park, handed over the manuscript and the board passed a resolution of thanks to Mr. Hughes for having compiled such an interesting historical document.

Mr. Tribe reported that some portions of the paths were in a bad state, and said this trouble could be remedied if a few loads of screenings could be obtained from the borough.

TH, AUGUST 29, 1916
NEW BOARD MEMBER

His Excellency the Governor has proved the appointment of Mr. Bellringer as a member of the of Trustees of Pukekura Park.

TH, SEPTEMBER 6, 1916
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening. Present: Messrs. S. Percy Smith (chairman), R. Cock, R. C. Hughes, Harris Ford, A. Newman, C. E. Bellringer and E. H. Tribe (secretary).

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that part of the work during the month consisted of cleaning and preparing ground for planting with native trees near the John Street entrance. They intended to proceed with the planting this week. Since the 13th the work had been chiefly that of mowing and cleaning. During the present fine weather they proposed to continue the raising and reforming of the broad clay walk at the new entrance. They had removed the small drainage pipes and replaced them with six and nine-inch pipes to allow of free drainage. Respecting the board's two boats he asked if they would undertake to have them repaired and painted as soon as possible. There had been numerous inquiries for them this week.

The Department of Internal Affairs wrote enclosing a copy of the Gazette containing a proclamation appointing Mr. C. E. Bellringer a member of the board.

Mr. A. Gray (Director of the Technical College) wrote accepting the board's terms in connection with the use of the Pukekura Park Sports Ground by the college as a playing field.

TDN, SEPTEMBER 26, 1916
DONATIONS

Among other gifts recently received by Mr. W. W. Smith, curator of the Public Gardens, for beautifying purposes are the following:—Garden seeds from the curator of the Public Gardens at Colombo (Ceylon); plants and seeds from Messrs Webster Bros; native seeds per Mr. S. Percy Smith; and a parcel of native trees from an anonymous donor. Mr. Smith is advised that a package of trees and seeds has been dispatched from Paraguay (South America) for the park, and he hopes to receive these shortly.

TDN, SEPTEMBER 26, 1916
BIRDS IN THE PARK

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator of Pukekura Park, reports that the Australian bronze-wing cuckoo made its first appearance this season on Sunday, although he understands that a lady observed one of these harbingers of summer in the gardens on Wednesday last. The chaffinch has also put in an appearance, and large flocks of "wax-eyes" are also in evidence.

TDN, SEPTEMBER 26, 1916
BRASS BAND CONCERT

Sunday afternoon next will be another epoch-making day in the history of New Plymouth, when, weather permitting, two brass bands will play in Pukekura Park. These are the Senior and Junior combinations controlled by the New Plymouth Citizens' Band Committee. The juniors will contribute several items to the programme, and as this is their first public performance, the event is being looked forward to with considerable interest. The two bands will combine (50 performers) in the concluding National Anthem. The usual collection will be taken up.

TDN, OCTOBER 2, 1916
BRASS BAND CONCERT REVIEW

THE JUNIORS' PERFORM.

AN ENJOYABLE RECITAL.

There was a very large attendance of the public at Pukekura Park yesterday afternoon, when the Citizens' Band, under the baton of Bandmaster F. W. G. McLeod, gave a recital, every item of which was hugely enjoyed by the crowd, the applause that greeted each piece being spontaneous and hearty. Additional interest was lent to the recital by the fact that it was the first appearance of the Junior Band, a branch of the Senior Band. They acquitted themselves admirably in the short programme they presented and when it is considered that the Juniors have not yet been three months in existence their playing yesterday testified not only to their own musical talent but to the able tuition of the conductor. Mr. McLeod must be warmly congratulated upon the strides which the band as a whole, had made under his guidance, and upon the work of his junior corps. There is a very promising future before the band, yesterday's performance may be taken as a criterion.

The programme was: Seniors: "L'Enfante Cordiale;" quickstep, "Formidable"; overture, "The Pied Piper"; selection, "The Mikado"; march, "Scipio" (Handel). The two latter were finely played. The juniors rendered two hymns, a slow march, and a dainty valse. Then the two bands, en masse, played Hall's "New Colonial March," and the National Anthem.

The collection in aid of the Band Equipment Fund realised £21 10s 1d.

TH, OCTOBER 4, 1916
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held in the secretary's office on Tuesday evening. Present:—Messrs. S. Percy Smith (chairman), R. C. Hughes, R. Cock, C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, Harris Ford, W. L. Newman, and H. Tribe (secretary).

Mr. F. W. G. McLeod, secretary to the Soldiers' Comforts Week Committee, wrote asking for the use of Pukekura Park on Labour Day (October 23), and on the Thursday; also the use

of the boats which, if use was granted, would be in charge of Captain Waller. The request was granted, and a committee, consisting of the chairman and Messrs. Ford, Tribe and Hughes, was appointed to act with the Comforts Committee in making the necessary arrangements.

Mr. C. E. Bellringer, on behalf of the Park Demonstration sub-Committee of the Comforts Week Committee, wrote asking permission to lay electric lights to the band rotunda, and to fix a light therein. The committee had been in communication with the borough electrical department, and were willing to provide a sum up to £15 to defray the cost of the proposed work. The committee desired that the work should be of a permanent nature, so that the board would be able to make extensions should it desire to do so. The letter also mentioned that Mr. McLeod, the conductor of the band, had intimated their willingness to give a concert in the Park in aid of the fund.—Permission was granted.

It was decided that the committee already set up should act with the Comforts Committee, with a view to providing permanent lighting, and they were authorised to spend up to £20 on the work.

The offer from Mr. McLeod to give a band concert in aid of the electric lighting was gratefully accepted.

The secretary reported a very satisfactory financial position. Cash in the bank amounted to £37 10s. rent amounting to £25 was due, and there was also the bequest of £100 from the late Mrs. Hulke to come. The expenses to be met, apart from the curator's salary, did not exceed £5.

A vote of thanks was passed to donors of seeds, plants, etc., mentioned in the curator's report.

Mr. Bellringer was appointed visitor for the month.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that the weather during September being fine they were able to get through a considerable amount of work. The edging and levelling of the Carrington Road walk was completed. They had to cart a lot of clay to enable them to raise the walk in places and finish it well. Additional fern trees had been planted on the long, narrow, sloping strip outside the gate. The planting of the mixed groups of plants and the area of rewarewas on the slope in the racecourse valley was also completed. Donations were received during the month as follows:—Mr. C. Bellringer, flower seeds; Messrs. Webster Bros., seeds and plants; Botanic Gardens, Calcutta, plant seeds by exchange; Mr. E. Borough, Linwood, Christchurch, lily bulbs; native plant seeds and a packet of plants were received from unknown donors.

TH, OCTOBER 4, 1916
PLANS TO IMPROVE VOGELTOWN
ENTRANCE

A sketch-plan of the proposed new entrance to Pukekura Park from Vogeltown, which had been prepared by Mr. S. Percy Smith, was examined by the board on Tuesday evening. The proposed lich-gate would add greatly to the appearance of that part of the Park. A subscription list was opened on the spot, and members promised donation amounting to £9 or £10 to start the necessary fund to execute the work.

SOLDIERS' COMFORTS WEEK.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22,

TO

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28,

GRAND SPECTACULAR PROCESSION

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23 (Labor Day).

AT

PUKEKURA PARK.

PROCESSION LEAVES TOWN AT

12.30.

Competitions: Decorated Motor-cars, Tradesmen's Displays, Working Exhibits, Motor-cycles, Motorcycle with chair and occupant, Bicycles, Vehicles, Go-carts or Frame, Fancy Costumes and Parasol, Children's Pets, Doll's Perambulators (all decorated).

Patriotic Tableaux and Display, Bullock Dray Exhibit, Scouts' Squad Exhibition.

School Children's Display on Grounds.

Goods Stalls and Tea Pavilions in charge of Women's Patriotic Committee.

24.—TUESDAY—

The Band in Coronation Hall.
Grand Novelty Entertainment by Bandsmen and Local Talent.

25.—WEDNESDAY—

The Schools of the District entertain in Coronation Hall.

26.—THURSDAY—

Garden Party in Pukekura Park.

27.—FRIDAY—

Grand Musical Treat by Waitara Maori Entertainers in Coronation Hall.

28.—SATURDAY—

Grand Finale: Street Bazaars, Produce Sale, Famous Wanganui Huzzars—"the greatest beggars on earth."

Reserve "Comforts Week" for our Boys.

F. W. G. McLEOD,

Hon. Secretary.

The Comforts Week Committee commenced their campaign for funds with a singing service at Pukekura Park yesterday, there being a large attendance. Retiring collections were taken up at the respective churches at both morning and evening services.

For the open-air service the hymns were appropriately chosen, and Mr. A. Gray conducted the choir, consisting of members of the choirs of the Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist Churches. Miss Smith, organist at the Presbyterian Church, led the music. Included in the selections were the following favorites:—"All People that on Earth do Dwell," "Rock of Ages," "For Those in Peril on the Sea," "For All the Saints," "O Love that wilt not let me go," and "Lead Kindly Light." The singing, which was entered into wholeheartedly by the gathering, concluded with the Doxology and the National Anthem. A collection taken up realised £14 11s 2d.

EVENING PROMENADE CONCERT.

Extensive arrangements have been made in Pukekura Park for this evening (Monday). The grounds will be beautifully illuminated by electric light, the wires having been extended up to the lake, stalls and band rotunda. Messrs F. H. Robertson and Co. will also have several of their 200 candle-power lights stationed at intervals throughout the grounds. The Citizens' Band will play popular music, and the side shows and stalls will be open for business. Refreshments will be available.

Though contributions for the jumble stall at to-day's fete have come in freely, still many more are wanted. Any article, be it an old razor or a marble clock, will be "taken in and done for," and all gifts will be received at the depot or at the park at any hour before noon.

TO-DAY'S PROCESSION.

11.30 a.m., Motor Car Procession.—Route: Devon Street from Waiwakaiho Bridge to Egmont Street, St. Aubyn Street, Belt Road, Devon Street. Cars will line up between Queen and Lizard Streets until main procession, then join in and follow to Pukekura Park via Lizard Street.

12.30 p.m., General Procession, in the following order:—1, Town Band; 2, Junior Band; 3, Veterans; 4, Soldiers; 5, Railway Ambulance Car; 6, Fire Brigade; 7, Members of Parliament, etc.; 8, Mayor and Mayoress; 9, Representatives of Local Bodies; 10, Trades and Labor Displays (Technical College, engineering, oil industry, iron industry, dairy industry, bootmakers, painters and paper-hangers, woodworkers, motor trade, general laborers); 11, Scouts; 12, Marine Scouts, with boat; 13, Schools (Mr. Smith's bus with little pupils, Fitzroy, West End; tableaux, "Winter in the Trenches," Mr. A. A. Renner's staff under direction of Mr. C. Perrett; Central School pupils; tableaux, Belgian Refugees, Mr. J. Lovell); 14, Children's Decorated Exhibits (to join procession at Whiteley schoolroom); 15, Decorated Vehicles (horae, motors cars, motor

cycles); 16, Motor Cars (falling in behind main procession). The route of the procession will be along Devon Street from Gover Street to Egmont Street, St. Aubyn Street, Queen Street, Devon Street, Lizard Street, to Pukekura Park. The different sections will form up east of Gover Street. The children assemble at the Coronation Hall. Children with decorated exhibits will congregate at Whiteley Schoolroom. All taking part are requested to be ready to fall into line at 12 (noon). Cars will be provided for the veterans and wounded soldiers. Vehicles not taking part in the procession will not be allowed beyond Gilbert Street until the procession has passed. Arrangements have been made to sell tickets at Gilbert Street, to enable the public to utilise that entrance and thus save congestion at the main entrance.

Lieut.-Colonel E. N. L. Okey will act as marshal, and will control the various units of the procession.

The exhibits will be arranged on the sports ground to be judged.

TDN, OCTOBER 24, 1916

RIFLES FOUND IN THE PARK

Whilst the Boy Scouts were scouring the bush at Pukekura Park yesterday they came across three rifles in a puna tree. They were Senior Cadet rifles, and appeared to have been recently used.

TH, NOVEMBER 6, 1916

BAD SWAN

The black swan that haunts the first lake in Pukekura Park may add (in the eyes of casual visitors) to the attractiveness of one of the most picturesque waters in the Dominion, but he should be got rid of. Four weeks ago a lovely brood of eleven ducklings emerged—fluffy balls of down—and they came swimming down with Mother Duck to a spot where visitors were throwing in bread and biscuits. The swan killed three, within two minutes! On Sunday the swan was again much in evidence. He seized a full-grown duck by the neck and drowned her. His escapades are becoming rather notorious, and it's a pity that while in a manner he adds to the beauty of the lake he should be allowed to destroy so much other feathered beauty.

TH, NOVEMBER 8, 1916

BURGESS DONATION

The secretary of the Pukekura Park Board (Mr. E. H. Tribe) to-day received the following letter from His Worship the Mayor (Mr. C. H. Burgess):—"Enclosed please find cheque for £25, donation towards your Board's fund and I wish the same to be used to provide better facilities for holding functions such as Comforts Week. It is on occasions such as Comforts Week one realises the difficulties those engaged have to contend with, not the least being that of obtaining a sufficient supply of hot water to cater for the people's requirements. I shall be very pleased to confer with your Board re above."

TH, DECEMBER 6, 1916
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met on Tuesday night. Present: Messrs. S. Percy Smith (chairman), C. E. Bellringer, R. Cock, R. C. Hughes and E. H. Tribe (hon. secretary). An application was made by the Director of the Technical College for the children to be allowed to bathe in the large lake each day between one and two o'clock, and it was decided to grant permission subject to certain restrictions. A donation of £1 5s from Mr. Maumder, of Hamilton, was acknowledged with thanks. It was decided to ask the Borough Council to extend the electric light around the big lake.

"Owing to the past very mild winter and spring months, the whole vegetation of the park shows fresh and luxuriant growth," reported the curator of Pukekura Park (Mr. W. W. Smith) to the meeting of the board on Tuesday night. "The work of the staff during the past month has been chiefly that of mowing grass, cleaning, and burning the drier accumulation of rubbish in the park. Attention is at present being paid to mowing and burning the areas of rough grass at the head of the upper and lower lakes. Considerable time has been devoted to edging and cleaning walks, and clipping the box hedge around parts of the lakes."

In the course of his report to the Pukekura Park Board on Tuesday night the curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) said:—"Mrs. Avery has sent a bag of bulbs to plant in the park. Two anonymous friends also sent parcels of native plant seeds. Mr. Röckel brought a small box of New Zealand orchids collected in the Ruahine bush. They have been planted in suitable places in the park, where they may be easily seen and studied when in bloom. Mr. C. List, who was lately in New South Wales, collected a quantity of Australian plant seeds, and presented them to the park. They have recently been sown."

TH, DECEMBER 7, 1916
A CHAT WITH THE CURATOR

CURATOR OF NEW PLYMOUTH
RECREATION GROUNDS.

(By E. M. Story.)

It was a beautiful morning in late November when we tapped at the door of Mr. Smith's small office, and asked him if he could spare us an hour for a chat on the birds and bees and insects of this beautiful New Zealand. He gladly assented to our suggestion, and we felt happy because Mr. Smith is one in ten thousand, being a naturalist and a student of Nature from his youth. Life is full and rich to him, for he lives. But he hates talk about himself, so we pass on.

It was in 1877 that he came out from Home and went to Mt. Peel Station, on the Rangitata River. At that time the station was owned by the well-known Acland family, and Peel Forest was in all its glory, full of glad wild life. The tui, pigeon, moko-moko or bell-bird, the kaka, canary, whitehead and many other lovely birds dwelt in its branches. "I had great experience during the time that I was at Peel Station in finding the nests of many species," said our friend. "The three species of paroquets were extremely numerous. The yellowhead, redhead, and deep orange-coloured head distinguish the three species respectively. The kingfisher was very plentiful, build-

ing its nest in the clay banks of the river. It is an altogether different species from the Home kingfisher, being a far larger bird. There were at that time still several white herons frequenting the banks of the Rangitata River, and on the lagoons adjoining the river were two species of the grebe, viz., the large-crested grebe and the smaller species, now greatly diminished in numbers. The coming of the black swan has almost cleared the inland lakes of these most interesting birds.

"The black swan was introduced by Sir George Grey and Sir Walter Buller, and it is undoubtedly a very destructive bird and offers a great problem for solution. This bird nests three or four times a year, bringing off from five to seven eggs, setting on them from 26 to 28 days. By their prolific number the black swans clear off the white swans, who have no chance against their hordes. The white swan is a slow breeder, bringing off her brood once a year instead of three times as does her black rival. Here, in New Zealand, the black swans have no natural enemies, as they have in Australia, where water-snakes, eagles and the black natives keep them down. The black-fellow in Australia, when snaring the black swan, stands in the water and swims about for hours at a time. He covers his head with a mass of reeds and green growth, and seeing this the birds come to feed on the tangle, when he immediately adroitly catches them, strangling them under water. The black swans are long-lived birds, so that these facts considered it is quite easy to understand how it is that they are here in such hordes.

"There is another bird besides the black swan that comes from Australia," observed our friend; "the shiny cuckoo, which calls at night. It is a very different bird, with a thoroughly different call, from the Home cuckoo. The European cuckoo is one of 136 species of cuckoos known to ornithologists. The cuckoo is migratory and parasitic. The little grey warbler, or the riro-riro, is the foster parent in New Zealand of both species. The cuckoo's eggs are occasionally found in other birds' nests. The New Zealand cuckoo is about the size of a thrush; it has a tail from 10 to 12 inches long; the tail feathers are of a rich brown, beautifully striped with black."

"Will you give us a note on the kuaka?" we asked Mr. Smith.

"With pleasure," he replied. "The kuaka of New Zealand is a wander and migrates every year from Siberia, right across the world. It stops in many places for food. Before setting out it feeds well and becomes very fat. It starts from Siberia just before the winter begins and completes its journey to New Zealand so as to arrive while the weather here is warm."

"The tui, or parson bird, has some glorious notes," said Mr. Smith. "It is an early riser and starts its song before it is light, and continues it until late in the evening. The Maoris in days gone by caught the tui with numerous flax snares. They speared the pigeon. The spears were from 12ft. to 15ft. in length, and very supple. They were made of tawa wood. A number of Maoris set out together on pigeon-spearing expeditions; they trailed their spears behind them, and at certain seasons of the year, when the pigeons came to feed on tawa berries, miro berries, and kohe kohe berries (a large plum-like berry) the birds were so exceedingly tame that they had no difficulties in spearing them in their thousands. The Maoris, in those days, potted them down in large calabashes, made from the pumpkins, and ate them with kumeras and potatoes—the latter after Cook's time. They also potted the ducks and the tuis."

"Turning from notes on birds and bird-life, will you tell us how many species of butterflies New Zealand has?"

"There are twenty species in New Zealand, but one of the twenty is cosmopolitan," said Mr. Smith. "There are some seventy species in England," he added. "Some of these butterflies and moths are interdependent with plant life.

"The finest green moth in the world occurs in New Zealand. The length of its wings from tip to tip is sometimes five inches. Its large larvae feeds by boring into the trunks of trees. While we speak of interdependence we may mention the *Spheria Robertsii*, or vegetating caterpillar. The creature is a root feeder, and the ripe fungus casts its innumerable spores over the ground, dropping it everywhere, and the caterpillar when feeding picks up some of the spores unknowingly, which germinate in the intestines, and the roots develop in the body of the insect, consuming the whole of the viscera. By this time the fungus is ripe and the spores are ready for casting. The unfortunate insect dies by a slow torture. The cicadae, a large species of cricket, is also attacked by a fungus, which grows in precisely the same way."

"No doubt you have overwhelming evidence of the influence of environment on the insect world, Mr. Smith," we said.

"Of its influence on every living thing," answered our friend. "Take into consideration, for instance, the humble bee at Home and out here. At home the little creature is quite harmless. Here it is not so, for it cuts the backs of the pods of the beans to extract the nectar. It also attacks the hyacinth flower and cuts it at the back of the flower-stalk. There are, by the by, three species of humble bees naturalised in New Zealand. The honey bee out here goes wild, and stores up wild honey in the boles of trees. Tons of this honey are collected in the season by the Maoris and the settlers."

TH, DECEMBER 30, 1916
A CHAT WITH THE CURATOR

WITH A WONDERFUL OBSERVER.

(By an English Visitor to N.Z.,
E. M. Story.)

I discovered him working away in Pukekura Park, of which he is curator. The morning sun was shining down on all sorts and conditions of men and women in New Zealand, but I am confident that the Dominion does not contain a more observant or reverent student of Nature than Mr. W. W. Smith. As modest as the great Sir Isaac Newton; as gentle and thorough as Gilbert White, of Selborne; as truthful and painstakingly accurate as Richard Jeffries; as wide in the scope of his interests as Professor Owen, and valued by New Zealand so little that he, with all his erudition, with all his painstaking, first-hand work, with all his accumulated stores of personally-ascertained fact, is actually employed in doing work which an illiterate, muscular laborer could probably do as well, and not only so, but his careful scientific research and experiments are allowed to lapse or be but strugglingly maintained because, forsooth, the small means necessary to continue them are not forthcoming!

Yet how New Zealand can shout over what she means to do in the future in

the cause of science that she may be advanced to a place among nations! Here, in New Plymouth, is a truly wonderful man—one to whom many secrets of Nature are revealed; a man, moreover, with whom to spend an hour is to receive such an insight into the heart of Nature's workings that one realises that having eyes there has hitherto been no sight, that having ears there has yet been no hearing, until this hour came.

In a poor, mean little cottage in the Park this reverent scientist and naturalist works. He has none to help him, for the day laborer and the lad who constitute his "staff" have enough to do, and are fittingly employed in laboring in the grounds. It is a folly over which the angels might well weep that sees wasted on this work one who should be honored, esteemed and placed in a position where he would at least be free to observe, reflect and put before the humble-minded, who are worthy to sit at the feet of Wisdom, his impressions. "Of whom the world was not worthy," is the epitome I, at least, select for this man's life, character and achievements.

Bear with me, oh dear short-sighted New Zealand, if I point out that in any other country under the sun Mr. W. W. Smith would long ago have been recognised as a man of mind, a man of power, a wonderful observer, a scholar and a gentleman, a leader in scientific discovery, and of advanced thought. This man should be treasured as one of New Zealand's greatest assets, and truly his fame has gone out to the ends of the earth. In the world's great capitals, the name and labors of W. W. Smith are well known. Letters come to him from eminent scientists and naturalists in all lands, asking his opinion on a hundred and one moot points. He replies, but his careful and scholarly answers must needs be written while others sleep, for our great man is paid the wage of a laborer and works with spade and hoe for his daily bread.

Among the seven abominations that Solomon, the wise Eastern sage, saw under the sun was that of "beggars on horseback and princes walking." There are to-day many impoverished minds whose owners drive about in motor-cars and spend money freely, while a prince among men, such as Mr. W. W. Smith, is hard put to it to buy materials to enable him to carry on his invaluable work for the benefit of mankind.

The true history of the progress of a nation has ever been the history of her great men, her individualists, and it is via such men that a nation ARRIVES. When I return to the Homeland and am asked to name one of the men who has most interested me in this country during my stay of some eighteen months, my answer will at once be "Mr. W. W. Smith, of New Plymouth," and if I were an autocrat for but an hour, possessed of autocratic power and wealth, I would immediately exercise my autocracy to levy the sum of £10,000, which I would place in the hands of Mr. W. W. Smith that he might use it as his wisdom and judgment should dictate for purposes of research and

otherwise, but absolutely as he thought best. It is no secret that Mr. W. W. Smith has in his possession manuscripts which he has written, diaries kept through long years of trained and scientific observation which would be given to the world were the funds for publication available. With £10,000 at his disposal and a free hand Mr. Smith would be able to give his undivided attention to observation and experiment, and to secure for the Dominion and the civilised world incalculable wealth of the highest kind. Nor would the money be other than a wise investment. There would be nothing of a speculative nature about it; the yield would be sure and certain. It is to our men of science that we are indebted for the millions secured by commerce which they have made possible, and industrial New Zealand would find that in Mr. Smith's soundly-based theories there is unlimited gold.

"If you are not too busy, Mr. Smith, would you spare me half-an-hour for a chat," I asked, as he stood on the path on which he had been working. Graciously he assented, and together we walked to the cottage behind the tea kiosk in Pukekura Park.

"What can I talk of that would interest you," he asked kindly and simply.

"Of New Zealand's lizard," I answered, "which you mentioned on the first occasion that I saw you."

"The tuatara," he said, "the oldest species of existing lizard. It is not now to be found on the mainland, you know, but only on the outlying islands."

"No, I did not know; I wanted to know, and that's why I've come to you," I answered.

He smiled, and continued: "It lives in burrows in the sand, and rocky outlying islands, chiefly in the Bay of Plenty. It ranges in length from 12 inches to 20 inches, according to age. Unfortunately it became a prey to the dealers, and some of the islands have been depleted. Within the last few years Government action has been taken to preserve the tuatara from merciless marauders."

"The most interesting historical feature of the reptile is its peculiar structure and its great age geologically. It came from the Jurassic period. It might well and truthfully say, if it could speak 'I am the heir of all the ages.' Professor Thomas conducted a long series of experiments, and was fairly successful. One of the life-habits of the tuatara is that it shares the hole it burrows with the mutton-bird, one of several species of petrel. These strange companions amicably share the same burrow! The lizards are absolutely harmless, and the birds, of course, know it. The tuatara lives on earth worms and flies. Where the birds are nesting there is generally a strong smell, which attracts the flies, and these become the food of the lizard. The creature itself is of a bluish-grey. The late Professor Parker said that the tuatara and the kiwi are New Zealand's grandest possessions. Professor Dendy, late of Canterbury College, who experimented with the lizard, has written a paper dealing with the creature's third, or penial, eye. Unquestionably the tuatara's isolation

from the mainland has contributed to its freedom from enemies, and so to its preservation. From enquiries I have made among Maoris," said Mr. Smith, "the lizard has for long been absent from the mainland."

"You have mentioned the kiwi," Mr. Smith; "would you mind telling me something of its habits?" I asked.

"The kiwi," he said, "is one of the greatest problems known to ornithologists. It is the only living representative of the great moa. Owing to its diminutiveness compared with the moa, it took to a life in the bush, and in doing so it became 'apterous,' that is, it lost the use of its wings. The dense bush protected it from enemies and gave it abundance of food, and so its wings fell into desuetude. It has a very long bill. In my opinion the long bill was evolved by its methods of procuring food, probing deep in the earth for worms, and in the decayed prostrate logs of the bush, to obtain grubs and the insects on which it largely subsists. The rudimentary wings are about two inches in length, and quite hidden under the feathers and useless for purposes of locomotion or defence. Its only means of defence and offence is that of kicking. The legs are powerfully developed. I experimented one night with two kiwis, putting two domestic fowl in with them. When the kiwis came out in the evening—they are birds of strictly nocturnal habits—it was remarkable to watch them. The cockerels in the yard, when they saw the long bill of the kiwi coming out, became very uneasy and strutted to and fro, uttering remonstrances of surprise and disgust. The bigger kiwi rushed at one of the cockerels, and gave it a good tap on the head; the kiwi rushed up to the cockerel, striking powerfully with its feet, and I had to go in and stop them; The kiwi is almost blind, having very small eyes and a short sight. It possesses an extremely acute sense of scent and a delicate sensibility in the beak. The nostrils are situated beneath the tip of the beak, which enables it to find its food both on the surface and beneath. With regard to the nesting of the kiwi, I succeeded in getting it to lay eggs. I had a very fine, handsome female kiwi given me by Mr. Newton King. She was fastidious about a mate, and it is a fact that the first intended mate that I introduced to her she almost killed! Perhaps his scent displeased her. The second introduction was, in the beginning, almost as unsatisfactory, as she punished him by giving him a thorough thrashing. However, after the thrashing the two became reconciled, and they mated. They had been mated three months when she laid two eggs. One was laid a week after the other. Before laying the eggs the pair dug a pit in the floor of the clay house. The pit was so dug that the cavity was of a dome shape, that giving the greatest ease to the setting birds—by the by, it is the male bird that sets—as the shape of the nest admits of his turning round and moving his position on the eggs at will. The eggs are buried for one-third of their depth in the soil at the bottom of the nest, and the male bird sets most of his time across them. He

is much smaller than the female. He sat twenty-eight days and brought out one chick, and on the following day another—little pure white fluffy creatures, with pinkish bills. I had procured earthworms for them and grubs, and they were no sooner hatched than they began to run about. The male bird, after his long inactivity, was most miserably emaciated, and ate enormous quantities of food. When the eggs were hatched the mother bird at once took possession of the chicks and reared them to maturity. I have seen the chicks sitting close against her, but not actually gathered under her. I have also seen the mother bird prod for worms, which when she had secured she dropped on the surface for the young ones. When one of the kiwi chicks was half-grown I went to the house to show it to a friend, when I discovered that it was dead, its jugular vein having been severed by a weasel! You can imagine my feelings. It is at least satisfactory to me that I trapped the creature that had made a victim of the young kiwi. I captured it by employing a method adopted by gamekeepers at Home. I procured a tile, about 15in wide, and placed some food on the centre, and at each end of the tile I sank a rat trap. The weasel came for the food, and started to run off with it, and so entered one of the traps!

"I reared the other kiwi; he's running about in the park now. It takes half-a-pound of fresh meat per day to feed a kiwi, and so I was obliged to free him, to save the cost. When I was rearing the young ones, I used to go into their place, taking with me a dim light, and I would sit and watch them for an hour or so, observing their habits. I have sat down on a seat only slightly raised from the ground, without moving in the least, and with my knees at a slight angle, and the birds have come and prodded me over, and mounted on to me. As they prod they utter a loud sniff. A factor that contributes to the ease with which they find their way in the darkness is the number of long black hairs disposed around the beak. These hairs act as feelers and enable their owners to gauge the nearness of surrounding objects.

"It required five months for the one remaining kiwi to arrive at its full growth. It lost its white covering—its chickhood—in about ten weeks, and then it became covered with hairy feathers of a soft brownish-black."

"You mentioned that the kiwi is related to the moa, Mr. Smith."

"Yes; there is a large number of species of moa; the kiwi is the most diminutive form. The moas range from the kiwi, through a large number of species up to fourteen feet in height. The moas attained their highest development in the Pleistocene Age. From that period they began to diminish, though extremely slowly, in numbers, through the Miocene and Pliocene Ages, up to the Quaternary, which is, of course, the age of man. There is a wide range of opinion amongst scientists as to what led up to the extinction of the moa. Some of the scientists contended that the Maori knew nothing of the moa. These scientists and their theories are now as extinct as the moa. New facts

are forthcoming daily proving that the moa lived within the last 250 years. It flourished in the Albury district contemporaneously with the Maori. It was in this locality that unquestionably the latest of the moas persisted.

It is 26 years ago that the late Sir Walter Buller sent me to explore the Albury district for moa bones. At that time contract ploughmen were ploughing the downs on the estate, and every day they turned up large quantities of moa bones. Some of the skeletons were more or less perfect, and other lots were only portions of a skeleton, as those parts of the bird had been removed. This was probably due to the moa hunters. I was able to make a large and valuable collection of mixed bones for Sir Walter Buller. Some of them were afterwards submitted to Sir Richard Owen—better known as Professor Owen. Amongst the numerous bones was one which he thought was a new species, and would have named it after Sir Walter Buller but the remaining portions of the skeleton were not amongst those submitted. There were, among the bones that I collected, six or seven distinct species, including some of those of the elephant-footed moa, which was a species of massive structure."

"How do you account for the bones of the moa being found in so many places so wide apart, Mr. Smith?" I asked.

"Quite simply," he replied. "Heavy birds would wade into the swamps and perish in large numbers. Then floods coming—there was ten times the amount of rain we have now—would carry away the dead moas and deposit their bodies in all parts. For example, they occurred in vast numbers in Glenmark swamp, and in the swamps near Oamaru. The country around Glenmark and Oamaru, where the great deposits of bones occurred, is almost identical in general configuration. The largest deposits have occurred in limestone districts. It is important, in this connection, to note these matters. Glenmark, Oamaru and Albury are limestone districts.

"During the summer months some of the birds would stray high up into the mountains feeding, where I've no doubt they were at times overtaken by snowstorms, and perished, owing to their being unable to descend to the lower country. The shepherds have often discovered their bodies on the mountain sides. Throughout the Tertiary period there was a greater humidity, and the general vegetation was extremely rank, and on this, of course, the moa subsisted. When collecting the moa bones we carefully forked deeply around the place, and we always found quantities of gizzard stones, some of them two inches in length, rounded and smooth and thoroughly polished. These stones from the gizzard were left in little heaps, just where the skeleton was turned up. When the ploughmen were ploughing the new ground, near the Tengawa Gorge, on the Albury estate, they turned up some of the Maori ovens, where we were able to collect enormous quantities of moa bones. We also collected

a number of Maori axes and adzes, some of greenstone, bone needles, made of moa and Maori bones. The latter are now in the 'Buller Collection' in the Colonial Museum.

"In the Albury district there is a considerable number of limestone caves, in which the moa hunter dwelt for ages. The walls of the caves are covered with grotesque figures and rock paintings, including figures of moa eggs, taniwhas, etc., and numerous other illustrations of life in that period. I have an idea that these hunters farmed some species of moa. The moa-farmer would be careful to select the species with reference to the number of eggs, and to the meat, for use as a 'table bird.'"

I looked at my watch. I looked at it sternly, resenting its tell-tale habits! For a time, at least, I had lived back in the days of moa-romance, before life meant more than "going to the pictures."

1917

E. H. Tribe resigned his position as secretary of the Board of Trustees. Tribe felt that the Board were not forward thinking, yet he objected to the Board wanting to install electric lights in the curator's cottage, thinking this was an unnecessary expense. When the chairman questioned his standing in the committee, Tribe walked out.

In 1917 the old Carrington Road was renamed Victoria Road and the portion of Holdsworth Road which formed the southern boundary of the park was officially handed over to the Park Board.

Two improvements made during the year were the replacement of the wooden landing steps in front of the Band Rotunda and the replacement of the wooden culvert which formed the Mirror Waterfall by the old Lily Pond (Hatchery Lawn). Both structures were replaced with concrete counterparts. Frank Messenger donated the designs.

An addition to the amenities of the Park was a hot water fountain located by the Band Rotunda. This supplied hot water for people making a cup of tea and was donated by C. H. Burgess.

Another addition to the park was the initial palm tree plantings on what is now Palm Lawn. Supplied by Clement Wragge of Auckland. In 1916 Wragge had visited New Plymouth as part of a speaking tour and had commented on the fact that Pukekura Park would benefit from a planting of palm trees. The Board must have heeded his advice and ordered some from him. Wragge owned Waiata Tropical Gardens which was a well-known visitor attraction. It is believed there are four trees from that planting that still grow in the park. 2x *Livistona australis* (cabbage-tree palm), 1 x *Howea forsteriana* (kentia palm) and 1 x *Phoenix rupicola* (cliff date palm).

A pergola was constructed by the Sports Ground. It was 8 feet high, rising to 13 feet in the centre.

Plant Donations:

Mrs Robertson, Avenue Rd, collection of flowering plant seeds; A packet of native plant seeds from an unknown donor in the Kohuratahi district (Whangamomona area). Mr Morshead, nurseryman, 16 climbing roses to complete the rose pergola in the Sports Ground; valuable seeds from Mrs T. Adams, Canterbury; seeds and plants from Mrs John Paton and Mrs Grant, both of New Plymouth. Some well grown plants, natives of the Chatham Islands; native plant seeds from Ohakune, and packets of seeds from Christchurch.

Summary of significant events

- Holdsworthy Road at the southern boundary of the Park, became part of Park
- Wooden boat landing in front of Band Rotunda was replaced by concrete steps designed by Frank Messenger
- The small wooden waterfall structure and basin near the Lily Pond was replaced with a concrete one designed by Frank Messenger
- First planting of palms in Palm Lawn supplied by Clement Wragge of Auckland
- Electric lights installed around part of the main lake
- Hot water fountain installed behind Band Rotunda
- Bequest from C. W. Govett, £100
- E. H. Tribe resigned as secretary, replaced by Alfred Grey
- A pergola was constructed by the Sports Ground.



Mirror Waterfall - Hatchery Lawn (Puke Ariki PH2011-2164). Undated Photographic postcard of Syd and Norm Lovell.

TDN, JANUARY 9, 1917
CURATOR UNDER-VALUED

We hope with the English visitor who journeyed to New Plymouth recently that the New Zealand authorities will yet see the wisdom of availing themselves of the fount of knowledge possessed by Mr. W. W. Smith to the benefit of the present day people of the Dominion and of the generations to come (writes the Patea Press). It is little short of a scandal that his wonderful abilities and the results of years of scientific research and experiments are not utilised to the full. It is not too late yet for the authorities to wake up and make amends for their oversight and neglect in the past.

TH, JANUARY 10, 1917
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

In his monthly report submitted to the meeting of the Pukekura Park Board on Tuesday evening, Mr. S. Percy Smith presiding, the curator, Mr. W. W. Smith, stated that the staff had been employed chiefly in mowing and general maintenance of the park. Owing to the continuance of the dry weather in December, the tree-ferns felt its effect more than other plants, and some time was devoted daily to watering them. A large number of visitors frequented the park during the holiday season. The boats were worked on a new system of charges and they were well patronised. The returns were very satisfactory. Except for the stoning of a group of young ducks by some boys on December 16, and the trespass in a motor-car on December 31, the festive season passed pleasantly in the park.

TDN, JANUARY 19, 1917
PERGOLA NEXT TO SPORTS GROUND
HOT WATER SUPPLY

The members of the Pukekura Park Board met in the Park yesterday and, with the curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) and the Mayoress (Mrs. C. H. Burgess), went over the grounds and discussed various improvements that have been proposed. The Mayor recently donated £25 for the provision of hot water in the Park for picnickers, and the Board decided yesterday to instal the service just behind the bana rotunda. The work will be put in hand at once. Some time was spent in the open space near the dressing-shed adjoining the recreation ground, and here it was decided to erect a pergola. Tree ferns and climbing roses will be planted. The Board would be pleased if country residents who have tree-ferns at their disposal would communicate with the Board.

TH, FEBRUARY 1, 1917
DONATION FOR ELECTRIC LIGHTS

The secretary of the Pukekura Park desires to acknowledge the receipt of £2 from Mr. C. Potts, of the Imperial Hotel, towards the cost of installing the electric light in the park.

TDN, FEBRUARY 1, 1917
ELECTRIC LIGHTS

The Pukekura Park Board deserve the thanks of the community for installing the electric light for use at concerts and on fete occasions. The Board had decided to extend the lighting from the Carrington road entrance to the upper lake and instructions for the work have been given but unfortunately other urgent work has occupied the electric light staff and some days must elapse before the Board's work can be undertaken. The path from the Carrington Road entrance will be lighted by ordinary lamps. The object of the band concert this evening is to provide funds to meet the cost of electric lighting. Apart from the merits of this work the band deserve special consideration as it has on several occasions during the past year freely given the ground for other objects without participating in profits.

TH, MARCH 7, 1917
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met on Tuesday evening, when there were present: Messrs. S. Percy Smith (chairman), R. Cock, H. Ford, W. F. Short, R. C. Hughes, W. L. Newman, C. E. Bellringer, and E. H. Tribe (secretary). An apology for absence was received from Mr. C. H. Burgess.

Mr. Messenger, architect, forwarded a neat design for a concrete building to shelter the water-heating apparatus for which the Mayor (Mr. Burgess) recently donated £25. It was decided that, provided the Mayoress approves of the proposed building, its erection be proceeded with, the cost not to exceed £20.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith), in the course of his report, stated that the staff had dismantled and removed the tin shed from the Sports Ground. It would be necessary for the board to decide the fate of the small wooden shed remaining there. The corrugated iron and good serviceable timber obtained from the shed had been stored for future use. They had also, as directed, removed the fence near the shed and trimmed the trees.

The matter of the removal of the wooden shed and the building of a more suitable structure from the material available was left in the hands of the chairman and secretary to deal with. In connection with the erection of a summer-house, over which roses could climb, in the place occupied by the old tin shed, it was decided that the visitors for the ensuing month should confer with the curator with a view to proceeding with the work, which could be carried out with material available in the park.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands (Mr. G. H. Bullard) wrote, in connection with the transfer of part of Holsworthy Road to the board, that, in compliance with their request, steps were being taken to have this area added to the Recreation Ground and gazetted, might appear within the next two or three weeks.

The boat landing in front of the band rotunda was reported to be in a very rotten state. An estimate will be obtained by the secretary for constructing long concrete steps in front of the rotunda, to replace both the wooden landings used at present.

The payment of the £35 owing to the Borough Council for installing electric lighting round the lake was mentioned. It was the intention of the Citizens' Band to give a concert to raise this money and it was intimated that this arrangement still held. A committee, consisting of the chairman and the secretary and Messrs. Bellringer and Newman, was appointed to make arrangements for an evening concert in the park.

The next meeting, it was pointed out, will be the annual meeting, and it was decided to invite subscribers to attend.

The secretary reported that there was a credit of £85 9s 11d after paying accounts passed at the last meeting.

PARK SPORTS GROUND.
PRESENT ARRANGEMENT
UNSATISFACTORY.

At the meeting of the Pukekura Park Board on Tuesday evening the unsatisfactory condition of the Sports Ground, of which the Technical College now have the use in return for keeping it in order, and means by which this could be remedied, were discussed.

The Chairman (Mr. S. Percy Smith), in introducing the matter, said he had come to the conclusion that the arrangement with the Technical College would not work. They had done practically nothing and the ground was deteriorating every day. The grass on the bank wanted cutting, as well as the grass on the Sports Ground. He was afraid it had been allowed to go so far that merely cutting it would do no good, and it would need ploughing and planting again. Continuing, the speaker said he was quite sure, from reading English and colonial newspapers, that before the end of the year there was going to be a great dearth of food. Last year we bought wheat from Canada, but this year none could be got, owing to short crops there and in other parts of America. In view of this he proposed that the ground be ploughed up and put in potatoes, or something else which could be eaten, and later sown in grass. There would be a certain amount of profit in this, which would cover the cost of grassing. At the present time cricketers and footballers who would ordinarily use the ground were away at the front.

Mr. Tribe expressed himself as being in sympathy with what the chairman had said. He was in favour of ploughing the land. Apart from the value of the food, it was the best way of cleaning the ground.

Mr. Bellringer reminded the speakers that potatoes were a very uncertain crop, and Mr. Smith pointed out the merits of Indian corn as an alternative crop which could safely be grown.

Mr. Ford said the handing over of the grounds was agreed on just before the holidays. Since school resumed Mr. Grey had been reorganising and had been out of town a great deal of the time.

Mr. Bellringer said that the school had cut the grass before the holidays, but since then nothing had been done.

Mr. Hughes suggested that the director of the college should be notified that the board are not satisfied with the condition of the ground, and invited to discuss the matter at the next meeting of the board. The speaker also mentioned that this part of the ground is the first to be seen by visitors and the unkempt appearance of the terraces produced an unfavourable impression.

The board finally decided to consult with Mr. Grey as suggested.

TDN, MARCH 17, 1917
NEW HOT WATER FOUNTAIN

Afternoon Tea.—To celebrate the opening of the new hot-water system that has been presented by the Mayor (Mr. C. H. Burgess) to the Pukekura Park for the use of the public, Mrs. C. H. Burgess entertained the members of the Patriotic League to afternoon tea on Thursday in the Park. Amongst those present were: Mesdames C. H. Burgess, E. P. Blundell, Ewing, F. Blundell, W. Ambury, Bowden, G. Neal, Austin, Dockrill, T. G. Sole, Okey, Eberlet, Bartley, and Misses Sole, Norman, Rawson, Godfrey, Fabian, Goldwater, Peart.

TH, APRIL 25, 1917
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD A.G.M.

The annual meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Soldiers' Club on Tuesday evening. There were present: Messrs. S. Percy Smith (in the chair), W. L. Newman, C. E. Bellringer, R. C. Hughes, and E. H. Tribe.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator, reported that the staff for the greater part of the month had been employed in the general cleaning up and maintenance of the park. It was proposed to shortly commence the extensive planting of native trees and ferns in the park. During the month Mrs. Robertson, Avenue Road, sent a collection of flowering plant seeds to the park, Mr. Morshead sent a quantity of bulbs, and a packet of native plant seeds was received from an anonymous donor in the Kohurangi district.

IMPROVED BOAT LANDING.

Mr. Tribe submitted a sketch plan prepared by Mr. F. Messenger of proposed concrete steps to replace the old wooden steps alongside the lake. The width of the proposed steps was 22ft. the width of the existing steps being 6ft. The estimated cost was £25.

The Chairman suggested that the matter be allowed to stand over until after the Park Saturday collections.

This course was agreed upon, and it was also decided to hold over for the time being the erection of the necessary building to house the hot water plant, the board being of opinion that it would be much better to put both works in hand at the same time.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The Chairman, Mr. S. Percy Smith, presented his annual report as follows:

The end of the present financial year—March 31—brings the history of the Pukekura Park up to its fortieth anniversary; and no one will deny the splendid example the park offers of the public spirit of the people of the province of Taranaki, and particularly of the town of New Plymouth, to which it bears witness. For, from the very beginning, it has been through the liberality of the gifts of the people that the park has attained its present fame throughout Australasia as the most beautiful spot of its kind in these Southern Seas. We, of this period, should never forget the efforts of those who, by their foresight and personal labours laid the foundations that have brought about the present esteem in which the park is held. Happily, there are with us still two members on the present board who took actual part in the strenuous work of

laying out and building up the result we now see, while many have passed on to the other side. Let us never forget the debt we owe to these pioneers, who by hard personal labour with pick and shovel started the work on lines which we—more modern members—have merely had to follow and complete; complete, that is, so far as it can be said to be complete, for the time is not yet in which it may be said "The work is done." In this connection it is not necessary to mention names, for one of our members on the present board has written and published a full account of the park from the first inception of the idea, and therein given the credit to those to whom it is due. Let us hope that at some future date that history may appear in a more permanent form. The marble tablet in the park itself records the names of those who have been its chief benefactors from a financial point of view, but at the same time it has a tone of melancholy about it, for it only mentions the names of the dead.

The bearers of those names have set an example which others might follow. Many of our prosperous fellow-settlers might do as those departed benefactors have done and remember the park in their wills; and thus in process of time an endowment fund would accumulate that would enable the board to carry on without the constant anxiety of trying to make both ends meet. During the past year another name has been added to the tablet, that of Mrs. Hulke, who left to the park a sum of £100 under conditions implying that only the interest on it is to be used. This is a first step towards such an endowment as indicated above, and let us hope it may be followed by others in the same direction.

That an increased revenue is necessary is constantly borne in on the board. Improvements that would enhance the attractiveness of the grounds have frequently to be postponed or abandoned for want of the wherewithal to carry them out, and with the limited means available the board can do little more than keep the more prominent parts of the grounds in decent order, with an occasional trifling improvement here and there. Naturally, the whole of the future, so far as improvements are concerned, depends on the question of increased funds. Possibly we may look forward to some aid in this direction when the whole of the Avenue Road sections belonging to the borough are let, for the Act under which those lands are disposed of allocates the revenue to the public parks of the town. But the time must come when our fellow-citizens will have to consider the necessity of taxing themselves to provide funds for the upkeep and improvement of the various places of public recreation that are slowly developing in and around our town. A very small municipal rate which the ratepayers would not feel would place all the governing bodies in a position to carry out many desired improvements; and such a course would oblige many who now contribute nothing to do their share in adding increased attractiveness to the town.

It may be convenient to state shortly, for the benefit of those interested in the park, the sources of revenue current at the present time, leaving the detailed account to be derived from the annual accounts.

In the first place the Borough Council makes us a grant of £150. Then we have a number of annual subscribers (exactly 100 last year) at various rates varying from five shillings to two

guineas, producing last year £65 1s 4d. The annual amount derived from "Pukekura Park Saturday," which last year came to £109 5s 3d, a very handsome contribution considering the many calls on the people just now on account of the war. There are occasional contributions from visitors to the park, but very much fewer than might be expected, and the annual amount derived from this source is very small. From rents we receive £25, and from other sources sums, which with the balance brought forward, made our revenue £550, leaving a deficit at the end of the year of £26, after deducting Mrs. Hulke's legacy, which will be invested shortly, with liabilities in addition of £35, so that we are to the bad some £61.

Improvements that have been made during the year consist in opening up of some vistas through the overgrown vegetation, notably on the path leading from the Carrington Road entrance, where the clearing has allowed of some pretty views over the lower lake. The removal of the old dressing shed near the sports ground and the clearance of overgrown and not ornamental shrubs has also allowed of pretty views over the same lake, seen under the branches of trees, than which nothing more enhances the beauty of a view. From time to time more might be done in the opening up of vistas where the so doing does not destroy valuable trees. The few that have been made certainly enhance the charm of the grounds.

The electric lighting has been carried up to the band rotunda and extended round the lower part of the largest lake, making it possible on dark nights for visitors to walk about and still enjoy the music of the band on the occasions when it plays. A little graveling has been done on the worst parts of the paths, but very much more has to be accomplished in that direction before they are in a state for comfortable walking after rain. Some of the seats from the sports ground have been utilised in various parts of the park, such as at points of interest and where views may be obtained; others have been arranged round the band rotunda, which supply there a long-felt want.

Through the generosity of his Worship the Mayor the board has now in hand—to be completed in a week or two—an up-to-date hot water supply for the use of the public on gala occasions, and for those picnicing in the grounds, a want that has been much felt hitherto. Preparations are being made to erect on the site where marquees usually stand when functions take place on the sports ground a large rustic summer-house, to be covered with roses and other flowering plants, where the people can take their teas in the shade, in comfort, and with pleasure. It is contemplated when funds are available, to have a second hot water supply close to this erection, and to build a small but picturesque building near there wherein to store seats and other paraphernalia used in the tea-arbour.

The coming year, it is hoped, will see the proposed new lych-gate erected at the Vogeltown entrance, which is at present not worthy of that growing suburb.

The grounds themselves, in the parts most used by the public, have been kept in good repair, but it is regrettable that the great length of paths—some where about three-quarters of a mile in length—have, through want of funds, been allowed to deteriorate; so that

many pretty parts of the park are rarely seen now by the public. Under the Curator's care the large bed of roses near the tea-rooms exhibited a very fine sight in the season, as did those near the lower lake. In connection with this subject attention is drawn to the numerous acts of vandalism committed by a few unscrupulous individuals (supposed to be frequently children) who without thought of the pleasure they are depriving others of, frequently pick flowers, or destroy them. People who do so would be shocked to be termed thieves. But they are so nevertheless. It is most annoying to the board and the curator that the care devoted to the beautifying and improving of the grounds should thus be nullified by the selfishness of a few persons.

The boating on the large lake has been placed under new conditions and is working satisfactorily. The tea-rooms continue to attract a large number of people in the season, but the building is sadly in want of renovating.

During the coming year it is hoped to extend the electric lighting along one of the main paths of the park, leading to the Carrington Road entrance from the band rotunda. Also, if funds permit, to make a new boat landing opposite the band rotunda of a more permanent character than that now perishing there. It is to be hoped that means will be found to complete the new lake commenced some years ago, for it has capabilities of beauty surpassing many of the existing ones. The hill paths ought to be repaired and made more easy of perambulation by visitors, and more gravelled done on the main paths. The tea-rooms, the curator's cottage, and other buildings sadly want painting and repair.

The accomplishment of all these things depends on the response of the public at our next "Pukekura Park Saturday"—the people have never failed us yet, and, notwithstanding the many calls on the public pocket in these strenuous times of war, it is hoped they will not do so this next time.

The Sports Ground.—The above name is now somewhat of a misnomer, for, through various causes, football and cricket have departed, partly no doubt due to the absence of our young men at the front. So far as football is concerned the centre of activity has been moved from New Plymouth, and the question arises, will it ever return? Some years ago a considerable portion of our revenue was derived from that source, and its cessation caused much embarrassment to our finances, eventuating in the institution of the "Pukekura Park Saturday" to supply the deficiency. The grounds were let to a body of young men some time ago with the idea of placing them under the management of those more in touch with sports; and under their supervision extensive improvements were made at a considerable cost. But the removal of the centre to other parts caused their revenue to so fall off that they could not fulfil their obligations to this board. While sympathising with the lessees on account of the loss of the sport, and of their monetary loss, the board had to take back the grounds into their own hands. The result has not been satisfactory, for in the absence of any revenue from the ground itself our means do not allow of keeping the place up as it should be; our small staff is indeed unequal to keeping up the other parts of the park, without the addition of the sports

ground. To tide over this difficulty arrangements were made during the past year with the authorities of the Technical College to take over the ground and keep it in repair. So far this scheme has not been successful, and possibly the arrangement will have to be terminated. The writer's own view is that the ground will have to be laid down afresh, if it is to be used again for sports. But this raises the question are we justified in so doing, since the removal of football sports to another place? In view of the probable scarcity of food producing crops before the end of the year, the writer thinks the whole area should be devoted to producing some crop; at any rate for the ensuing year; and this if properly done would leave the ground in good condition for again laying down in grass, and, after covering expenses, any profits might be devoted to the Red Cross or other patriotic fund.

In concluding this report, the board's sincere thanks are tendered to those who have assisted us through the year; to his Worship the Mayor for the hot water appliances; to the lady Mayoress for advice and suggestions in reference to the proposed rose arbour; to the many people who have contributed plants, etc.; to the Citizens' Band for entertainment given in the park; to the electrical staff for the installation of the electric light; and particularly to the lady directress and the large number of young ladies who made the collection on last "Pukekura Park Saturday"; to our annual subscribers; to the press for efficient assistance often given; to our hon. secretary for his onerous work, and to the curator for his care of the park.

The personnel of the board remains the same as last year, except that Mr. C. E. Bellringer has been appointed by the Governor in place of Mr. F. P. Corkill resigned. One of our members, Mr. C. H. Drew, is on leave, and at present is serving his country in the Flying Corps in Europe.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

The statement of receipts and expenditure for the year ended on March 31 showed total receipts amounting to £550 4s 11d, including Park Saturday street collection £109 5s 3d, annual subscriptions £65 1s 4d—£174 6s 7d, Borough Council subsidy £150, and special donations £135 12s. After meeting expenditure, including wages amounting to £363 1s 6d, there was a balance of £76 0s 7d.

In reply to questions the secretary said the special donations were made up as follows:—Mrs. Walker £5, Mr. C. H. Burgess £25, T. N. Maunder £1 5s, estate late Mrs. Hulke £100, Mr. C. Potts £2, Messrs. H. and W. Weston £2 2s.

During the discussion it was pointed out that although the bank balance showed a credit of £70 odd, this was not the actual position of the finances of the board. The legacy of £100 from the late Mrs. Hulke had been included in the donations, but this had to be invested at the very first opportunity, so that with outstanding accounts in addition amounting to £30 the board actually had a debit of £60.

The report and balance sheet were approved.

FEMALE LABOUR.

Miss M. M. Garrett, of Auckland, wrote that she had heard that the board was thinking of engaging female labour in the park. She asked for particulars as to duties, and added that her sister

and herself would accept positions.

The secretary reported having replied to the effect that the board at present at any rate had not thought of employing female labour in the park.

GENERAL.

The question of effecting necessary repairs to the tea kiosk was referred to Mr. Tribe with power to act.

The chairman's action in authorising temporary labour in the park necessary owing to the illness of Mr. R. Old was confirmed.

The question of arranging for Park Saturday was left with Mr. Hughes, members being of opinion that the collections should be made at an early date.

The chairman reported that the summer house near the sports ground was being proceeded with, and mentioned that sufficient roses had been promised to plant the whole thing.

It was decided to instruct the staff to prepare a piece of ground to grow food for the birds. The chairman pointed out that last year the board expended £7 2s under this head, and seeing that they had the land available he thought they should utilise it and save this expenditure.

TH, MAY 3, 1917

COUNCIL NOMINEES FOR BOARD

Representatives on Pukekura Park Board.—Councillors Collis, Hayden and Short.

TH, MAY 9, 1917

Pukekura Park Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees of Pukekura Park met on Tuesday night. Present: Messrs. R. C. Hughes (chairman), Harris Ford, W. L. Newman, J. W. Hayden, W. A. Collis and E. H. Tribe (hon. secretary). The Chairman welcomed the Borough Council representatives, Messrs. Collis and Hayden. The secretary reported that there was a credit balance of £52, inclusive of Mrs. Hulke's legacy of £100, so that practically there was an overdraft of £50. The Borough Council account for the installation of electric light in the park (£32) was passed for payment, it being stated that a contribution of £16 from the Citizens' Band had been received.

In urging that a certain work should be proceeded with at once, Mr. Tribe stated at Tuesday's meeting of the Pukekura Park Board that if the board did not adopt more progressive measures than hitherto he could tell them plainly that he would not continue as secretary. He said he was for progress every time. He loved the park, and was prepared to work for it, but unless members of the board showed more active interest in the gardens and paid more attention to the meetings he was going to throw it up. He added that if he had his own way he would not have a credit balance, but would work on overdraft. The people then would have to recognise their responsibility in the matter.

At the meeting of the Pukekura Park Board on Tuesday night some discussion took place regarding the tea kiosk, which members considered was in too damp a place. Mr. Ford said the proper site for the building was on the spur behind the bathing shed and it should have been put there originally. Mr. Tribe remarked that the cost of a new kiosk would be between £400 and £500. The board had no money in

hand for that purpose at present, and until the necessary funds were subscribed they would have to continue as at present.

Plans for concrete steps in place of the present wooden boat-landing in front of the rotunda were presented to Tuesday's meeting of the Pukekura Park Board by Mr. F. Messenger. The estimated cost of the steps was £25. The Chairman said they would be constructed on the cantilever principle. Mr. Ford doubted whether a firm enough foundation could be obtained. He explained that when the rotunda was erected a considerable part of the hill was cut back and the area in front was composed of the spoil. After discussion, the board authorised Mr. Messenger to construct the steps, at the same time as the hot water service is installed, providing that after consulting with the Borough Engineer he is satisfied that the ground is suitable.

It will be remembered that a short time ago a visitor to New Plymouth called at the Herald office and voiced a complaint that the beautiful view of Mount Egmont which was obtainable from Pukekura Park was now blocked by the growth of trees. Mr. Collis stated at the meeting of the Pukekura Park Board on Tuesday night that the visitor was quite right, and it was a thing that he himself had repeatedly pointed out during the last three years. The chief obstruction to the view was a row of pinus insignis trees on Brooklands Road which were originally placed there for shelter purposes, but now that the plantation was quite sturdy they were neither use nor ornament. It would be a God-send to the board if residents in the locality would cut the trees down on the understanding that they could take them for firewood. It was decided that members of the board should meet at the park to decide what trees should be cut down.

The matter of the footpaths in Pukekura Park was referred to at Tuesday's meeting of the board, and it was decided to order six yards of "screenings" to be placed on the paths near the rotunda. The Chairman said that in winter some of the paths were practically under water, and if they could be graded it would probably be a great improvement. After some discussion it was decided to obtain the opinion of the Borough Engineer.

TDN, MAY 16, 1917 OPOSSUM SAVED

On Saturday afternoon a resident, walking through Pukekura Park, came across an opossum near the main path, evidently half dead with cold and hunger. He picked it up and took it home, where he fed it, and next day handed it to the curator. It is not generally known that there are fairly numerous colonies of opossums in the park, and in the bush continuing through "Brooklands" and "Maranui." The marsupials fare ill, however, in cold weather like that prevailing on Sunday.

TH, MAY 30, 1917 PARK SATURDAY APPEAL

PUKEKURA PARK.

PARK SATURDAY COLLECTION, JUNE 2, 1917.

The Board respectfully
invite the Public to
support their own Park

THE PRIDE OF NEW PLYMOUTH and GEM OF NEW ZEALAND.

TDN, JUNE 13, 1917 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The usual monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last night. Present: Messrs R. C. Hughes (chairman), W. L. Newman, R. Cook, W. A. Ellis and E. H. Tribe (hon. sec.).

Apologies were received from Messrs Percy White and C. E. Bellringer.

The question of erecting concrete steps for boat landing at lake was adjourned till next meeting.

In connection with the water heater donated by the Mayor, and the proposed concrete cover, the Mayor wrote stating that the expense was not justified. He would rather trust the public to show respect to their own parks and contents. It was decided to acquiesce in the Mayor's views.

The total receipts for Park Saturday, including annual subscriptions, were announced to be £200 5s.

Permission was granted to the residents of Vogeltown to erect entrance gates to the park, and excavate the necessary earth for improving the entrance, the work to be undertaken under the supervision of the board's curator.

The question of purchasing the freehold of section No. 117, adjoining the park, was deferred till next meeting.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the annual subscribers and to those who contributed to the park funds on Saturday, especially to Mrs. Dockrill, Misses Belle Smith, Panay Smith, Collis, Pelham and Kirkby, and all other lady collectors for their valuable services in connection with the board's recent appeal for funds.

TH, JUNE 23, 1917 ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS

The following is the list of annual subscribers to the Pukekura Park Board funds:—T. Avery, J. Avery, Ambury Bros., A. H. Arnold, A. S. Brooker, H. S. Brookman, Collett and Co., R. Cook, E. Dockrill, Egmont Brewery, Col. Ellis, W. Fraser, J. Findlay, N. Greiner, A. S. Hasell, J. H. Hammond, Hallenstein Bros., P.

Hopkins, F. W. Hail, P. Jackson, Newton King, Hon. Thos. Kelly, C. T. List, J. McNeill, McLeod and Slade, A. McHardy, McEwen Bros., Morey and Son, J. McKean, A. F. Mollison, N. K. MacDiarmid, Nolan and Co., W. P. Nicoll, J. Paton, Miss Pelham, J. H. Quilliam, Geo. Ramson, J. B. Roy, S. W. Shaw, H. Weston, W. Weston, Weston and Weston, White and Sons, Webster Bros., West and Sons, Dr. Whitton each 10s 6d; J. Auld, W. E. Bendall, Bellringer Bros., E. Blundell, Mrs. Bremner, W. A. Collis, R. D. Colson, C. Carter, Mrs. Dowling, Rev. Drew, R. Deare, Miss A. Evans, Miss E. Evans, T. Furlong, Mrs. Freeth, C. F. Footo, A. Goldwater, Miss Godfrey, Mrs. Hughes, Miss Humphries, Jackson and Paul, H. King, Mrs. R. J. Matthews, Miss Marshall, Colonel Messenger, F. Messenger, Mrs. F. Messenger, Mrs. Martin, J. S. McKellar, W. L. Newman, Rev. Osborne, W. J. Penn, G. F. Robinson, Mrs. G. F. Robinson, A. E. Sykes, T. K. Skinner, Miss Stephenson-Smith, Hon. O. Samuels, F. W. Sandford, Captain Wilson, Mrs. F. Webster, C. Ward, A. Weller, Dr. Wade, each 10s; Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, £5; Dr. E. A. Walker, £5; Mrs. E. A. Walker, £5; Anonymous, Dr. Blackley, W. Emeny, R. C. Hughes, S. Hooper, Melbourne Clothing Company, Mrs. Paul, Post and Telegraph Dot Club, Sladden and Palmer, each £1 1s; Burgess and Fraser and C. H. Burgess, each £2 2s; Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Mrs. A. Douglas, Mrs. A. C. Fookes, Dr. Fookes, Miss Hempton, Mrs. Eyre-Kenny, Dr. Leatham, E. W. M. Lyons, G. H. Maunder, Mrs. Nicholson, Miss Nicholson, S. Percy Smith, A. Shuttleworth, each £1; W. F. Brookling, 11s; Archdeacon F. G. Evans, Mrs. F. G. Evans, each £2 10s; C. Pott, £2; E. Taylor, 5s.

TH, JUNE 30, 1917 SAD STATE OF SPORTS GROUND

Sir,—I have been present at several football matches lately played on the Recreation Ground in Pukekura Park. On each occasion I was struck by the unkempt and rough nature of the ground. Apparently no effort has been made this season to cut the grass or mark out either side-lines or touch-lines. The neglected and wild state of the ground presents a decidedly unfavourable contrast with the well-kept remainder of the park. Under the present conditions neither referee nor line-umpire can possibly tell whether the football is in or out. Only yesterday were spectators witnesses of the ridiculous figure of a referee standing between two lines of players for some moments before he gave his decision as to whether a try or a force down was to be allowed. I noticed that instead of eight flags on the lines there were two or three twigs stuck into the ground. Everyone knows that the war has disorganised almost everything, but as a citizen of New Plymouth I wish to enter by strongest protest against the perpetuation of the present eyesore. So far as I can gather from reports of the meetings of the Park Board, the football ground is under the control and care (?) of an outside body. If so, it is surely time that the Park Board exercised its authority and insisted upon the users of the ground putting and keeping it in ordinarily decent order.—I am, etc.,

PUKEKURA.

TDN, JULY 5, 1917
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

MONTHLY MEETING.

The usual monthly meeting of the Board was held in the Soldiers' Club Room on Tuesday evening. Present:—Messrs. R. C. Hughes (chairman), C. E. Bellringer, S. Percy Smith, R. Cock, H. Ford, W. A. Collis, W. L. Newman, and E. H. Tribe.

The question of erecting a concrete boat landing near the band rotunda was again before the Board. It was resolved that the matter stand over until early spring.

The residents of Vogeltown having signified their willingness to erect entrance gates and form a new pathway to the park, the secretary was instructed to write to the Borough Council asking if the earth to be removed would be of any use to the Council for filling in purposes.

The curator's report for the month was read. He stated that the work of cleaning up the gully on the left hand side of the Carrington road entrance, burning the rubbish and sowing down in lawn would be immediately put in hand. He also reported that he had received packets of native plant seeds and plants from anonymous donors, also some working tools from two gentlemen. Very little damage was done in the park during the late gales.

TH, JULY 10, 1917
DROWNING IN THE LAKE

An inquest concerning the death of Frederick James Bateman, who was found drowned in the big lake at Pukekura Park on Monday morning, was opened in the Courthouse, New Plymouth, on Monday afternoon, before Mr. A. Crooke, Coroner. Evidence of identification was given by George Hopkins, harness maker, who stated that Bateman was a brother-in-law of his, having married witness' sister. He thought deceased was about 40 years of age. Bateman was a man who fancied he was always ailing, and was a low-spirited man. His wife was at the present time in the New Plymouth Hospital. They had no family. The inquest was adjourned till Wednesday next, at 11 a.m.

TDN, JULY 16, 1917
HORSE AND CARD NEEDED

The Pukekura Park Board invite, by advertisement, the loan or hire of a horse to draw small loads of gravel and earth for improving purposes.

TDN, AUGUST 3, 1917
GOVETT BEQUEST

The Pukekura Park Board desires to acknowledge the receipt of £100 from the estate of the late Mr. Clement W. Govett, per Mr. J. H. Quilliam; also the sum of £50 from the Taranaki Jockey Club.

TH, AUGUST 8, 1917
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Board of Trustees of Pukekura Park met at the Soldiers' Club on Tuesday night. Present: Messrs. R. C. Hughes (chairman), W. L. Newman, R. Cock, C. E. Bellringer, H. Ford, and E. H. Tribe (hon. secretary).

DONATIONS.

Messrs. Govett and Quilliam wrote forwarding a cheque for £100 under instructions from Mrs. Clement Govett, who also wrote from Weycombe, Surrey, stating that it was her late husband's wish that the amount should be given to the board. She also expressed regret that owing to illness she had not been able to attend to the matter sooner.

The secretary of the Taranaki Jockey Club wrote forwarding a cheque for £50, which had been voted to the board at the club's annual meeting.

It was decided that the secretary write letters expressing the board's deep appreciation and thanks to Mrs. Govett and the Jockey Club.

ENDOWMENT FUND PROPOSED.

Mr. Cock referred to the gift of £50 from the Jockey Club and £100 from Mrs. Govett. He considered that this £150 should be used, with Mrs. Hulke's bequest of £100, to form the nucleus of an endowment fund. There was a great necessity for such a fund, which would prove extremely handy in the future. For the meantime they could continue with ordinary revenue as they had done for the last few years.

Mr. Tribe said he would strongly oppose such a proposal.

On Mr. Newman's suggestion the matter was held over till there is a full meeting of the board. A notice of motion by Mr. Cock to create an endowment fund will then be discussed.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that owing to the frequent heavy rains during July the staff were unable to proceed with the work of the park so expeditiously as they wished. They had completed the alterations at the Vogeltown entrance so far as they could do at present until the board members inspected the work or until the new gates were erected. There might be some minor alterations necessary, but these could be determined upon when the board met at the park. Now that they had this long-suggested important work in hand it would be a great advantage were the gates erected—whatever class of gate might be decided upon—which would enable them to promptly finish the work. There were several suggestions which he would place before the board. They were now proceeding with the levelling and shingling of the flat from the bottom of the Vogeltown walk around the band rotunda to the triangle bed near the Sports Ground. They had used five loads of shingle so far, but would require at least ten loads more as they proceeded with the work. They found the use of the horse lent by the Mountain House Committee a great advantage. Friends had generously lent them harness to assist in the work of the park.

The curator enclosed a donation of 10s from Mrs. Mace, also £1 10s proceeds of sale of firewood. A valuable lot of seeds had been received from Mr. T. W. Adams, Greendale, Canterbury. These comprised seeds of rare and beautiful trees. Seeds and plants had also been given by Mrs. J. Paton and plants by Mrs. Grant, Vivian Street.

Mr. Newman handed over a packet of seeds from Mr. Beattie, Bell Block.

GENERAL.

Mr. Tribe expressed the opinion that some of the £50 given by the Jockey Club should be used in improving the pathway to the racecourse, as the roots sticking out were dangerous and the path generally required attention. Mr. Bellringer agreed and said it would be for that reason that he would oppose Mr. Cock's notice of motion. Mr. Tribe also considered that the swamp near the path should be drained, as it was at present an eyesore.

Discussion took place over the alterations recently made by the staff at the entrance from Vogeltown. Mr. Tribe said some good work had been done, but he was sorry to see that the grade had been slightly increased instead of lessened. Mr. Bellringer stated that the improvements were not finished yet.

The matter of replacing the unsightly tin shed near the Sports Ground with a more imposing structure was brought up by Mr. Tribe. It was decided to defer discussion till a later date.

Mr. Cock was appointed visitor to the park for the ensuing month.

TH, SEPTEMBER 5, 1917
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Board of Trustees of Pukekura Park met in the New Plymouth Soldiers' Club on Tuesday evening. Those present were: Messrs. R. C. Hughes (chairman), W. L. Newman, C. E. Bellringer, H. Ford, and E. H. Tribe (hon. secretary).

An apology was received for the absence of Mr. S. Percy Smith.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that since the last board meeting the general work of the staff had been much impeded by wet weather. The work of re-forming and gravelling the walks was proceeded with, but owing to their soft condition they were compelled to abandon it. Donations received during the month comprised some well-grown plants which were natives of the Chatham Islands; native plant seeds in a packet bearing the Ohakune post-mark; and a packet of seeds from Christchurch. The curator did not know who sent any of the donations, but they were very acceptable.

Mr. R. Cock had given notice to move that the £100 received from the late Mr. Govett and the £50 donated by the Taranaki Jockey Club should be added to the endowment fund, but in the absence of Mr. Cock the motion could not be dealt with. Mr. Percy Smith wrote supporting this proposal, though perhaps an exception might be made of part of the Jockey Club money in favour of buying a section in Filis Street which Mr. Hughes had urged the board to acquire.

Mr. Tribe said he wished to suggest that, in accordance with a resolution passed at a previous meeting, the concrete steps for the boat landing be proceeded with in the early spring so that it would be completely dry for the summer. He was also going to suggest that a certain sum be spent on improvements to the tea-rooms, and that the old shed at present near the sports ground be pulled down and the iron used in making a shed which was badly wanted somewhere about the grounds, further that the swamp which was intended to be a bathing place be drained with the intention of planting it. Money had been given to the board with no restrictions, and they should endeavour to make some permanent improvements in the grounds.

At the suggestion of Mr. Bellringer it was decided to hold a meeting in the park at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday week (September 13), when the matters brought up will be dealt with and some general scheme of improvement considered.

Before the meeting adjourned the chairman brought up the matter of improvements to the curator's cottage. He considered that one thing which might be done was to instal electric light, and the board decided to have this done.

TH, SEPTEMBER 17, 1917 BAND RECITAL

Pukekura Park was thronged on Sunday afternoon by hundreds of people. Delightful weather for once had followed the announcement that the New Plymouth Citizens' Band was to give a recital, and the pleasant conditions and beautiful surroundings added the one touch required to complete the pleasure of all who listened to the music played by the band. Both the senior and junior sections of the band were present, and demonstrated the high standard which has been attained in the one case and is being attained in the other. The conductor (Mr. F. W. G. McLeod) had been preparing the seniors for some time to execute several more than ordinarily difficult selections, including "William Tell" (Rossini), and "Zampa" (Herold), both of which were played on Sunday afternoon with distinct credit to the musicians. The other items contributed by the seniors were a cornet solo, "A Perfect Day" (soloist, Mr. McLeod), and the march "Bravo the Anzacs." The juniors made a very good impression in their selections. They played "Gems of Scotland" (Newton), one of the features of which was the euphonium solo by Junior Hedley, and "Rusticus" (Anderson), the cornet cadenza by Junior Blanchett, and the trombone solo by a diminutive bandsman (Junior Feek) being distinctly creditable. The massed band, including over 50 players, contributed the national anthem at the opening and close of the programme, the hymn "Old Hundredth" and other pieces.

A collection was taken in aid of the band funds, the amount being £19 11s.

TH, OCTOBER 3, 1917 SECRETARY RESIGNS

An impasse was reached at the monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board on Tuesday night, when the question of installing electric light in the curator's cottage was being discussed. Mr. E. H. Tribe, the hon. secretary, strenuously opposed the proposal on the score of expense. The chairman (Mr. R. C. Hughes) questioned Mr. Tribe's right to take an active part in the discussion, whereupon the secretary referred to a resolution passed in 1912 making him an honorary member of the board and placing on record its appreciation of his past services. He said it was his desire to save the board money, and that it needed waking up. However, if the chairman was going to question his standing he would resign at once. Mr. Hughes replied that he had not been aware of the resolution, and in any case Mr. Tribe had not attended any meetings until his appointment as secretary about three years later. Mr. Tribe, again remarking that the board must be alive, left the room. The chairman afterwards mentioned that he quite recognised Mr. Tribe's useful work for the park, but he objected to being told that the rest of the members were asleep.

TH, OCTOBER 3, 1917 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Board of Trustees of Pukekura Park met on Tuesday night. Present: Messrs. R. C. Hughes (chairman), C. E. Bellringer, H. Ford, W. A. Collis, and E. H. Tribe (hon. secretary). Apologies were received for the absence of Messrs. S. Percy Smith, W. L. Newman, and R. Cock.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that since the last monthly meeting the staff had been able to proceed more expeditiously with the work of the park due to improvement in the weather. They had finished all the work on the main walks except some minor pieces, which they proposed to do after a general cleaning up of the walks and banks. During the finer weather they had devoted considerable time to planting young trees and transferring the large specimens to the space on the side of the lower lake adjoining the sports ground. They would continue the work of thinning and trimming many of the young trees and mowing and cleaning the banks of the lakes. There was also a considerable area of seedling gorse in several parts which they would have to grub soon. There were several defective planks in the flooring of the bridge at the boat-house which they would have to replace. He also suggested that enough material be procured to construct a new waterfall shoot near the steps at the head of the water-lily lake. It was now in a decayed and unsightly condition. "During the month I received some native plant seeds by post from an anonymous donor. Mr. Morshead, nurseryman, sent 16 climbing roses to complete the rose pergola in the sports ground. I regret to say that during the month there was a great amount of flower-stealing in the park. It is always a difficult matter to detect offenders. The park is, moreover, a difficult place to watch."

Mr. Bellringer brought up the question of employing an additional workman in the park, and suggested that the whole question of salaries would have to be revised.

Mr. Tribe agreed, and moved that the curator be instructed to proceed with the forming and grading of the footpath round the upper lake, and to engage an extra man for that purpose.

The motion was carried, and the curator will also be instructed to trim the deciduous trees in the park, particularly on the western side of the lake.

The chairman undertook to obtain complete estimates for the installation of electric light in the curator's cottage. During the discussion on this question Mr. Tribe (as mentioned in the local columns) resigned the position of secretary and left the room.

Mr. Ford was appointed overseer for the ensuing month.

TH, NOVEMBER 7, 1917 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of Pukekura Park was held in the Soldiers' Club, New Plymouth, on Tuesday evening. Those present were: Messrs. R. C. Hughes (chairman), W. L. Newman, Harris Ford and E. H. Tribe (hon. secretary).

Mr. R. Cock was granted leave of absence.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

In his report the curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that since the last meeting of the board the staff had made good progress with the general work of the park. As directed, the walk round the upper lake had been reformed, and the banks of the lake cleared of all rough and unnecessary growth, making a great improvement. Since the completion of that work the mowing of the rough grass

on the hill walks on the east side of the lakes was continued. The hollow on the left of the Carrington Road entrance had been grubbed, and the rubbish heaped ready to be fired as soon as the weather allowed. The trees overhanging Phillis Street, opposite Mr. Coker's residence, were successfully felled on October 30, with no damage to native trees. The felled pines would be cut up during the next few weeks and sold as firewood. Mr. J. R. Hill put in five hours' work, and gave practical assistance in the felling. The thick growth of gorse on the same hill was now being grubbed. Some of the posts supporting the heavy iron fence on the Phillis Street frontage were giving way, and would require to be supported shortly by sinking other posts near them. Should the board consider the proposal to remove the heavy fence and to replace it with a lighter one, the sheet iron would realise a considerable sum. During the month a large packet of seeds was received from an unknown donor. The plants ordered from Mr. Wragge, of Auckland, came to hand on October 23, and were planted out in the beds near the lower lake. The sum of 3s 2d had been collected from the donation box at the park. He had received an offer from Messrs. Webster Bros. of an iron-framed seat which had been the property of the late Mr. H. A. Cholwill.

The report was adopted.

REPAIR WORK.

The secretary reported on the repairs at the tea-rooms and other works. Upon removing the rubberoid roofing of the tea-rooms it was found that water had got through and the woodwork underneath was in a very bad state. Portions affected had been removed and replaced. The iron which came off the shed was being put on in place of the rubberoid roofing. Upon taking up the verandah of the bathing-house it was found that the piles, ground plates and floor joists were rotten, and these would have to be replaced. The under-structure of the whole building, which had been up 40 odd years, was unsound. The concrete piles for the boat landing were made, and were drying.

GENERAL.

The secretary, in reporting on the financial position, said that the credit balance at the bank at date was £204 10s 5d. Against this was the curator's salary for the past month, £13, cost of the concrete steps £25, and repairs to the bathing-house and tea-rooms, the cost of which he roughly estimated at £30. This left a balance of £136 10s 5d, and the borough subsidy amounting to £37 10s would be coming in shortly.

Several works for the improvement of the grounds were authorised to be carried out during the present month.

Mr. Ford, who was visitor for the past month, reported that the work which had been done at the upper end of the lake, near the Brooklands boundary, was a great improvement, and opened up a very beautiful part of the park. The paths leading through that part had been very obstructed, but they had now been cleared and the grass and rubbish covering the grounds cleared away. Mr. Ford also said that he had succeeded in selling the old boat lying by the lake for 12s 6d, and it had since been removed.

Mr. Ford will continue to superintend during the present month.

It was mentioned that the two boats, which had been laid up for the winter months, were now on the lake again for hire.

The offer of a seat from Messrs. Webster Bros. was accepted with thanks.

The chairman read a letter from Mr. Tribe resigning from the position of hon. secretary and treasurer. After reviewing the circumstance at the previous meeting which led to his action, Mr. Tribe concluded that he felt it useless to remain any longer with the board. It was decided to leave any action till next meeting, as there was not a full attendance of members.

Accounts totalling £18 16s 7d were passed for payment.

TH, NOVEMBER 14, 1917
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A special meeting of the board of trustees of the Pukekura Park was held in the Soldiers' Club last night, when there were present: Messrs R. C. Hughes (chairman), S. Percy-Smith, H. Ford, C. E. Bellringer, W. A. Collis, J. W. Hayden and W. L. Newman. The curator, Mr. W. W. Smith, was also in attendance.

The question of accepting Mr. E. H. Tribe's resignation from the position of secretary was considered. Mr. Percy Smith moved, and Mr. Hayden seconded, that a letter be sent to Mr. Tribe, thanking him for his services for two terms, and accepting his resignation.—Carried.

It was resolved that Mr. Alfred Gray be appointed hon. secretary and treasurer to the board, and that he be authorised with the chairman to sign cheques upon the board's banking account.

It was decided that the mirror waterfall be reconstructed in concrete, under the supervision of Mr. Percy-Smith and the curator.

A special report from the curator was considered, and he was authorised to complete repairs to the tea room and bathing house.

TH, NOVEMBER 27, 1917
SAD OCCURRENCE
DEATH OF MRS. F. HARTNELL.

It is our painful duty to-day to chronicle the death of Mrs. Alice Maud Hartnell, wife of Captain Frank Hartnell, who is serving with the forces in France. Mrs. Hartnell had been in indifferent health for some years, and during the last three months gradually became worse. She was attended by Dr. Wade and was an inmate of Nurse Charteris' hospital at Fitzroy. She left the hospital about three days ago. Last night, at about 10 o'clock, when she was in bed, her daughter was speaking to her and ascertained that she was feeling very much better. The family then retired for the night. A little after five this morning, one of the boys went into Mrs. Hartnell's room to get permission to go for a swim, and found that his mother was missing. A search was made, and a relative who was hurrying to Pukekura Park found that his surmise was only too true, as the body had just been found in the big lake by Mr. W. W. Smith.

The deepest sympathy is felt for Captain Hartnell and the family. Mrs. Hartnell was a Miss Hopkins.

TH, NOVEMBER 28, 1917
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
ANNUAL ATHLETIC SPORTS.

TO-MORROW! TO-MORROW!
IN THE PUKEKURA PARK.

A Cordial Invitation is extended to all Parents and Friends of the Pupils of the College.

Sports commence at 11.15 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Afternoon Tea 6d (proceeds in aid of Sports Fund).

R. OLIVER.
Hon. Secretary.

TDN, MARCH 22, 1917
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A special meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last night. Present: Messrs R. C. Hughes (chairman), W. L. Newman, H. Ford, W. A. Collis, W. F. Short, J. W. Hayden, and A. Gray (hon. secretary). Leave of absence was granted to Messrs R. Cook and C. E. Bellringer.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that the weather had been favorable to the work, which had progressed well. The chief work had been mowing grass, grubbing gorse, and burning rubbish. The walks around the upper lake had been edged, hoed, and cleaned. The gale had done no damage beyond strewing the park with rubbish. The tea-rooms had been roofed with corrugated iron, and the verandah of the tool shed had been renewed. Both roofs had been painted. A painter had suggested that the floor of the new verandah should be oiled instead of painted. The contractors were constructing the new boat landing steps in concrete, and the material was now on the ground for building the new waterfall flowing from the upper lake. The electric light department were now fixing the wires along the Carrington Road walk, and this work would be finished on Thursday. In view of the Christmas holidays approaching he intended to effect improvements between the tea-rooms and the racecourse. He thanked the board for holiday leave from the 1st to the 12th inclusive.

GENERAL.

The application of the Citizens' Band for the use of Pukekura Park on the evening of December 6 was acceded to.

It was decided to ask the band to state definitely their proposals for further assisting the board in the lighting arrangements for evening concerts, etc., in the park.

Discussion took place regarding the financial position of the board, and it was decided to meantime dispense with the services of one of the workmen. The chairman strongly opposed this.

It was decided to increase the curator's salary by £26 per annum.

The chairman reported having seen Mr. Messenger with regard to the mirror waterfall. He had also interviewed the inspector of police with regard to destruction of the board's property, and the inspector had stated his willingness to assist in every way.

The chairman was authorised to arrange re the lease of the tea-rooms.

A request from the band fete committee for two members of the Life Saving Society to use the lake for demonstration purposes, and an application by Mr. Mellroy, acting headmaster of the Central School, for permission for boys to bathe, were both granted.

Messrs Hayden and Short were appointed a committee to report on the fence on the west side of the Lizard Street entrance.

TH, DECEMBER 7, 1917
CHRISTMAS BENEFIT CONCERT.

Last year an excellent custom was inaugurated in New Plymouth, it being the raising of a fund to provide a Christmas box for each member of the Citizens' Band, and this year's effort in this connection was made in Pukekura Park on Thursday evening, when a Christmas benefit recital was given. The members of the band during the year put in more time than one cares to think of in practising and playing in public, much of this being in connection with patriotic efforts, and for this they get nothing but what is subscribed at the end of the year specially for them. In view of this it is only right that those who are able to should show practical appreciation of the self-sacrifice which the band makes. The fund is being held open till Saturday and till then donations may be handed to Mr. H. R. Cattley, Mr. E. Sole, or the conductor (Mr. McLeod).

The band had an excellent programme before it on Thursday evening and the players acquitted themselves with credit. The suite "La Belle France" (Pecorini) is an exceedingly pretty piece of music and is welcome whenever played. A very fine selection, which had not previously been played by the band under the present conductor, was Mozart's "Kyrie and Gloria, 12th Mass," and it was excellently interpreted. A cornet solo, "Australis," by Musician R. F. Taylor, was a masterly piece of work and elicited an emphatic encore. The duet "Excelsior," given by Musicians A. Handley and H. Hedley, was also very finely played. The musical mixture, "A Melodious Revue" (Rimmer), which contained thirty different tunes, and in connection with which there was a competition, was thoroughly enjoyed. A number of carols played at the latter end were by no means the least popular portion of the programme. They were "Hark the Merry Bells," "While Shepherds Watch," "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," "O! Come All Ye Faithful," "Christians Awake," "Abide With Me"—all old favourites, and by special request the hymn for absent friends, "Holy Father, by Thy Mercy," was given. The beauty of the park and a perfectly calm evening helped materially in providing enjoyment for the large number of people present.

Thirty-three slips were handed in in connection with the competition for guessing the names of the tunes in the "Melodious Revue," and those who picked out the greatest number of tunes were: Mrs. J. D. Crooke, 18 correct tunes; A. Elliot, 16; Miss K. Hamerton, 16; Mrs. D. Thomson, 14; Miss Ford, 14; Thelma Land (aged 14), 13; G. L. Manners, 13; Mrs. E. Fuller, 12.

TH, DECEMBER 18, 1917

NEW PLYMOUTH CITIZENS'
BAND CARNIVAL.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1917

AT PUKEKURA PARK,
NEW PLYMOUTH.
(To Start at 11 a.m.)

PROCEEDS IN AID OF BAND-ROOM
BUILDING FUND.



Pathway from Liardet Street to the main lake passing by the pergola (NPDC, Parks Dept).

1918

On November 11, 1918, the Armistice agreement was signed ending WW1. This was celebrated in New Plymouth a few days later with a procession through town ending in the Park. The celebration coincided with the Spanish Flu making its presence felt in New Plymouth, but the parade went ahead even though other events that week were postponed due to the influenza epidemic.

The Board suffered two departures during the year. Percy Smith resigned after sixteen years and W. L. Newman resigned after serving for twenty-four years, both made significant contributions during their tenures. One of the replacements was the Mayoress, Mrs Burgess. Mrs Burgess had been very involved in fundraising for the Park for many years and was familiar with the issues the Board faced. She would prove to be a major asset for the Board. Having a lady on a Board must have been unusual back then.

There was a push to develop a fernery. The site chosen was near where the Fernery is today. At the time they knew of about sixty-four varieties of ferns indigenous to Taranaki, and about half of them were in the park. This was part of a bigger scheme to develop the valley leading from the Tea House to the racecourse. The plan was to have an entrance – an archway of native creepers – made from the path leading up to the racecourse, leading to a fernery which was to be the finest in the Dominion. Higher up it was intended to complete the lake which had been started some years previously. Walks were to be formed along the surrounding banks. It was anticipated that the changes would make this one of the most picturesque and interesting sections of the park. During the year the curator completed the preparation for the fernery and planted a number of ferns there, some of which he collected himself from Whangamomona. The building however did not go ahead.

There were two rose beds in the park, one behind the tea house and the other in the Palm Lawn area. Due to the constant theft of roses, it was decided to move the plants from behind the tea house to the Palm Lawn bed. It was thought that people would be more exposed there and therefore less likely to take the plants.

Plant Donations:

Messrs A. Shield and W. Smith, selection of young native trees; Mrs Lawson, New Plymouth; Mrs Smith, Hurworth; Mr Billing, Frankleigh; Mr Allan, High School, Ashburton; Mr W Smith, Whangamomona; Mrs J. Wheeler and Mr R. Cock, Vogeltown, all donated a selection of plants. Captain Waller, plants from Chatham Islands; Mr Layard, Pungarehu, native plants; Mr Shippey, roses; a parcel of seeds from the Mokau district and native plant seeds from an unknown donor living in the Awakino district.

Summary of significant events

- W. L. Newman resigned from the Board, having been a member since 1894
- Mrs C. H. Burgess appointed to the Board to replace Newman
- A motor gymkhana to raise funds, was extremely successful
- The Board give the racecourse a piece of land to build a new curator's cottage. The house still stands at the back of the TSB Stadium carpark
- Percy Smith resigned from the Board
- The curator starts developing a fernery.



Stephenson Percy Smith rowing on the main lake - circa 1918. F.G.R.- 6004.

(Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections 35-R926.)

TH, JANUARY 9, 1918
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met last night. Mr. R. C. Hughes presided, and there were also present Messrs. S. Percy Smith, W. L. Newman, C. E. Bellringer, H. Ford, W. W. Smith (curator), and A. Gray (secretary). An apology for the absence of Mr. R. Cock was received.

CURATOR'S REPORT

The curator reported that since the last meeting of the board the staff had been engaged chiefly in mowing the long grass, grubbing gorse, and general clearing up. The concrete steps at the lower end of the large lake had been concreted as a boat landing stage, and the concrete waterfall and boulder basin near the water-lily lake were completed. The Vogeltown and racecourse walks had been broadened. The staff had devoted five and a half days to mowing and preparing parts of the sports grounds for the Citizens' Band carnival, and clearing up after it. No damage had been done to the grounds by the carnival. Maintenance work had been proceeded with, in spite of a member of the staff being away for a month. The present season necessitated continual mowing of grass, and when that work ceased off the re-forming of the St. John street walk would be proceeded with. The number of visitors to the park had in no way diminished during the past holidays. Some donations had been received, and a friend of the park, who remains anonymous, had sent a fine parcel of seeds from the Mokau district. Some of the tree-ferns had felt the drought of December, but had revived under the recent rains.

GENERAL

It was agreed that Mr. Bellringer and the secretary should act as a sub-committee for the purpose of raising funds for the erection of the Vogeltown entrance gates, and to have authority to proceed with the construction of the same.

Mr. Bellringer moved that the Park Board decides to proceed as soon as possible with the completion of the new lake, the formation of a fernery, and the general improvement of the grounds. The motion was seconded by Mr. Percy-Smith and carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Bellringer that a fete day in aid of the park funds be held late in February, and that a sub-committee be set up to make the necessary arrangements in connection with the same. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ford and carried.

It was resolved that the Citizens' Band be asked to arrange a series of evening concerts to be held in the park.

The secretary reported that the following donations had been received during the month: Anonymous 2s 6d; Mr. Williams 10s; Mr. Ridgley (Terminus Hotel) 5s; Mr. Potts (Imperial Hotel) 30s. The sum of 19s 11½d was collected from the donation boxes in the hotels, 13s 4d coming from the Imperial Hotel box.

The question of vehicles driving up to the tea kiosk was discussed, and in view of a flagrant breach of the by-laws reported by a member of the board, it was decided to place the matter in the hands of the board's solicitors.

Accounts amounting to £11 5s 1d were passed for payment.

TH, JANUARY 9, 1918
ROSE BED TO BE TRANSPLANTED

"Owing to the persistent theft of roses from the rose bed I propose to transplant them later into what is now the flax bed containing the 40 varieties of flax. They will be more exposed to public view and under better observation than where they are at present." Extract from the monthly report of the curator of Pukekura Park.

TDN, JANUARY 9, 1918
POSSIBLE FERNERY DEVELOPMENT

PUKEKURA PARK.

We are pleased to see that the Pukekura Park Board is turning its attention to further improving its beautiful grounds by establishing a fernery. Mr. C. E. Bellringer brought up the matter at Tuesday's meeting, remarking that the Park offered facilities for establishing a fernery second to none in New Zealand. Taranaki is perhaps more favored than any other part of New Zealand in regard to ferns, the favorable climate, of course, being mainly responsible. Sixty-four varieties are indigenous to the province out of a little over a hundred varieties existing in the whole of the Dominion. There is no reason at all why all varieties should not have a place in the Park, which is already a botanical treasure house. It would be an additional source of interest to visitors, and an educational asset for our own people, especially the children, who could not be interested in a more valuable or more engaging hobby. The gullies of the Park, not the least interesting feature of the grounds, are very suitable for a fernery. Mr. Bellringer's idea is to utilise the gully just below the people's stand of the racecourse, and a more picturesque spot could not be found. Here there is the necessary water, the shade and accessibility. It will, of course, cost money. Mr. Bellringer suggests the public should be approached for a definite sum for the purpose, and expresses the belief that the response will be ready and adequate. We are sure he is right, for the people of the town and district realise more than ever what a glorious heritage and valuable asset they have in the park, and have never turned aside any appeal made on its behalf. A "Park Day" for the special purpose of the fernery could be made with the greatest confidence, and we trust the Board will interest the many institutions that have benefited by the Park in the past and arrange a gala day or something of the sort to raise the necessary funds. Let us add that in the present curator the town has a specialist whose heart and soul is in the grounds, and his knowledge and experience should be availed of to a greater extent than it has been. We would like to see him given the direction of all the scenic spots, reservations and beaches of the town—acting generally as town beautifier. There is no place where there is greater scope for his talents and no place that would respond more readily or lavishly.

TDN, JANUARY 17, 1918
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposals of the Pukekura Park Board with regard to the adoption of a more progressive policy for the development of the grounds are already meeting with the support from the public. Since the matter was ventilated at the last meeting of the Board several offers of assistance have been made, and it is expected that when the general public clearly understand the nature of the work that is contemplated there will be a liberal response to the appeal that the Board intends to make for funds to carry out its programme. That the grounds are a valuable asset, not only to New Plymouth, but to the whole of Taranaki, has long been recognised, and there need be no hesitation in making the appeal a far-reaching one. The park is not merely a pleasure ground; it is an educational institution, and affords facilities for botanical research which in some respects cannot be surpassed.

The scheme which the Board contemplates carrying out deals principally with the valley lying immediately below the grandstand at the racecourse. The development of this section of the grounds is not a new idea. It has been urged by Mr. Percy Smith for many years, but lack of funds has delayed the undertaking. The matter was brought up again by Mr. C. E. Bellringer at the last meeting of the Board, when he advocated a comprehensive scheme for improving the valley referred to, urging that the time had come for a more vigorous policy of development. He expressed his belief that the general public would support the Board in adopting such a policy. The work includes the making of a fernery for which, according to the curator (Mr. W. W. Smith), there is no more ideal spot than that on the left-hand side at the entrance to the valley. Already a good deal of excavating has been done just there, and the remaining work of that nature requiring to be done would not be very considerable. Some trees which are exhausted will have to be taken away and other transplanted. When the work is completed and the entrance—an archway of native creepers—made from the path leading up to the racecourse, there will have been created a fernery which will become one of the finest in the Dominion. Higher up it is intended to complete the lake which was started some time ago. Walks will be formed along the surrounding banks, and when the ferns and trees, which it is intended to plant, have become established this corner will form one of the most picturesque and interesting sections of the park. The valley lends itself admirably to such a scheme as is proposed. From the top, standing on the bank immediately below the racecourse—which, by the way, is to be made a special fern bank—and looking down the valley, the picture is a particularly pleasing one, and when, under the skilful guidance of the curator, the Board's proposals have been completed, it is safe to say the policy will receive universal endorsement.

To carry out the work a sum of several hundred pounds will be required, and the Board proposes holding a fete towards the end of next month to help raise the amount aimed at. In addition, it is intended to arrange a series of fortnightly evening concerts, and the assistance of the Citizens' Band is being sought in this direction. It was resolved to approach the Borough Council for a subsidy of £250. The Board is bent on making the appeal a popular one, and details are being considered for the carrying out of the proposed fete next month.

TH, FEBRUARY 6, 1918
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met on Monday night. Present: Messrs. R. Cock (in the chair), H. Ford, C. E. Bellringer, J. W. Hayden and A. Gray (hon. secretary).

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The report of the curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) was as follows:—

"As in the previous month the chief work of the board's staff has been that of mowing the heavy growth of long grass and burning it. The walks on Cannon Hill have been reformed and widened, with improved result. The walk to the racecourse has been further widened in parts, and graded. We now propose to proceed with the widening and reforming of the walk leading up to John Street from the triangle bed at the Sports Ground. We are mowing the area at present. When mown and cleared the work will be proceeded with. The walk up the hill in the Sports Ground is completed. I would call the attention of the board to the present condition of the Sports Ground. As we cannot possibly hope to mow the ground with scythes it will be necessary to procure a horse and horse mower to do the work. Some of the very objectionable grasses are now in flower. They should therefore be mown to prevent them from seeding, and the grass promptly raked and burned. The terraces will also have to be cut, to prevent the weeds growing on them from seeding. This work could be done with scythes. Owing to the great growth of the general vegetation of the park the heat, on certain days, dried and shrivelled the foliage of a number of plants. The temperature on January 27 (81 degrees in the shade) shrivelled the leaves of the water-lilies. Growing in the deep bed of humus under the water the plants grow with phenomenal vigour, causing the floating leaves to crowd in a dense mass and rise out of the water. Such is of rare occurrence. The lily lake is more like a bed of lotus on the Nile than one of water-lilies in New Zealand. The blooms have been very plentiful and very large this season."

Mr. Gray said that owing to the Technical College vacation the grass in the Sports Ground had not been cut for some time, but it would be done at once.

Mr. Bellringer thought some arrangement should be made to have the grass cut during the Technical College vacation. When it was long and untidy it gave visitors the impression of a dirty front door. The corrugated iron fence was another eyesore. He thought it would be much better to pull the fence down and sell the iron, which at the present time would bring in from £50 to £60. In its place climbing roses could be grown—Mr. Smith was an adept at growing them—and with punga posts, etc., it would be a thing of beauty instead of the present hideosity. In reply to a question, Mr. Bellringer said that by the time football matches were played on the ground again the roses would provide just as good a screen as the present fence. He intimated that he would bring the matter up at a later meeting. Considerable discussion took place on the need for funds with which to carry out the board's improvement schemes. It was unanimously agreed that something would have to be done, and that an appeal by the board would not be unheeded by the people of the town and district.

On the motion of Messrs. Bellringer and Hayden it was resolved that a fete be held in the park on March 7, and that a committee be set up to make arrangements.

The Chairman, Messrs. Cock, Hayden and Bellringer were accordingly appointed.

It was decided to ask the Mayoress to take charge of the tea arrangements.

TDN, FEBRUARY 9, 1918
PARK FETE DAY

A meeting of ladies convened by the Mayoress (Mrs. C. H. Burgess) was held at the Soldiers' Club yesterday afternoon for the purpose of considering arrangements for assisting the Pukekura Park Board in connection with the gymkhana which it has been decided to hold on March 7 for the purpose of raising funds to improve the park grounds. Mrs. Burgess presided, and there were about a dozen ladies present. Mr. R. C. Hughes and Mr. C. E. Bellringer, members of the Park Board, were present and explained to the ladies the board's scheme, which for the present was concerned mainly with the valley leading up to the racecourse and the improvement of the entrance to the park.

The ladies heartily endorsed the proposals of the board, and undertook to take the entire supervision of the refreshments and sweets stalls on the day of the fete.

It was pointed out that the gymkhana would be held on the racecourse, and that the Taranaki Jockey Club had placed their tea kiosk and all the equipment connected therewith at the disposal of the ladies. Those present formed themselves into a committee for carrying out the work in connection with the undertaking. It was decided to ask the various schools to undertake the organisation and control of the sweet stalls.

TH, FEBRUARY 12, 1918
PARK FETE DAY

A meeting of a committee of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the office of the chairman on Monday to take measures to promote the success of the forthcoming fete, to be held on March 7. It was decided to invite the co-operation of a number of energetic citizens, also the proprietors of motor garages and motor-car owners. They will be asked to meet the full board next Monday evening. The fete will be on the lines of similar gatherings held in the Old Country and also in New Zealand.

TH, FEBRUARY 12, 1918
MAYOR'S HONORARIUM

The Mayor (Mr. C. H. Burgess) intimated at the meeting of the Works Committee of the Borough Council on Monday night that he did not intend to accept any honorarium for the current year, and asked whether the council would consider granting the usual amount (£150) as a subsidy to the Pukekura Park Board. He considered that the park needed to be made attractive to the people, and not only to scientists who were interested only in the trees and shrubs. The board was having a pretty hard fight, and had not the same ways of raising money as the beaches. The council decided that the amount should be granted as a subsidy to the Pukekura Park Board on condition that it is expended in the park in such a manner as his Worship the Mayor shall direct.

TDN, FEBRUARY 9, 1918
FINED FOR DRIVING IN THE PARK

When A. Hardgreave was charged in the Magistrate's Court this morning, on the information of the chairman of the Pukekura Park Board, with driving an express on a path in Pukekura Park, Mr. J. H. Quilliam, who appeared for the board, said that defendant admitted having driven on the path, and the object of the board in taking proceedings was to show that vehicles must not be driven on the paths. The magistrate merely convicted defendant, and ordered him to pay the costs (£8). This case will impress on people that it is against the rules of the park to drive on any of the paths, even when, as on this occasion, a load of ginger beer has to be taken to the tea kiosk. In such cases, it is understood, a truck is available.

TH, FEBRUARY 19, 1918
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A special meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Monday evening. Present: Messrs. R. C. Hughes (in the chair), H. Ford, C. E. Bellringer, and S. Percy Smith.

The town clerk wrote stating that the Mayor having intimated that he did not intend to accept any honorarium for the current year, the council had decided that a further subsidy of £150 be granted to the Pukekura Park Board, upon condition that this amount be expended in the park in such manner as the Mayor shall direct.

Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Hughes seconded, that the very hearty thanks of the board be tendered the Mayor and council for the very handsome donation to the board's funds, and that the board will be pleased to spend the money in consultation with his Worship.

It was resolved that the borough council's application for use of the grounds for a concert on Thursday evening be granted.

Mr. Hughes gave notice of motion: "That at all fetes and concerts in future the board demand a portion of the gate money."

Mr. W. L. Newman wrote resigning his seat on the board. Circumstances prevented him taking an active part as trustee, but as a member of the community he would be pleased to do all in his power to help the board.

Mr. Hughes moved, and Mr. S. Percy Smith seconded: "That the board receives with much regret the notification of Mr. Newman's resignation, and desires to place on record its deep appreciation of his valuable services during a long term of years."

Consideration of Mr. J. O. Steffen-son's letter asking for permission to drive his express in the board's grounds to facilitate delivery of goods to the kiosk was held over until next meeting.

TH, FEBRUARY 22, 1918
BAND RECITAL

GLORIOUS EVENING IN PARK.

In Pukekura Park on Thursday the Citizens' Band gave another of the series of evening recitals which are serving to popularise the park and bring home to people how pleasant it is to have an efficient band at their disposal on the various occasions when a gathering, no matter of what sort, would be colourless without music. Pukekura Park is a beautiful and rest-

ful place in the evening, but it would have attracted few—those few who like not crowds—on Thursday evening if the strains of old and new favourites in the musical world had not floated out from the band rotunda and pervaded the surrounding walks and tree-covered slopes.

The attendance was not as large as it has been at previous recitals in the park, but those who were there thoroughly enjoyed the very fine programme which the band played. Included were the topical march, "The British Flag" (Rimmer) and the fantasia "Scotia" (Anderson), which between them contain snatches of many well-known old English, Welsh and Scotch airs, of the "Rule Britannia," "Men of Harlech" and "Loch Lomond" type, and it is safe to say that such melodies as these which were favourites in days gone by still occupy the same position in our hearts and are always welcomed on a musical programme. A quickstep, "Gippsland" (Lithgow) and a selection, "Normanhurst" (Greenwood) were played in public for the first time, and the other pieces given were: Concert waltz, "Queen of the Dance"; march, "Bravo the Anzacs" (Rimmer); and the cornet solo "A Perfect Day," by Bandsman H. Voght, which was given in response to a request from the audience.

The bandsmen had spent the afternoon playing at the East End beach, and the excellent music which they contributed in the evening was the conclusion of a hard and devoted day's work on their part.

TH, FEBRUARY 25, 1918 MOTOR GYMKHANA

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

PUKEKURA PARK GYMKHANA.

FUNDS IN AID OF PARK.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1918.

MOTOR GYMKHANA.

Monster Procession from Devon Street to the Park.

Great Attractions for Children.
AQUATIC SPORTS ON THE LAKE.
Afternoon Tea under the management of the Mayoress (Mrs. C. H. Burgess).
Band Recital in the Evening. Vocal Items from the Band Rotunda.

Prices of Admission.—Afternoon: Adults 1s, Children 6d, Children under 12 free.
Evening: Adults 6d, Children Free.

TH, MARCH 8, 1918 MOTOR GYMKHANA REVIEW

In contrast to the prevailing winds of the past week, the weather yesterday was as calm as it possibly could be, and was particularly favorable for the Pukekura Park gymkhana. It is now many years since the board held a fete in the park for its own benefit. In the early days this means of raising money was often adopted, and with invariable success, and with the funds thus obtained much important work was done. On the present occasion the board was encouraged by the hearty offer of assistance from Mrs. Burgess (the Mayoress), and ladies associated with her. The ordinary revenue of the board is not sufficient to warrant the employment of necessary men. The staff of the board consists of the curator, one man and a junior hand. Lately an extra man has been put on to cope with pressing work. Even now little more than maintenance can be expected. There are, however, many works which the board would like to take in hand, such as the proposed fernery, the completion of the new lake and swimming pond for beginners, modern sanitary conveniences, a sports pavilion with dressing rooms, a curator's lodge, and concrete steps leading to the terraces. The object of yesterday's fete was to raise money with which to carry out some of the proposed improvements. That the public approved the progressive policy decided upon by the board was evident from the manner in which yesterday's effort was supported. A strong committee of citizens was appointed to assist the board with the arrangements, and the whole thing was conceived and carried out in a manner that reflected great credit on those concerned. The secretarial work was undertaken jointly by Mr. A. Gray (secretary of the Park Board) and Mr. A. Bullians. Mr. P. E. Stainton was appointed marshal for the day. Strong sub-committees were formed to carry out the various sections of the programme, and all performed their tasks in such a way as to ensure success. The offer of the Mayoress (Mrs. Burgess) to organise the afternoon tea arrangements was a generous one, and the ladies under her direction yesterday did excellent work. Four tea stalls were set up, and all had a most busy time during the afternoon. The sweets stalls and ice creams were in the charge of the different schools, and these and the soft drinks were quite besieged, and had to have their supplies replenished several times. Throughout the afternoon the Junior Band added to the general enjoyment by contributing a programme of selections with its usual efficiency. Mr. F. W. C. McLeod conducted. The Park Board is greatly indebted, and desires to express its thanks, to all who assisted with the fete in any way, either by services rendered, goods supplied, or appliances loaned for the occasion.

Proceedings commenced with a procession of motor cars and motor cycles. Headed by the Citizens' Band, the procession left the Melbourne corner shortly after 1.30 p.m. The Mayor's car, driven and occupied by returned soldiers, was in the van. In all, some 27 cars and

motor-cycles took part, a touch of humor being added by a car from the Criterion garage, called the "Hum-Known," B.C. 625, and a number of riders of motor cycles were in fancy costume.

MOTOR EVENTS.

The motor events, as was expected, being something in the nature of an innovation for New Plymouth, created a great deal of interest. The first test consisted of driving a car through twelve obstacles, after which three pegs set in row had to be knocked down by the front right wheel, following on into a sheep race, from which competitors were required to back their cars out, the gentlemen being required to reverse over the whole of the course. A time limit of 2min 15sec. was allowed for completing the course. Competitors were awarded points for reducing the time, while to exceed the limit meant disqualification. Points were also given for missing all the obstacles, and for general style in driving.

In the ladies' class there were four entries, all the competitors showing considerable skill in handling their cars. The winner (Miss Hughes, of Waitara) covered the course in 1min 3sec, and succeeded in completing the test without touching any of the obstacles, and in knocking down the three pegs. Miss Tarry (Inglewood), second, covered the course in 55secs, but lost points through knocking down two flags.

In the men's class there were twelve competitors, and a wide variety of styles in the handling of cars was displayed. The time taken over the course varied from 1min 32sec to 2min 24sec. Only one competitor (F. Duckworth) succeeded in going round without touching any of the obstacles, and his time for the distance was 2min 10½sec. S. Holah covered the course in 1min 52.2-5sec, but knocked over one flag, and the judges considered the difference in the time of the two competitors was equalised by the fouling of the obstacle by Holah, and a tie was declared. In the final bout each of the competitors knocked down two flags, and the test was won practically, therefore, on time, F. Duckworth being first (1min 54½secs) and S. Holah second (1min 58½sec).

The motor-cycle obstacle race was, perhaps, the most entertaining item of the afternoon. Skill in riding, as well as versatility, were required by competitors. The test commenced with the removal of the spark plugs to 20 yards behind the starting point for the machines. At the word "go" the competitors had to leave their machines, get their plugs, fit them, start up and mount their machines. After riding a short distance they were required to dismount at a given line, place machines on stand, put 20 pumps of air into back tyre, and mount again. After riding another fifty yards they had to dismount, crawl under a pig net, remount, and ride over a further section of the circle. At the next stop they were required to eat a bun in the presence of an official, and when he was satisfied they had completed the operation they were allowed to proceed. The next obstacle was a hurdle, in the shape of a long strip of timber, resting near the

centre across a bag of sawdust, and the riders had to traverse the plank. Close to that was a line on which each rider had to stop, pick up four potatoes placed in a row, gather them into a tin (as in a potato race), and then carry the tin, suspended by fairly long cords, to the finishing post, with all the potatoes in it. The race was run in two heats, four starting in each heat. Most of the competitors managed the early stages of the race well enough, but the bun-eating proved a bigger obstacle than most of them suspected, and cost several of them a good deal of time. The plank riding presented little difficulty, most of the riders simply flying over. Gathering the potatoes was a more difficult proposition, however, and taxed most of the riders. The first and second in the two heats contested the final, which was a much cleaner and faster race than either of the heats. The result was: N. C. Fookes 1, C. Allan 2, Koca 3.

The slow-driving test for motor cars was not so interesting, though doubtless was somewhat exacting for the competitors. The event was an engine test, as well as a test of driving skill. The course was once round the recreation ground, and the prize was for the slowest time made. Any car that stopped on the way was to be disqualified. The result was: T. G. Thompson (3min 4sec) 1, S. R. Allen (2min 43sec) 2, A. J. Harvey (2min 26sec) 3.

Messrs T. C. List and W. P. Nicoll were the judges.

AQUATIC EVENTS.

The events on the lake were, as usual, an attractive section of the programme. The school children are always keen contestants in such sports, and the interest of parents and friends is wide, and almost as keen as that of the children themselves. The boat race, in which there were nine entries, created great enthusiasm, the winners being loudly applauded. Following are the results:

100 Yards Championship (boys under 18): O'Halloran 1, McKay 2, Rawson 3.
Primary Schools 50 Yards Championship (girls): P. Horsup 1, Edna Wilson 2, Belle Morris 3.

Primary Schools, 50 Yards Championship (boys): Watkins 1, Hoffmann 2, Downes and Oliver (dead heat) 3.

Boat Race: Rawson's crew, 1.
Mr. E. Whittle was judge.

FLAT RACES.

The flat races were also enthusiastically entered into, and in every event large fields entered, necessitating them being run in heats. Messrs E. Whittle and S. G. Smith were the judges. Following are the results:

Primary Schools Championship, 200 yards (boys): Mackay 1, Molloy 2, Rea 3.

220 Yards Championship (boys under 18): Beckbessinger 1, Hurley 2, Haut 3.

Primary Schools Championship, 100 yards (girls): Elsie Lynch 1, Apua Skipper 2, May Hayward 3.

50 Yards (girls): Winnie Reed 1, Ma-bel Whelan 2, Patty Milne 3.

100 Yards (girls): M. Julian 1, M. Lindsay 2, C. Knight 3.

100 Yards (boys): Boswell 1, Butler 2, Julian 3.

Potato Race (boys): Wilson 1, Miller 2, Hill 3.

OPEN-AIR CONCERT.

The fete was continued in the evening, when an open-air concert was given, which consisted principally of items by the Citizens' Band. There was a large attendance, the calm evening being admirably suited to such an entertainment. The grounds were brilliantly illuminated, the colored light effects on the bridge and their reflection in the waters of the lake being very pleasing. The band's items included the following: Quickstep, "Roll of Honor" (Lithgow); overture, "Latena" (Shersieff); selection, "H.M.S. Pinafore" (Sullivan); cornet solo, "Oh, Promise Me" (De Koven); soloist, Bandsman Voight; march, "Wagon Hill"; selection, "National Airs," including "Men of Harlech" by request; and finale, "Ravenswood" (Rimmer). Several selections on the bells were given by Mr. F. Souster. The items were somewhat of a novelty to New Plymouth audiences, and were greatly appreciated. The selections included "Larboard Watch" and a number of well-known hymn tunes. Some of the vocalists who were expected to take part were unable at the last minute to do so, and the only solos were given by Mr. R. L. Cooper, who sang "Shipmates o' Mine" and "There's a Land," for both of which he was encored.

FINANCIAL RESULT.

The takings yesterday resulted in a sum of about £132 being raised. That, of course, is an approximate figure. In addition, a number of donations were received, so that the board will have a sum possibly in the vicinity of £300, with which to commence work on its scheme of improvements. Details of yesterday's takings were: Gates, £47; tea and sweets, etc., £70; evening concert, £15.

TH, MARCH 20, 1918 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Soldiers' Club on Tuesday evening, Mr. R. C. Hughes, chairman, presiding. There were also present: Messrs. R. Cock, C. E. Bellringer, W. A. Collis, W. F. Short, H. Ford and A. Gray (secretary).

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator, reported on the work which had occupied the attention of the staff during the past month. He also referred to the park fete, and then went on to say that there had been considerable public comment on certain advertisements inserted in the local papers warning visitors and patrons against injuring the terraces in the sports ground. They certainly deterred, he said, many would-be patrons from attending the park fete and the schools' championships meeting held on the 14th. The recently erected boards placed at each entrance to the sports ground had also elicited much angry public comment. Two of them had already been levered out and thrown into the lower lake.

Respecting the proposed new fernery, he purposed devoting his time to preparing the site and procuring a collection of ferns. They had also much work to attend to in tree trimming and preparing for extensive planting during the coming season.

He again earnestly called the attention of the board to the very unsatisfactory and antiquated sanitary arrangements in the park.

The strong northerly to west gale blowing last night and to-day has wrought very little damage to the vegetation of the park. A few fern trees are broken and numerous light branches and masses of leaves strewn the grounds.

He enclosed 6s 6d from the collection box.

An approximate statement was presented in connection with the recent fete, showing that it had resulted in about £120 being raised for the benefit of the park.

Reference was made to the resignation of Mr. W. L. Newman as a member of the board, and a discussion ensued as to the appointment of a successor to Mr. Newman. Eventually, however, the matter was deferred until the annual meeting.

The application of the Salvation Army for permission to use the park for a sacred concert to be given by a visiting band on Sunday, March 31, was granted.

The Chairman then referred to the board's indebtedness to those who had assisted at the fete, and moved as follows: "That the thanks of the board be tendered to all those who by personal services and by subscriptions rendered the late fete such a success; the board specially recognises the assistance of the Mayoress and her lady helpers, and asks her to convey to them its appreciation; the board also expresses appreciation of the work of Mr. Milne in attending to the illuminations and especially to the effective lighting of the Post's Bridge; the board also specially recognises the valuable assistance of the Park Fete Committee and its secretary (Mr. Bullians), and Mr. Hoffmann and those who assisted him at the gates; it also expresses its great indebtedness to the Citizens' Band and its conductor (Mr. F. W. G. McLeod) for their cheerful services rendered during the afternoon and evening.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Cock and carried unanimously.

TH, April 11, 1918 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met at the Soldiers' Club on Tuesday evening, Mr. R. C. Hughes (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Messrs. C. E. Bellringer, W. F. Short, H. Ford and A. Gray (secretary).

Mr. W. W. Smith (curator) reported that since last meeting the staff had been engaged chiefly in clearing rubbish caused by the gale on March 19 and 20. One man had been continually employed grubbing gorse and wattle and reforming walks. Mowing and cutting down all rough growth in the bed of the new lake, and racecourse walk, occupied five days. The small wooden bridge at the head of the park and the lower waterfall bridge had both been repaired. The work as ordered by the board on its last visit to the grounds was being carried out. Regarding the present condition of the Sports Ground, he knew of no better method of grazing it than by horses. That would answer the purpose and return some revenue to the board. Now that the weather was suitable he proposed to undertake planting during the winter and autumn. Already a good consignment of young native trees had been received from Messrs. A. Shield and W. Smith, and these had been planted on suitable sites.

The New Plymouth Borough Council wrote stating it had been decided to increase the subsidy to the board from £150 to £200 for the year ending March 31, 1917, provided the board agreed to expend the additional £50

in the erection of public conveniences in the park.—It was decided to thank the council for its increased subsidy, and to notify them that the board was willing to expend the money in the direction indicated by the council, and also that the board would be glad to confer with the borough engineer on the matter, if the council would consent.

In connection with the construction of the landing steps in the lake and the waterfall, it was decided that the thanks of the board be tendered to Mr. Messenger for preparing the plans and supervising the work.

It was decided to hold the annual meeting of the board on Tuesday, May 7.

Accounts amounting to £3 16s 6d were passed for payment.

TH, April 23, 1918

W. W. SMITH—WEKA BREEDING

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator of Pukekura Park, has had marked success with wekas kept by him in captivity. "My tame wekas," he wrote on April 9 to Mr. Drummond, "have continued to lay at intervals since October 23. During the five months one female has laid more than three dozen eggs. The birds have been well fed on the best egg-producing food, in order to test their laying qualities. I have one that follows me about the house, but, on account of fear of dogs, I do not let it out often. The male weka, to its mates, is one of the most attentive and faithful birds known to Nature. Although this male during the summer months is supplied with ample meat and boiled eels, unless I am present to secure the newly-laid eggs he eats them with great gusto. The pair I am referring to were hatched on October 2, 1914. They were well-grown and handsome birds, and are very tame." Mr. Smith also has been successful in keeping kiwis in captivity. Of these, he writes: "They did not lay any eggs this season or last season. Owing to the high price of meat, I liberated three of the five in a large area of native bush, where they will find plenty of hulus and other good natural food. In the bush they usually frequent the sides of creeks, where they probe the moist soil for large worms. They undoubtedly are the greatest ornithological problem known to scientists."

TH, MAY 8, 1918

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD A.G.M

The annual meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Soldiers' Club on Tuesday evening, Mr. R. C. Hughes presiding. There were also present: Messrs. S. Percy Smith, C. E. Bellringer, H. Ford, R. Cock, W. A. Collis, W. F. Short, and A. Gray (secretary). Mr. A. Bullians (secretary of the Park Fete Committee) also attended.

ANNUAL REPORTS.

Mr. W. W. Smith (curator), in his annual report, said the past year had been marked by the general advancement of the park, and he proceeded to outline the improvements which had been carried out.

The Chairman, in his annual report, said the board could congratulate itself on having during the past year not only maintained but also on having effected substantial improvements. The

chief of these was the completion of the electric lighting of the park. The work had caused a drain on the board's funds and the sum of £43 12s 6d was still due to the Electric Light Department. The more important paths had also been reformed and graded and were a marked improvement. The paths improved were those leading from the lake up to the Vogeltown entrance, round Cannon Hill, from the Sports Ground to John Street, that on the east side of the upper lake, and that leading from the lower lake along the upper part of the western terraces of the Sports Ground. To extend the path running round the back of the gully that debouches into the Sports Ground on the east side, to the beautiful gully accessible from Fillis Street, he thought it would be desirable to acquire a section owned by an absentee. The concrete steps forming a landing at the upper lake were a great improvement, and so were the rock basin and concrete outlet for the fernery and waterfall. The board was indebted to Messrs. Messenger and Griffiths for their services in connection with these works. The Chairman stated that no collection would be made this year (other than for annual subscriptions), through funds having been raised by the fete held on March 7. The financial position was also improved by a generous donation of £150 by the Mayor of New Plymouth. The Borough Council had also added to its annual grant a further £50, making £200 in all. Generous gifts of plants and seeds had been received and acknowledged. Thanks were expressed to the Citizens' Fete Committee and to Mrs. Burgess and the ladies of her committee for their assistance at the fete. During the coming year the board should give attention to the terraces, which, from long neglect, had in some cases got into a deplorable condition. During his term of office he had aimed chiefly at preventing damage to the terraces and facilitating traffic across them by constructing steps in suitable places. The increased revenue enabled the board to look forward to the progress and development of the park with more confidence.

The statement of receipts and expenditure for the year ending March 31 showed total receipts £776 9s 11d, including balance brought forward of £76 0s 7d. The other chief items among receipts were: Park Saturday, £193 12s 1d; Park Fete, £148 14s 10d; C. W. Govett's estate, £100; Taranaki Jockey Club, £50; Borough Council subscriptions, £112 10s; subscriptions and donations, £30 9s 6d; and rents, £25. The expenditure totalled £571 6s 8d, the principal items being £392 18s 1d, for wages and salaries, £42 0s for the concrete steps and waterfall, £35 for electric light round lake, £32 18s repairs to shed, and £8 2s 9d expenses in connection with fete. The balance in bank and cash in hand amounted to £105 3s 3d, there being also £100 on deposit.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the reports and the balance-sheet.

Mr. Collis seconded and the motion was carried.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. R. Pepperell for having audited the accounts and he was also voted an honorarium of £1 1s.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Chairman, in accordance with notice, moved that in future the board require 25 per cent. of the gate takings of all public functions.

Mr. S. Percy Smith seconded the motion, observing that it always used to be the custom of the board to collect a percentage of the takings.

The Chairman said the board always collected 25 per cent. from the football people.

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During the discussion which ensued it was pointed out that it was not intended to make the levy in connection with patriotic functions.

The motion was carried.

The board decided, on the motion of Mr. Bellringer seconded by Mr. Short, to undertake the management of the boats itself this year instead of letting them out on terms.

Mr. C. O. Steffenson will be granted permission to cart refreshments to the tea-rooms provided he uses a light vehicle for the purpose, and it was further agreed that Mr. Steffenson's proffered annual donation of £1 be used in keeping the pathway in order.

Appreciative reference was made to the splendid work accomplished by Mr. Hughes during his term of office as chairman of the board, and he was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks.

Mr. Smith referred to the proposal to demolish the old building in the Courtenay Street school grounds and suggested in view of the great historical value of the building—one of the very oldest in the town—the board should seek permission to remove it to the park and re-erect it near the rose pergola on the Sports Ground.

After a short discussion it was decided that Messrs. Bellringer and Smith be a sub-committee to inquire into the matter.

The secretary was voted an honorarium of £5 5s.

In view of the fact that three boys who had been guilty of misconduct in the park had already suffered corporal punishment it was decided to instruct the board's solicitor to ask permission to withdraw summonses which had been issued against them.

Mr. A. Bullians (secretary of the Park Fete) submitted the balance-sheet in connection with the function showing a credit of £143 14s. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Bullians for his services as secretary.

Mr. Cock was appointed visitor for the month.

TDN, MAY 14, 1918

COUNCIL MEMBERS ON BOARD

STANDING COMMITTEES.

With the exception that Cr. Browne was appointed to the Pukekura Park Committee in place of Cr. Collis, the standing committees of the council were elected the same as for last year.

TDN, JUNE 5, 1918

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last night. Mr. C. E. Bellringer (chairman) presided, and there were also present: Messrs W. A. Collis, R. C. Hughes, H. Ford, A. Gray (secretary), and W. W. Smith (curator).

AN OLD LANDMARK.

Mr. Bellringer reported that in connection with the proposal to remove a portion of the old building at the rear of the Courtenay Street School and have it re-erected in the Park, in order to preserve an historic building, the Government had declined to undertake the expenditure (estimated at £75) of the removal and re-erection of the building.

In view of the Government's attitude, it was decided to take no further steps in the matter.

BAND AND GATE TAKINGS.

Messrs W. J. Penn and H. R. Cattley, representing the New Plymouth Citizens' Band, waited on the board in respect to the recent decision to charge a levy of 25 per cent. on the gate takings at all public functions held in the Park. Mr. Penn, who acted as spokesman, pointed out that the band, like the Park Board, was not a money-making concern—both organisations were for the benefit of the public. The band thought the decision was somewhat against the interests of both the band and the park, and hoped the board would reconsider its decision, at least so far as the band was concerned. The band needed funds, and if it was not able to keep up its finances, neither would it be able to keep its music up to the customary standard. The band did a lot of work for patriotic purposes, for which, of course, it received no fees, and the fees received from the few engagements available at present went chiefly to reimburse members for loss of time from their work, so that the members were practically giving their services gratuitously. They were at present engaged in a military scheme for a new band room, which had committed them to an expenditure of between £700 and £800, and hoped that until that matter was wiped out the board would be able to treat the band a little more leniently than its latest proposal indicated. He pointed out that if the board persisted in its decision, the band would not feel justified in going there for its entertainments, and no function there would be a success without the band's attendance.

The chairman replied that the board felt that it had not been treated altogether as it had a right to expect by the band, but he thought that if a committee was set up to confer with the band, a satisfactory solution of the difficulty could be reached.

Mr. R. C. Hughes said he strongly favored adhering to the decision of the board. He thought it much more businesslike to take a percentage of the gate takings, and to pay for the band's services when required.

It was eventually decided that a committee, consisting of Messrs Bellringer, Hughes, Collis, and Ford, with the secretary, be set up to confer with the Band Committee on the matter.

GENERAL.

It was decided to have the entrance roadway, from Fillis Street to the rose pergola, put in better order.

The secretary intimated that he desired the honorarium voted to him at last meeting to be devoted to some improvement to the sports ground.

The thanks of the board were expressed to Mr. Gray for his donation, and it was resolved to have the money expended in a way that met with the approval of the donor.

The curator reported on the work done in the grounds during the month.

Accounts amounting to £5 1s 6d were passed for payment.

TDN, JULY 4, 1918

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday night. There were present: Mr C. E. Bellringer (chairman), Mrs C. H. Burgess, Messrs W. A. Collis, R. Cock, and R. C. Hughes. The chairman welcomed Mrs Burgess and Mr Collis, whose appointments had been approved by the Governor-General.

The Citizens' Band Committee wrote stating that the band would assist the Board to hold a fete on December 27th next, provided the Band was given the free use of the grounds on Labor Day for a fete for the band funds.—It was decided to accept the offer, on the understanding that the board and the band refund the fees chargeable in each case.

The Taranaki Jockey Club wrote that their scheme for improving the entrance to the race course would necessitate the removal of the custodian's house from its present site, and asked the board to consent to the house being built on the piece of ground in the Park immediately behind the present house. In the event of consent being given, the club intimated that it was intended to build an up-to-date dwelling, which would conform with the other surroundings.—It was decided to grant the request, and Messrs Bellringer, Hughes and Collis were appointed to arrange the details.

The curator (Mr W. W. Smith) reported on the work done in the grounds during the month, amongst which had been the clearing of the front of Cannon Hill and planting it with tree ferns and rarer native plants. The entrance to the Park from the sports ground had been improved. When the weather was favorable it was proposed to erect the rustic gate at the Vogeltown entrance. The receipts for the month amounted to £1 16s 7d.

TH, AUGUST 7, 1918

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board of Trustees was held in the Soldiers' Club on Tuesday evening. Those present were: Mr. C. E. Bellringer (chairman), Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs. R. Cock, G. W. Browne, W. A. Collis, R. C. Hughes and A. Gray (secretary). An apology for the absence of Mr. H. Ford was received.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported as follows: Since the last meeting of the board the work of the park staff was much delayed by wet and stormy weather. The latter entailed a large amount of cleaning up and carting rubbish to the fire-pit. We have completed the planting of the west face of the Cannon Hill, in the meantime, until we are able to proceed to Katapipipihi and Whangamomona to procure more plants from the Native or national reserves. One of the staff spent five days in the sports ground repairing fences and preparing the semi-circle on the east side on the site of

which it is proposed to re-erect the present old pavilion . . . We propose to plant the sides of the semi-circle with high-stem tree ferns for immediate effect. We will also plant the present site of the pavilion when the latter is removed . . . During the month I received packages of plants from Mr. Lawson (New Plymouth), Mrs. Smith (Hurworth), Mr. Billing (Frankleigh), Mr. Allan (High School, Ashburton), and Mr. W. Smith (Whangamomona).

QUESTION OF TEA KIOSK.

The chairman brought up the matter of the tea kiosk, which had not been a financial benefit to the board. The question was whether the tea-rooms could not be made into a rest room and place for ladies. He mentioned that the borough council had given an extra £50 on the distinct understanding that it was to be spent in providing sanitary appliances for women.

Mr. Cock said that the objection to such a place, unless an attendant was in charge, was that it was liable to be abused by those not entitled to it, as was the case with beach sheds, and so on.

The chairman said he thought that the position was not quite as bad as Mr. Cock had said. If they were going on the idea that because somebody would abuse it they would not do a thing, they would never get anything done. Regarding the tea kiosk, £30 or £40 was spent a little while ago in putting it in order and never since it had opened had the board had a farthing returned from it.

After some further discussion, it was decided that the board should visit the park on Thursday, the 15th inst., and further consider the matter.

GENERAL.

On the motion of the chairman it was decided that the dressing shed should be removed from its present situation, where it was something of an eyesore, to the eastern side of the grounds.

The curator was authorised to spend a sum up to £10 in purchasing plants desirable to be planted in the park which might come under his notice.

It was decided that Messrs. Bellringer and Hughes should go into the question of rent for sections owned by the board and leased.

The condition of the sports ground and surrounding terraces and their care by the Technical College were alluded to, and it was finally decided that the matter should be further discussed on the 15th.

The chairman reported that the annual subscriptions totalled £72 8s 6d. At his suggestion it was decided to convey the thanks of the board to Mrs. Dockrill, Miss Stephenson Smith, Miss Percy Smith and Miss Curtis for their work in collecting.

A resolution was passed confirming the arrangement between the board and the Jockey Club for the exchange of portions of their grounds where they adjoin.

Mr. Hughes was appointed visitor for the ensuing month.

Accounts amounting to £2 1s 6d were passed for payment.

TH, SEPTEMBER 3, 1918
FANCY DRESS RUGBY TOURNAMENT
PATRIOTIC WORK - FUNDRAISER

The following are the teams for the fancy costume football burlesque, to be held on the Pukekura Park sports ground on Thursday next, commencing at 3 p.m.:—

A Team (the Roosters).—H. Moon, J. Brash, H. Urquhart, W. Dockrill, L. Hoffmann, R. Paul, F. Honan, E. Douch, L. B. Webster, D. Cameron (captain), J. Dwyer, J. Abbott, C. Fairbrother, Jack Lovell, W. Stevens, W. Wood, R. H. Bartley, W. Kelliher, Toby Turner, Fred Doughty.

B Team (The After-Thoughts).—C. Gray, W. Page, Fred Robertson, —, Day, F. Whitcombe, Pen Boyd, —, Payne, M. Armstrong, Bob Johnstone, —, Whitton, —, Dunstan, A. Avery, —, Smythe, —, Thomson, E. Clarke, D. Hughes, J. Eberlet, L. Morgan, J. Kenny.

Marshals.—L. A. Nolan, E. P. Webster, C. C. Ward.

Referee.—L. H. Clark.

Hon. Surgeon.—W. Jenkinson.

The teams, in costume, will meet at Hooker's sample rooms, and headed by the Citizens' Band, will march in procession to the grounds at 2 p.m.

During an interval of the game, an exhibition of aerial tight-rope walking will be given by Mr. J. Wood. Another novel item will be the obstacle race, for which 18 entries have been received. The competing boys may get their passes to the ground from Webster's Mart.

The ambulance outfit is in charge of The Continental Count, assisted by Dismal Jimmy, with equipment comprising the latest ideas from Europe, and the surgery practised by Dr. Dick will be among the more serious items of an otherwise ridiculously humorous entertainment.

TDN, SEPTEMBER 6, 1918
FANCY DRESS RUGBY TOURNAMENT
PATRIOTIC WORK - FUNDRAISER
£3000 CAMPAIGN OPENED.

The New Plymouth Pierrots opened auspiciously yesterday their campaign for the purpose of raising £3000 for local patriotic work, to be divided between the Patriotic Committee and the Women's Patriotic Committee.

The particular feature of the campaign curtain-raiser was a burlesque fancy-costume football match in the recreation ground. This turn proved a great interest-creator. The contestants, known as the "roosters" and the "after-thoughts," with their various appendages, foregathered in Egmont Street, from whence, headed by the Citizens' Band, they marched, in all their grotesque glory, to the playing arena. A large crowd gathered in the streets and followed the mirth-makers to the Park, where there was a large assemblage who thoroughly enjoyed an afternoon's full diversion. The teams took the field, led by a line umpire carrying a huge tri-color flag, and the respective sides lined up under their goal-posts and marched to meet each other in mid-field. Here, after being announced to the spectators by their chief crier, who spoke per medium of a big megaphone, they saluted each other in a war-cry of indistinguishable terms accompanied by appropriate gesticulations. The Mayoress was announced to give the "kick-off," and this opening item was the first of a series of highly amusing incidents cleverly arranged and well carried out

during the afternoon. The ball "kicked off" by the Mayoress proved to be a balloon, which, immediately it was released, sailed swiftly upwards and disappeared over the treetops, much to the pretended chagrin of many of the players. The costumes in which the players took the field were the most wonderful and weird creations imaginable, and to essay a description of them would be to attempt the impossible. The identity of the players was disguised about as completely as could possibly be effected. Throughout the game the referee showed a wholesome disregard for the rules of the game, and the players an even more wholesome disregard of the whistle, and the spectators were kept in shrieks of laughter throughout the afternoon. Wise provision had been made for possible exigencies of the play, and "Dr. Dick," with his limitless supply of "oxygen for winded footballers," was in constant demand. This was pumped into exhausted players with severity, and to such extent in one case that the anatomy of the "winded one" swelled so visibly that he was provided with a "bouncing" corpulency that sent everyone that came into contact with him off with a tremendous rebound. One of the most popular scores of the day was that made by "Charlie Chaplin," who received the congratulations of the whole field. The game, which was played in a number of spells, terminated in a draw, the score being 11 all. A try was scored just on the call of time, but the referee disallowed it and appealed to the public for a verdict on the point, and was unanimously "upheld" in his decision.

Throughout the game the services of the "ark of refuge," or horse ambulance, under the care at various times of Charlie Chaplin and the monkey of the party, was constantly requisitioned. One unfortunate occurrence during the game was a somewhat heavy collision between two players, in which Mr. W. Wood sustained a broken nose. Dr. Blackley was summoned, and attended to the injured man.

Amongst other items of attraction was an exhibition of tight-wire walking by Messrs Wood (2). This was much enjoyed by the spectators. One of the performers had the misfortune to fall, and, in doing so, his balancing-rod struck a boy somewhat sharply as he was seated on the small stand just close to the wire. He was not seriously hurt.

There was also an obstacle race for boys. This consisted in negotiating a sheep-net, raised up from the ground on four short posts, crawling under a big tarpaulin which had been pegged down to the ground, and also in getting under a rail, which was secured just a few inches from the ground. Finally, they had to sort out their boots and stockings, which had been mixed up in a barrel, put them on, and make the winning-post. The winners were: F. Newall 1, C. Hagenson 2, and Ken Taylor 3.

Another diversion was announced as the "rooster stunt," in which the big bird "swallowed" the length of "tubing" attached to "Dr. Dick's" oxygen outfit. Meanwhile his companion "hen" succeeded in laying a monster egg in a "nest" which had been specially set out in the middle of the grounds.

Throughout the afternoon various competitions were initiated, and a large number of the surprise packet envelopes were sold.

The Women's Patriotic Committee also had a sweets and flower stall, at which good business was done.

It is expected the outing will yield well over £100.

TH, SEPTEMBER 18, 1918
BAND CARNIVAL

LABOUR DAY, OCTOBER 28, 1918

MONSTER BAND CARNIVAL

PUKEKURA PARK.

A DAY FOR YOUNG AND OLD

Processions to Grounds. Day and Night
Masquerade Dancing in the Evening

FULL PARTICULARS LATER.

O. J. HOWARTH,
Hon. Sec., Band Carnival.

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TDN, OCTOBER 16, 1918
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was called for last night, but owing to there not being a quorum present the meeting formed itself into a committee and considered several matters. Mr. C. F. Bellringer (chairman) presided, and there were also present: Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs G. W. Browne, A. Gray (secretary), and W. W. Smith (curator).

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that during the month good progress had been made with general work; transplanting of trees and shrubs had been carried out, and the new lawn had been sown down in English grass. Preparations for the new fernery were completed, and the planting would take place as soon as the ferns were received. The planting of the banks near the sports ground shed had also been completed. He reported that prior to the recent football tournament the principal of the Boys' High School had sent down a squad of boys to cut the grass and generally clear up the ground. Notwithstanding the crowds that had attended, no damage had been one to the grounds. Plants had been received from Mrs. J. Wheeler and Mr. R. Cook (Vogel-town), Chatham Island plants from Captain Waller, Native plants from Mr. Layard (Pungarehu), and rose plants from Mr. Shippey.

In a supplementary report, it was stated that the principal of the Boys' High School had lent a horse, by means of which shingle had been carted and spread on many of the walks. The curator also said he had visited Whangamomona, and secured a number of rare specimens of Native ferns. Donations received amounted to £2 7s.

TH, OCTOBER 29, 1918 CITIZENS BAND CARNIVAL

WELL DESERVED SUCCESS.

Despite an overcast sky, no rain fell on Monday afternoon and the Citizens' Band Carnival in Pukekura Park proceeded merrily from half-past eleven until five o'clock. The attendance was large, over 2000 people paying for admission. The events on the programme were numerous and interesting, and the officials, who worked with a will, had a very busy six hours. It was regretted that one or two of the spectacular displays could not be given.

PROCESSION OF DECORATED EXHIBITS.

The judging of the procession exhibits was carried out by Mr. A. M. Bradbury, and the awards were made as follows:—

Best Working Exhibit.—New Plymouth Technical College.

Best Tradesman's Exhibit.—Hygienic Bakery 1, Leong Ting 2.

Best Decorated Motor-Car.—Mrs. W. Stephens.

Best Decorated Vehicle.—Mrs. Ennis (gig.)

Most Original Exhibit.—Dodge Brothers (tank) 1, C. McKay (bottle-oh) 2.

The decorative exhibits were judged by Mrs. E. Dockrill and Miss E. Rawson, the awards being made as follows:—

Best Decorated Pram.—Mrs. Roebuck 1, Mrs. A. Hill 2, Mrs. Howarth 3, Mrs. Thompson, h.c.

Best Decorated Doll's Pram.—Dorothy McKay 1, Hazel George 2, Isabel McKay and Del Roebuck (equal) 3.

Best Decorated Tricycle.—Douglas Roebuck and Robert Howarth (equal) 1.

Best Fancy Costume (boys).—Neville Bellringer (coster) 1, A. Howlett (poilu) 2, Neville Roebuck (mad batter) 3. Girls: Belle Ford (nurse) 1, Thelma Knott (fish wife) 2, Anceise Zemba (baller dancer) 3.

Most Original Display.—Misses Holt and Wallach (costermongers).

Most Original Juvenile Display.—Fred and Frank Harrison (model yacht).

The stewards in this section were Messrs. R. L. McIlroy and C. Ward.

TUG-OF-WAR.

Nineteen teams competed in the schools tug-of-war, the results being as follows:—

First Round.—West End F beat Technical College A (time 1min. 46sec.); West End B beat Frankley Road (30sec.); West End D beat Fitzroy (9sec.); West End E beat West End H (52sec.); Bell Block beat West End C (52sec.); West End A beat Central C (1min. 1sec.); Stanley Road beat Central B (1min. 8sec.); Technical B beat West End G (1min. 45sec.); West End F beat Central A (32sec.); West End B beat Central D (1min. 14sec.); West End D beat Omata (1min. 46sec.).

Semi-finals.—Stanley Road beat West End A (time 1min. 38sec.); Bell Block beat West End B (50sec.); Technical College B beat West End A (3min.); Bell Block beat Stanley Road (1min. 15sec.); West End E beat West End F (10sec.); West End E beat Technical College B (1min. 10sec.); Bell Block beat West End D (1min. 59sec.). Owing to West End A having pulled a second time instead of West End D, Bell Block sportingly agreed to pull the latter team.

Final.—Bell Block beat West End E (1min. 17sec.) The Bell Block team consisted of: Claude Jeffrey, John Polletti, Archie Giddy, Sidney Rowe and Bert Holmes. The captain, who did not pull, was Henry Falwasser. Bell Block were the winners of the competition last year.

The tug-of-war was controlled by Mr. P. J. Planagan, assisted by Messrs. Whittle (time keeper), Jenkins and Christiansen.

CONTESTS AND DISPLAYS.

No less than 60 races for children were run off early in the afternoon.

The motor-cycle events which were among the other contests attracted considerable interest. The results of the various races and contests were as follow:—Motor-bike obstacle race: F. Taunton 1, E. Lealand 2, Kohe 3. One hundred yards school championship (girls): Elsie Lynch 1, Thelma Land 2, Olive Noble 3. Boys: D. Pennington 1, M. Molloy 2, R. McLean 3. Tilting at the ring (motor-bike): F. Taunton 5 rings, 17 3-5sec.) 1, E. Lealand (4 rings, 19 1-5sec.) 2. Two hundred and twenty yards handicap (boys under 19): J. McMahon 1, K. Rampton 2. Four hundred and forty yards handicap (boys under 19): G. Moorhead 1, L. Moorhead 2. Bandsmen's race: W. Elliott 1, R. Ward 2. Committeemen's race: O. J. Howarth 1, T. Petty 2. Mr. Allen was in charge of the motor events and Messrs. J. H. Fowler and P. J. Planagan were call stewards.

A chain-stepping competition was won by Mr. T. Julian (21yds. 2ft. 10in.), Mr. N. Miller being second.

Excellent exhibitions of various classes of Highland dancing were given on a platform by Mr. J. Fahey, Miss Fahey, Mr. and Miss McRae (Bell Block), and Master Ian and Miss M. Ferguson (Cardiff). The music was played by Mrs. George (piano) and Mr. Rupert George (violin).

A squad of children from the Central School gave a display of physical drill under Mr. Howarth. Their work was excellent and the exhibition was made the more attractive by the neat uniforms of blue and white, with red ribbons, which the girls wore.

A squad of thirty-four High School boys, under D. Saxton, gave a drill display with rifles and evoked general admiration by the smartness and uniformity of their movements.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS.

Several side-shows were controlled by Mr. Andrew Hooker, assisted by Messrs. Torpey and Rogers.

Ice cream and sweets stalls were conducted by the New Plymouth High School Old Girls' Association, with Miss E. Andrews at the head. They had a large stock but it was disposed of before the afternoon was ended.

Afternoon tea was in great demand and the tables which were provided in marquees and under the large pergola, which had been provided with a canvas roof for the occasion, were always fully occupied. The arrangements as a whole were in the capable hands of the Mayoress (Mrs. C. H. Burgess) and two of the sections were managed by Mrs. C. Bullock and Mrs. F. W. G. McLeod, respectively. The members of the Women's Patriotic Committee and others who attended to the serving came through a busy afternoon with credit.

The Citizens' Band provided music at intervals throughout the afternoon.

TH, NOVEMBER 6, 1918 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. C. E. Bellringer presiding. There were also present: The Mayoress (Mrs. C. H. Burgess), Messrs. G. W. Browne, W. A. Collis, R. C. Hughes and A. Gray (secretary).

Apologies were received from Messrs. H. Ford and R. Cock.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Chairman reported that it had been decided, after visiting the grounds, that the shed should not be removed but should be made habitable. It had also been agreed that the matter of sanitary arrangements be left in the hands of Mr. Cook, the borough engineer, and to set apart a portion of the tea-rooms as a waiting-room for women and children.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

Mr. W. W. Smith reported: The work of the staff was somewhat hindered by wet weather. We pushed the planting as far as is possible for that reason, and are now endeavouring to carry on the more urgent work with the reduced staff. The borough workmen ploughed up and re-formed the road from the sports ground gate down to a distance of a chain for the entrance to the grounds proper. We carted some tons of clay and pushed the road up to the gate. The whole work is well done and will prove a great and lasting improvement on the previous rough condition of the road. We have finished the walk along the west side of the upper lake in the meantime. We hope to finish the Vogelstown entrance this week, when we also hope to get another man to assist in carting the shingle to it. I received some native plant seeds from an unknown donor living in the Awakino district. This lady or gentleman has sent these valuable seeds for years past. I enclose £1 7s 8d received as follows: Firewood 7s 6d, donation box 6s 2d, boat hire 14s. I am glad to report that the storms and gales of last month did no material damage to any parts of the park.

It was decided to leave the matter of engaging additional assistance in the hands of the chairman.

GENERAL.

Mrs. Cory wrote asking the board for permission to hold the keys of the tea-room, and only open on special days, such as band Sundays, as it did not pay to keep the rooms open every day.

It was decided to ask Mrs. Cory to meet the board at next meeting and discuss the matter.

With reference to the £150 donated by the New Plymouth Borough Council to be spent subject to the approval of the Mayor, Mr. C. H. Burgess wrote suggesting that it should be used in providing a stone wall at the entrance of Fillis Street in place of the very unsightly iron fence now in use.

It was resolved to accede to the request, and to ask the Borough Council to permit the wall to be erected 12ft. on Fillis Street, a committee of the whole board to deal with the matter.

Mrs. Burgess was appointed visitor for the month.

Accounts amounting to £9 4s 5d were

1919

The previous year Percy Smith had resigned from the Board; the vacancy was filled by W. C. Weston. Another change was that of secretary. Albert Grey resigned the position and the vacancy was filled by P. E. Stainton. The position of secretary was advertised as a paid position, but, Stainton took on the job as an honorary role. He remained on the Board for 44 years. Stainton Dell was named after him.

There were some improvements made to the Park. A new men's toilet block, constructed by Messrs Russell and Son, was located by the old Tea House, remnants of which can still be seen today against the bank to the south of the old wisteria, next to the current Tea House. A short walk was formed from near the Band Rotunda down to the water Lily Pond (Hatchery Lawn). The curator thought this would be convenient for ladies and nurses with young children.

The theft of plants was an ongoing problem; roses were leaving the park as quickly as they were being planted. The curator also pointed out at one of the committee meetings that, "The last of the todeas or royal ferns, was stolen from near the lower waterfall recently."

In April in the *Taranaki Daily News*, it was reported that: "There is at present to be seen at Pukekura Park the rare sight of banana trees in bloom. These are not the ordinary fruiting variety, but belong to the Abyssinian kind, which grow in great profusion in the vicinity of the Nile. Those in the park have been grown from seed, which was planted about seven years ago. The blooms which three of the trees have thrown are really magnificent specimens. The trees are now twelve feet in height and are situated just north of the lower lake. Some Fijian bananas were planted, but the severity of the past winter killed them."

Donations included:

Mr Cody, of Foxton, pair of black swans.

Plant Donations:

The park received a quantity of Australian gum trees from Mr Maxwell, of Opunake. The curator felt that they should be planted in a suitable place in the park to test their growth and quality. He thought they would be a good addition to the park and that the result of the experiment could be of value to the farming and pastoral community.

Other plant donations included: Mr T. W. Adams, Greendale, Canterbury, seeds of rare Japanese trees; a Taumarunui correspondent, a parcel of native plant seeds which were sown in the bush on the east side of the upper lake; a Stratford donor, seeds of quintonia, a fine native tree; Mr H. R. Cattley, ferns from the Bay of Islands; a packet of native plant seeds was received from an anonymous donor at Waikumete. Mrs Burgess, six new varieties of Hydrangeas; Messrs Duncan & Davies and Morshead, shrubs for planting in the park.

Summary of significant events

- A men's toilet block was built by the old tea rooms
- A pergola was built at the base of Cannon Hill, on the north east side
- W. C. Weston was appointed to the Board to replace Percy Smith, who had resigned the previous year
- Albert Grey resigned as Secretary of the Board. P. E. Stainton offered to take his place.



Thought to be of the Victory Parade on July 19, 1919, celebrating the end of the First World War. (Top: Puke Ariki A.4.49. Bottom: Puke Ariki A.4.50.)



TH, FEBRUARY 2, 1919
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met on Tuesday evening. Those present were: Mr. C. E. Bellringer (chairman), Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs. W. A. Collis, R. C. Hughes, Harris Ford.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith), in the course of his report, stated: During last month I received a donation of 10s from Mr. Kelly, of Awakino, for the park. Mr. T. W. Adams, of Greendale, Canterbury, also sent some seeds of rare Japanese trees and Mr. Maxwell, of Opanake, some seeds of Australian gum trees. These, when reared, will require to be planted in a suitable site in the park to test their growth and quality. They should prove good additions to the park collection. All such experiments are of great value to the farming and pastoral community. A Taumarunui correspondent sent a fine parcel of native plant seeds, which have been sown in the bush on the east side of the upper lake. A Stratford donor sent some seeds of quintinia, a very fine native tree. The general vegetation of the park is making rapid and robust growth this season. Probably owing to the epidemic of disease three months ago, the number of holiday visitors to the park has not, so far, reached the average of former years.

The chairman submitted plans for a sanitary block in concrete.—On the motion of Mr. Hughes the plans were adopted, and it was decided to accept the tender of Messrs. Russell and Son for carrying out the work for the sum of about £80.

The chairman reported that the boats on the lake, which were now controlled by the board, were bringing in a substantial profit, slightly over £30 having been banked from this source in two months.

Mr. H. Ford was appointed overseer for the ensuing month.

Accounts amounting to £7 14s were passed for payment.

TH, FEBRUARY 13, 1919
STONE WALL FOR FILLIS STREET

At the meeting of the Borough Council on Wednesday evening a letter from the chairman of the Pukekura Park Board (Mr. C. E. Bellringer) was read to the effect that the Mayor (Mr. C. H. Burgess) had intimated to the board that he desired that the amount of his honorarium for 1918, so kindly donated by him through the council, should be utilised in paying for the erection of a boulder-stone wall along Fillis Street, replacing the present galvanised iron fence on the eastern side of the main entrance to the park from Liardet Street. The board had agreed to this proposal but, in order to obtain a satisfactory foundation for the wall, desired to place it 12ft. to the northward of the present fence. Immediately inside the wall there would be a path for public use. The writer asked the council to look into the matter with a view to granting this facility towards the immediate erection of the wall.—Councilors agreed that the improvement to the main entrance of the park was a very important matter and decided to reply that they would make no objection to the proposal.

TH, FEBRUARY 19, 1919
BAND RECITALS

Another of the series of evening band recitals will be given in Pukekura Park to-morrow evening, commencing at 8 o'clock, when the following programme is to be submitted: March "Merry Musicians" (Greenwood); Smite, "Tales of Long Ago" (Ivanovici); intermezzo, "The Glowworms' Parade" (Rimmer); Entr'acte Comique, "The Policeman's Holiday" (Montague Ewing); selection, "English Songs" (Rimmer); March, "America" (F. H. Leseey); trombone solo, "Alice, Where Art Thou?" (Ascher); quickstep, "The Machine-gun Guards" (Marechal). A collection will be taken up in aid of the band funds.

TDN, FEBRUARY 25, 1919
PEACE CELEBRATION

PROPOSED LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The sub-committee set up to go into the matter of the programme in connection with the peace celebrations in New Plymouth has prepared a scheme, following largely the lines set forth in the Government proposals, which will be submitted to a general meeting of the committee to be held at an early date.

The celebrations will be on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday after peace is declared. The two days will be declared public holidays by the Government. A further function for children will be provided on the Wednesday night.

SUNDAY.

On the Sunday appropriate services will be held in all the churches, and in the afternoon combined open-air services will be held in Pukekura Park. Should the weather be wet the latter will be held in the theatres.

MONDAY.

Monday will be given up more to a demonstration, the programme being as follows:—

- 10.30 a.m.—Procession to racecourse (the principal place in the procession to be given to returned soldiers).
- 12 noon.—Silent, bare-headed tribute for one minute to the brave and honored dead.
- 12.5 p.m.—Addresses (limited to five minutes each) by the Mayor, the M.P. for the district, and other selected speakers.
- 12.30 to 1.30.—Luncheon for returned soldiers.
- 12.30.—Gymkhana.
- 7.30.—Torchlight procession.
- 8.—Fireworks display in Pukekura Park.

TUESDAY.

- 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.—Children's carnival in Pukekura Park. Presentation of Souvenir Peace Medals provided by the Government. Sweets and light refreshments to be provided for children.
- 8 p.m.—Plain and fancy dress citizens' ball in Coronation Hall.

WEDNESDAY.

- 8 p.m.—Children's plain and fancy dress ball at Coronation Hall.

TH, MARCH 28, 1919
BLACK SWANS DONATED

Mr. G. Coby, of Foxton, has presented to the Pukekura Park a pair of black swans.

TH, APRIL 2, 1919
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held Tuesday evening, the chair being occupied by Mr. C. E. Bellringer.

Present: Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs. R. C. Hughes, G. W. Browne, W. A. Collis, R. Cock, and H. Ford.

An apology was received for the absence of the secretary (Mr. A. Gray).

CARETAKER'S REPORT.

With the continued improvement in the weather early in January, the general work in the park has been conducted more expeditiously. The heavy mowing is about completed, and the burning of the grass and rubbish is finished as far as is possible at present. The contractor for the new lavatories near the tea rooms has completed the work as far as possible, and now awaits the plumbers to complete the work of laying on the water. The grass on the sports ground has been cut by horse-mower and removed, which has improved matters. A temporary latrine has been erected at the back of the cottage in the sports ground, and the cottage painted. When the heavy mowing is finished we shall proceed with the erection of the heavy pergola, along the base of the cannon hill, beside the creek in the sports ground. During the last week Mr. Cody, a Foxton resident, sent a pair of black swans to the park. One of them died during the week, and the other has disappeared and has not yet been found. Mr. Cody will send another pair later on. Mr. R. H. Cattley presented some ferns received from the Bay of Islands. A packet of Native plant seeds was received from an unknown donor from Waikumete.

Receipts since March 31 total £2 9s. The report was adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. H. R. Cattley, secretary of the New Plymouth Citizens' Band, wrote forwarding a cheque for £11 13s as a donation to the board's funds. The band committee suggested that the board should asphalt the band rotunda at the Park, as the floor was at present very uneven to stand on. A member of the band would carry out the work if the board provided the material.

The board passed a resolution of thanks to the band for its donation.

GENERAL.

It was decided to erect temporary protection to the entrance at the Vogeltown end of the park.

The nomination of a member in lieu of Mr. Percy Smith, was adjourned until the annual meeting.

Mr. Hughes was appointed overseer for the month.

TDN, APRIL 2, 1919
DONATED SWAN DIES

At last night's meeting of the Pukekura Park Board the curator reported that one of the black swans presented by Mr. Cody, of Foxton, had died during the same week that they were received, and the other one had since disappeared, and no trace of it had been found. He believed Mr. Cody would send another pair later on.

TDN, APRIL 2, 1919
RESIDENTS OBJECT TO STONE
WALL IN FILLIS STREET

At last night's meeting of the Pukekura Park Board the chairman (Mr. C. E. Bellringer) reported that the proposal in regard to the erection of a cobble-stone wall along Fillis Street in place of the present corrugated iron fence was held up on account of two of the residents on the opposite side of the street objecting to the taking into the park grounds of the present footpath. It was resolved to leave the matter in the hands of the chairman.

TDN, APRIL 3, 1919
BANANA PALM IN FLOWER

There is at present to be seen at Pukekura Park the rare sight of banana trees in bloom. These are not the ordinary fruiting variety, but belong to the Abyssinian kind, which grow in great profusion in the vicinity of the Nile. Those in the park have been grown from seed, which was planted about seven years ago. The blooms which three of the trees have thrown are really magnificent specimens. The trees are now about twelve feet in height, and are situated just north of the lower lake. Some Fijian bananas were planted, but the severity of the past winter killed them.

TH, MAY 8, 1919
COUNCIL REPS ON PARK BOARD

Pukekura Park: Crs. Brooker, Griffiths, and Short.

TH, MAY 19, 1919
WIGGINS MEMORIAL DAMAGED

On the rising ground above the upper lake in Pukekura Park there was erected by his fellow-officers in the Bank of New South Wales a neat memorial to the memory of Mr. Wiggins, formerly of New Plymouth, who died on active service in South Africa. The marble column of this monument has been violently wrenched from its position and thrown down. In falling it smashed some of the iron railing and stanchions of the concrete pedestal.

TH, MARCH 1, 1919
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD A.G.M.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Soldiers' Club on Tuesday evening. The chair was occupied by Mr. C. E. Bellringer, there also being present: The Mayoress (Mrs. C. H. Burgess), Messrs. R. C. Hughes, H. Ford, A. S. Brooker, W. A. Collis and A. Gray (secretary).

ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE-SHEET.

The Chairman reported that it was with pleasure he was able to say that, notwithstanding the abnormal season of last year and the comparatively fewer visitors to the park, the result of the influenza pandemic and unfavourable weather, they had been able to accomplish a considerable amount of useful work and to keep their financial position fairly satisfactory. Owing to the stressful time through which they had passed in November last it was found impossible to carry out the proposed special fete in January, therefore that source of revenue was lost. The Mayor (Mr. C. H. Burgess) kindly offered his honorarium for the past year to the board, with a request that it should be used to erect a boulder wall along the Fillis Street boundary of the sports ground, thus doing away with the unsightly iron fence at present existing. The Borough Council raised no objection to a slight encroachment, but owners on the opposite side of the street refused to consent, so nothing has yet been done. It is hoped that the objections may yet be withdrawn and the work proceeded with. The Borough Council increased their grant to the Board by £50, for the erection of latrines. These have been erected, constructed of boulders and concrete. The entrance from Liardet Street has been much improved by the re-forming and gravelling of the pathway. The work of the staff is dealt with fully by the curator in his report. On the 21st and 24th of May respectively two of the staff left the board's service, owing, they stated, to the low rate of wages paid. Later, others were engaged temporarily by the chairman to assist in the work undertaken at the sports ground and elsewhere. The exceptionally wet winter of 1918 was favourable to the growth of tree ferns and shrubs, which have done exceptionally well. The dressing room on the sports ground was repaired and painted, which is much appreciated by youthful patrons. When the extra man was dispensed with in August we continued the important work of planting and transplanting young and large trees in the park, and all have grown vigorously. The pandemic of diseases raging in New Zealand during October, November and December caused a great falling off in the number of visitors to the park. There was also a great falling off in the number of European and Australian tourists who generally visit Taranaki. After Christmas the number of visitors increased, but not in the ratio of former years. Patrons and friends of the park were generous in sending seeds and plants, of both native and exotic species, to add to the park collection. The chairman eulogised the work of the curator by planting ferns and other native trees to the best advantage, which are now coming to fruition. He added that he doubted if in any other park in the world there is to be seen such a magnificent display of tree ferns as now adorn the park. Mr. Smith was appointed curator in March, 1908, a little more than eleven years ago, and

his work is the best evidence of the taste and skill he has shown in enhancing the beauties of the park. The chairman regretted that he was not in a position financially to take advantage to the full, of his knowledge and ability. Far too much of the curator's time was taken up by work which could be done by labourers. Had they greater means and a large staff, much better work could be done by Mr. Smith. The sports ground had occasioned considerable thought. Owing to the long school vacation in November, December, and January, the ground was practically unused, and a rank growth of grass and weeds covered the surface. Repeated endeavours were made to get the grass cut, without avail, and it was not until late in the season that the work was completed. The ground was now being used by the Star Football Club, under a temporary arrangement. The arrangement with Mr. Gray for the use of the grounds by the Technical College, will now terminate, and we shall have to determine on a policy for the future. He suggested that it would be wise to set up a committee to have charge of the grounds, under the board. The young men who take a keen interest in sport, and others connected with the various sports clubs and schools, should be represented on the committee. In this way they would share the responsibility of its upkeep, and have a definite interest in effecting improvements. The curator has had in view the establishing of the fernery, as decided by the board some eighteen months ago and the time has now arrived when something definite should be done. The erection of a rough bush house is all that is necessary for the present, and as there is ample macrocarpa in the park for the work, the expense will not be great. A gentleman, who has one of the finest collections of ferns in the Dominion, has intimated that as soon as they were ready to receive the plants, he will make a good donation of ferns. In this park, where ferns grow to perfection, we ought to have the finest and fullest collection in the Dominion. The opportunity was theirs if they were willing to take it. In this regard he (the chairman) again urged that they set up a committee of experts to assist the curator in this part of the work. We have received from two gentlemen who make a special study of afforestation, the offer of a donation of young gum trees. The intention is that a section of the Park should be devoted to growing gum trees of various kinds, a record being kept of their growth and development. If that were done they would be able to afford most valuable help to those about to plant on their farms and other places, by demonstrating the varieties most likely to succeed in this district. The gentlemen who had made the liberal offer referred to were also willing to aid in establishing the trial ground for the purpose. He trusted that a beginning would be made this season. We have in the Park a small collection of roses, and with our limited staff it is quite impossible that the roses can receive the attention they need. There are quite a number of varieties that do well here. He would like to see rose enthusiasts come to the help of the board and make the collection something which the Park might well be proud of. Work of this nature was done by lovers of the queen of flowers in other places, why not here. A suggestion had been made to hold a fete on Labour Day to raise funds. He would go further and suggest a carnival extending over several days. If they put forward a bold programme, he felt sure they would get public support. There was urgent need for decent dressing rooms, etc., in connection with the sports grounds. Surely they could do something defi-

nite towards that and other matters which had been outlined. He was quite persuaded that unless they adopted a strong progressive policy they would be left behind by the other organisations that are working for the improvement of the town. They had under their charge the most beautiful of all the town's possessions, and it must be their aim to add to its beauty and charm. Thanks were due to the Citizens' Band for the concerts given by them, and regret was expressed that they were unable to do more, owing to the exceedingly heavy demand made upon their time. They had done really well and it was hoped that during the coming season a number of evening concerts would be arranged.

The balance-sheet showed the receipts to be £624 7s 4 (inclusive of balance of £71 10s 8d from previous year), the expenditure £553 7s 3d leaving a credit balance of £71 0s 1d.

Mr. Bellringer then moved the adoption of the balance-sheet, and that the report be received, as he wished it to be more fully discussed at an adjourned meeting to be held on July 1.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Hughes and carried.

CURATOR'S REPORT

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that during the last two months the principal work was mowing, grubbing gorse, and the burning of rubbish. The walk from the upper tea rooms had been raised with clay, on the inner service to prevent water from lodging on the surface. The walk on the west side of the lake would be similarly treated when the weather conditions were favourable. Two old pine trees had been removed from the site of the proposed new fernery. Three more exhausted pines required removal, but he awaited a visit of inspection by the board members before removing them.

The trees authorised by the board for purchase were obtained and have been distributed over the park where they will be effectively ornamental in the general blending of the park vegetation in future years. A new flower border and shrubbery has been formed along the west base of Cannon Hill, on the bend of the sports ground. The group of native trees and tree ferns planted eight months ago on the western slope of Cannon Hill, above the newly formed border, are now well established and growing rapidly. Should the board determine to resume control of the sports ground from date, I would suggest that the members pay an official visit to the ground, when all matters pertaining to alterations, improvements and management could be fully discussed. I recommend increasing J. Pickrell's wages by 5s per week.—The report was adopted.

GENERAL

The arrangements made by the chairman with the Star Football Club for the use of the sports ground, were confirmed, and the committee to be asked to use its best endeavours to see that no damage was done to the terraces.

The proposal to set aside a section of the ground in the Park for the growing of various kinds of gum trees, was approved.

A discussion took place on the matter of provision of a room for the use of women and children, in which tea could be made and the supply of hot water obtained, also the providing of moveable tables and folding seats, for use cut in the open. The Mayoress (Mrs. Burgess) stressed the necessity of such provision and instanced similar accommodation in other parks in the town.

The park was undoubtedly a most

beautiful place to walk through, but were quite uninviting for picnicking parties, especially for mothers and children. The board should endeavour to popularise the grounds by attracting the people and holding functions there, such as was done by other bodies controlling recreation grounds. Until that was done the park would never be as attractive as it should.

It was decided to defer further consideration until next meeting, when the annual report will be further considered.

It was decided to recommend the appointment of Mr. W. C. Weston as Government nominee on the board in place of Mr. S. Percy Smith (resigned).

Mr. A. Gray tendered his resignation as secretary, which was accepted with regret. Mr. Bellringer referred to the valuable services rendered by the secretary, and in moving that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded, wished him every success in his new sphere at Hawera.

Mr. Gray returned thanks to the board for their kindly remarks and the valuable assistance rendered to him by the chairman and members. Mr. Brooker was appointed overseer for the ensuing months.

A vote of thanks accorded to the auditor (Mr. E. Holden) terminated the meeting.

TH, JUNE 18, 1919 BOARD SELLING PINE CONES

At a meeting of the Pukekura Park Board held on Tuesday evening an offer of 6d per sack for pine cones was received. Members were of the opinion that the price was too low. Certainly not less than 2s 6d should be accepted. "The seeds from the cones are now at a very high price," remarked a member, "they are being used in the manufacture of toffee to take the place of almonds."

TH, JULY 9, 1919 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday afternoon. Present: Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs C. E. Bellringer (chairman), W. A. Collis, Harris, Ford, and R. C. Hunglas.

The chairman reported that several members of the board had visited the Park on Thursday last and had, assisted by the advice of the curator, decided to fell a number of decaying and dead trees, the wood to be sold for firewood.

It was decided to obtain gravel on cinders for the paths in the park.

The board's solicitors, Messrs Govett and Quilliam, reported on the resolution of the board referring to the prosecution of three youths for damaging the monument at the south end of the park. The solicitors reported: "We have looked into the evidence in this matter, and it appears to use that the occurrence was purely an accident. Under the circumstances we do not think any useful purpose would be served by prosecuting." It was resolved, in accord with the foregoing, not to proceed with the prosecution.

The monument will be re-erected with out cost to the board.

TH, JULY 21, 1919 PEACE CELEBRATIONS IN THE PARK

AT PUKEKURA PARK.

The scene on arriving at the Park was a memorable one. The terraces were thronged with spectators, while on the playing arena, were marshalled the Bands, veterans, returned soldiers, High School Cadets, Frontiersmen, Senior Cadets, etc. The competition cars, which were the only cars allowed in the grounds, were marshalled towards the side for judging purposes. Several selections were played by the Citizens' Band and the Salvation Army Band alternately, prior to the speech making, which took place from a platform at the southern end of the ground. The weather throughout the procession was kind, but at the conclusion of the ceremonial a light showed fell.

The official celebrations on Peace Day commenced with the procession to Pukekura Park. The committee in charge of this part of the programme laid their plans well, and everything passed off without a hitch. The various sections were assembled at previously notified places so that at a given sign from the Marshal (Mr. J. H. Fowler), the whole of the units could be linked up and proceed in order without any uncertainty. Those to whom the work of assembling the various sections were delegates carried out their duties well, and the whole of the arrangements worked smoothly.

Punctually to time the procession moved off, headed by a full muster of the members of the Citizens' Band, for whom the way was cleared by two mounted constables. The place of honour was given to the members of the local branch of the New Zealand Veterans' Association, of whom about 30 gathered, and they were accommodated in two motor buses. Next to them came the young veterans of the late war, about 120 strong. Their passing was the signal for hearty cheering at several places along the route, and their presence in the line must have stirred the hearts of all with an unquenchable pride in the spirit and courage of the young men of our land. Doubtless also the sight of them sent longings surging through the hearts of many for the speedy return of loved ones who have not yet reached home, as it also must have opened again the wound in other hearts caused by the remembrance of those for whose return friends and loved ones will look in vain. But those regrets were no doubt lessened by the knowledge that by the sacrifices made was peace purchased, and that "the path of duty" had been "the road to glory."

Following the soldiers came the civic representatives of the Borough, including the Mayor and Councillors in three motor cars. Next to the "City Fathers" were representatives of the Mothers of the Empire, marching bravely, to show to the community with what pride of heart they had given worthy sons in a noble cause.

Next came the representatives of the Patriotic organisations, whose work did so much to help the boys at the front to persevere in the fight for freedom and the peace which was being celebrated, and who are still helping to make the taste of repatriation of discharged soldiers as easy and complete as possible. Of these there were the Women's National Reserve, Victoria League, the Women's Patriotic Society, and the General Patriotic Committee, each occupying several motor cars. A car load of Red Cross workers was followed by two cars of nurses from the local hospital, driven by Drs. Walker and Leatham.

In succession to the war-workers came the lines of the country's defence as represented by the Legion of Frontiersmen, of whom there were 32 present, and a fine body of about 250 Boys' High School Cadets, who showed the accustomed evidence of their discipline, and whose marching was a distinct feature of the procession, the subject of much favorable comment. Following a small troop of Senior Cadets were a splendid group of about 50 Boy Scouts, who drew a small hand-cart on which a tent was erected, and over it floated a string of small flags signalling the immortal message of Lord Nelson at Trafalgar: "England expects every man to do his duty."

Next in order came a contingent of girls from the High School, about 60 in number, who were in turn followed by children from the local State primary schools and the Convent school, numbering about 400 all told. Their banners and flags floated bravely in the breeze, and their presence betokened the hope of the future in which the fruits of the war may be more fully appreciated and enjoyed than is possible at present.

The Salvation Army Band led the succeeding units of the procession, which consisted of a weird-looking armored car with the ominous-looking muzzle of a gun protruding from its fore part, and bearing the inscription "After four years of service on the Western front," and this was followed by some two dozen or so privately-owned motor cars, whose owners had been to a great deal of pains to have them suitably decorated for so great an occasion. A conspicuous car in this section was that of the Plunket Society, which, while carrying an abundant supply of patriotic colors displayed also its signal warning, now of more potent meaning than ever, "Save The Babies." Many of the cars had their entire framework enwrapped in red, white and blue ribbons and flags, and others were also gaily garlanded

TH, AUGUST 6, 1919 STONE WALL GETS GO-AHEAD

The chairman of the Pukekura Park Board (Mr. C. E. Bellringer) reported at the meeting on Tuesday evening that property-owners along Fillis Street had consented to the erection of a cobblestone wall along the Park frontage to that street, and agreed to the board taking a small strip of roadway for the purpose. The Mayor (Mr. C. H. Burgess) set aside his honorarium for the purpose of providing this wall, which will greatly improve the appearance of the main entrance to Pukekura Park. Steps are to be taken to have the wall erected at as early a date as possible.

TH, AUGUST 6, 1919 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board of Trustees met on Tuesday evening. Mr. C. E. Bellringer presided, and there were also present: Messrs. W. F. Short, R. C. Hughes, H. V. S. Griffiths, and R. Cook. The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that the chief work for the month had consisted of felling and removing exhausted trees, grubbing gorse and brush wattle, transplanting large fern trees around the upper lake, and general cleaning up and burning of rubbish. Notwithstanding the presence of the immense crowd in the Park on Victory Day, there had been no damage to the Board's property. The planting of trees in Liardet Street in connection with the peace celebrations had been carried out by the board's staff. Well-grown puriris were planted at both ends of the section of the street, with eight of the best varieties of Japanese flowering cherries on each side of the street. "Street planting with beautiful and suitable trees, and groups of trees growing on spare spaces, add greatly to the general health, protection, beautification and value of towns," the curator said. In regard to the general work of planting for the season, some delay had arisen on account of lack of assistance, and many of the trees had become somewhat overgrown and ill-shapen. The receipts for the month from the sale of firewood amounted to £3.

TH, SEPTEMBER 10, 1919 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Soldiers' Club, New Plymouth, on Tuesday evening. Mr. C. E. Bellringer occupying the chair. There were also present the Mayoress (Mrs. C. H. Burgess), Messrs. R. C. Hughes, W. F. Short, H. Ford, A. S. Brooker, and W. A. Collis.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

Mr. W. W. Smith (curator) reported on work done at the park during the month, which consisted chiefly in the clearing of old trees and grubbing seedling gorse. The trees condemned on the West slope of Canon Hill had been removed and the whole planted down to the lower lake. He had formed a short walk up from the water lily lake to the walk on the level of the band rotunda. It would prove a convenience to ladies and nurses with perambulators. He had finished the planting of the slope with tree ferns and a good selection of the finest native trees. Three days were given to cleaning and improving the Sports Ground. Two days were devoted to clearing the upper lake of all weeds and removing overhanging vegetation. He enclosed receipts amounting to £6 2s 3d and also £5 a donation from a gentleman who had recently come to reside in New Plymouth. During the month he had received a good collection of native trees for the park from an unknown donor, also a collection of annuals from an unknown donor. Mrs. Burgess had also presented the board with six new varieties of hydrangeas, which were very acceptable. With the increasingly warm weather the general vegetation of the park was showing good growth.

During a discussion reference was made to the difficulty of obtaining necessary labour for the park.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the various donors, and the hope was expressed that others would also come forward with assistance.

The chairman referred to the prompt manner in which the Star Football Club was meeting its engagements with the board, and remarked that they had paid about £20 into the board's funds by way of percentages on gates.

THE SPORTS GROUND.

Mr. J. McLeod (chairman of the Taranaki Rugby Union, wrote asking whether the board was prepared to consider an application for the re-constitution of the old Recreation Sports Ground Committee. He stated that at the time the lease of the ground was determined by the board the committee was quite helpless in the matter, as there was no means whatever of raising revenue. The members of the committee were quite averse to having the New Zealand Rugby Union call up the local guarantees to liquidate the old loan on which up till the outbreak of war the committee had kept scrupulously its annual redemption payments. The members of the old committee, he was sure, would welcome an opportunity of reforming the committee and leasing the ground for a limited period with a two-fold object of paying off the debt on the ground and also very considerably improving it. He felt sure the board had its hands quite full to provide funds for the upkeep and improvement of the park proper, and was not likely to have funds available to spend on thoroughly overhauling the terraces and filling and topdressing the playing area, quite apart from providing the most necessary buildings. In these circumstances he hoped personally that the board would favourably consider the question as he had indicated it. Most members were conversant with the amount of time given and money raised by the old committee for the benefit of the ground, and if offered an opportunity he was quite certain equally good work could be done again.

The matter will be considered at the next meeting of the board.

GENERAL.

It was decided to allow the Rugby Union the use of the Sports Ground on a 10 per cent. basis for the Auckland-Taranaki representative match, this rebate being granted owing to the heavy cost the union has been under this year in conveying players to and from as a result of the restricted railway services.

The Taranaki Workers' Council has decided to hold a monster sports gathering on Labour Day and applied for the use of the Sports Ground.—Granted subject to the usual conditions.

Subject to accounts being certified to by Mr. Smith they were passed for payment.

TH, SEPTEMBER 20, 1919 TARANAKI WORKERS' COUNCIL. SPORTS & PICNIC. PUKEKURA PARK MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1919. Commencing at 11 a.m.

CITIZENS' BAND IN ATTENDANCE.
Races for Single and Married Ladies, Children, Returned Soldiers, Unionists, Bandsmen, Youths, and Old Timers. Open Races (prizes and trophies announced later).

Baby Show; Tug-of-war, seven a side; Slow Cycle Race; Seven-a-side Football Tournament; Ladies' Nail Driving and Wood Sawing; Chain Stepping, Guessing and Other Competitions; Punch and Judy Show; Afternoon Tea.

Admission: Adults 1s, School Children free.

Entries for 100yds., 220yds., 440yds., Tug-of-war and Returned Soldiers' Race close Saturday, October 11, with the Secretary. All other events post entry.

SOCIAL AND DANCE AT CORONATION HALL At 8 p.m.

R. J. CLARKE,
Hon. Secretary.

TH, OCTOBER 6, 1919 SPORTS GROUND WORKING BEE

There is quite a revival of interest in cricket in New Plymouth. Working bees have been held on the sports ground in Pukekura Park, and already the playing field is being very quickly got into order. The Pukekura Park Board is giving all the assistance that it can, and with the help and advice of Mr. W. W. Smith, the Curator, a very good wicket will be soon ready. Working bees are being held, too, at Tukapa, and on the Agricultural Society's showgrounds. The oval on the latter promises to provide a useful ground. The County Council's steam roller has been over it, and has done good work in levelling out the playing area.

TH, OCTOBER 8, 1919 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met last night, there being present: Mr C. E. Bellringer (chairman), Mrs Burgess, Messrs W. A. Collis and R. C. Hughes. An apology for absence was received from Mr V. Griffiths.

The curator (Mr W. W. Smith) reported that during the month the staff had been engaged felling some trees as sanctioned by the board, also transplanting a group of large tree ferns to the sports ground. The open drain around the ground had been cleaned out. The equinoctial gales had done no damage in the park. A dozen packets of seeds were received from a visitor, and Messrs Duncan and Davies and Morshed had sent donations of shrubs for planting in the park.

The action of the chairman in granting the North Taranaki Cricket Association permission to use the sports ground for cricket for the coming season, was approved.

Votes of thanks were passed to those who had made donations of trees, shrubs and seeds to the park.

TDN, OCTOBER 28, 1919 TARANAKI WORKERS COUNCIL SPORTS DAY

SPORTS AT NEW PLYMOUTH.

A SUCCESSFUL GATHERING.

Yesterday was Labor Day and a general holiday throughout Taranaki was favored by beautiful summer weather. Labor spent a day at play in New Plymouth, where a successful sports gathering was held at Pukekura Park. Racing enthusiasts were provided with a good day's sport at Waverley, and followers of such games as cricket, bowls, and golf had a full day's amusement. The beaches around New Plymouth attracted many people, including numerous country visitors.

The sports meeting organised by the Taranaki Workers' Council, and held at Pukekura Park, attracted a large number of people. The committee catered for the entertainment of everybody, and a lengthy programme of races and other events was carried out, there being large entries for all events. The children's races were a popular section of the programme, and large numbers of contestants faced the starter for each race. Prizes of more than the usual value were given in the children's section.

The motor cycle obstacle race created a good deal of amusement. The entrants, who numbered six, had to go, right round the ground, and on the course had to dismount, take a wheelbarrow to an enclosure appointed for it, then drive several nails into a beam of wood, crawl through a barrel suspended by a rope from a pole, also crawl under a net that was pegged down to the ground, and finally ride along a plank over a sack of chaff. The slow race for motor cycles was also an interesting event, the difficulty of negotiating the course in the longest time being no mean one, and necessitating a considerable amount of skill in the handling of a machine.

Another important item was the baby show, in which there were a good number of entries. The competition was divided into two classes, for six months and under and from six to twelve months, prizes for the best boy and girl being given in each. The judges were Nurse Gentry and Miss Gardner, and the awards were as follow:—Under six months, girls, Lyla Minnear; boys, Walter Land. Six months and under twelve months, girls, Mary Holden 1, Elsie Burr 2; boys, George Baldoch 1, Ray Burns 2.

The tug-of-war was contested by only two teams, one from Bell Block and the other was announced as "The Roughs." The former won the three pulls easily.

A cooking competition was also included in the day's attractions, and the results were as follow:—Scones, Mrs. Woodham; pikelets, Mrs. Mulligan; sponge, Mrs. Hadler; sponge roll, Mrs. Fitzpatrick; shortbread, Miss Scott.

In addition to the competitive events, there were also a number of side shows, which attracted a good deal of attention and by means of which a considerable amount was added to the general takings. Conspicuous amongst these were the coconut shies and an exhibition of performing parrots.

NZ HERALD, OCTOBER 18, 1919 SHINING CUCKOO IN PARK

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator of Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, reports that the shining cuckoo arrived there on September 27.

TH, OCTOBER 31, 1919 ADVERT FOR SECRETARY

APPLICATIONS are invited for the position of Secretary, and will be received up to 4 p.m. on TUESDAY, November 4. Applicants to state salary required. Conditions may be seen on applying to the Chairman.

C. E. BELLINGER,
Chairman.

TH, NOVEMBER 5, 1919 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday night. Those present were: Mr. C. E. Bellringer (chairman), Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs. H. Ford, A. S. Brooker, W. F. Short, R. C. Hughes and W. A. Collis.

WORK AT PARK.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that the weather during the month had enabled good progress to be made with the general work. General improvements had been carried out. It was satisfactory to state that notwithstanding the large attendance at the Labour Day sports, no damage had resulted to the grounds. The heavy rains and rushes of water during the winter had caused a considerable silting up in portions of the lakes. This was more noticeable at the head of the lake extension, and the part where the stream from Carrington Road entered the lake. It would be necessary, as the summer progressed and the water diminished, to remove as much of the accumulation as possible. The receipts from the sale of firewood, hire of boats and donation box, amounted to £4 4s 4d.

GENEROUS DONATION FOR KIOSK

A letter was received from the Town Clerk of New Plymouth intimating that Mr. Burgess was willing that his Mayoral honorarium for the year ended March 31 last should be devoted to the board, and with the £150 previously offered to the Park Board, be utilised for the purpose of erecting a tea kiosk. The council had intimated that it was quite willing that the money should be used in the direction indicated.

Mrs. Burgess stated that it was the wish of Mr. Burgess and herself to further subsidise the amount up to about another £100.

It was decided to accept with gratitude the offer of Mr. Burgess, members expressing appreciation of his thoughtfulness and saying that a tea kiosk was the very thing that was needed to further popularise the grounds.

A meeting will be held in the park at an early date to consider the question of a site for the tea kiosk.

POSITION OF SECRETARY.

In response to the request of the board for applications for the position of secretary, a letter was received from Mr. P. E. Stainton offering to undertake the work without remuneration, and stating that in the event of his appointment he would like to see any secretarial allowances handed back for the board's use.

The chairman and other members of the board made appreciative remarks concerning the spirit in which Mr. Stainton had made his offer to the board, and it was said that as the grounds were the property of the people it was very satisfactory to know that someone was prepared to do the work for the benefit of the community without requiring payment for services. Mr. Stainton's close acquaintance with the townspeople and local interests would be of value to the board, and his association with sports bodies would help to link up their interest in the grounds with those of the board.

The offer of Mr. Stainton was accepted with thanks, and satisfaction was expressed that the position, which had been so long vacant, was to be so well filled. Members of the board also spoke appreciatively of the work done by the chairman (Mr. C. E. Bellringer) during the time there had been no secretary.

GENERAL.

Several matters affecting the grounds were deferred for consideration till when the board meets at the park.

Mr. A. S. Brooker was appointed overseer for the current month.

TH, DECEMBER 3, 1919 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at the Soldiers' Club on Tuesday evening, Mr. C. E. Bellringer (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs. A. S. Brooker, R. Cock, W. C. Weston, and H. Ford.

The chairman cordially welcomed Mr. Weston as a member of the board and expressed the opinion that his services would be of great value, particularly in regard to the sports ground, which matter the board would have to very carefully consider in the near future.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

Mr. W. W. Smith, curator, reported that the time of the board's staff had been occupied during the past month in mowing, gorse grubbing, and general cleaning of the walks. They had given several days to necessary work in the sports ground and would have to devote some time in each week to restore it to a presentable state for the season. It was now much improved and with care would soon regain much of its former prestige. The Cricket Association was doing good work since taking over the grounds and had purchased the necessary equipment to keep it in good order. Two tennis courts had been formed for the girls of the Central School and Technical College, while the boys of both institutions played cricket in the outer part of the oval. There were frequent inquiries made for the hire of boats in the lake on Sundays, and Mr. Smith asked whether the board would grant permission for their use on such days. Notwithstanding the strong winds during the month they did very little damage in the park. The general vegetation was making vigorous growth. The influx of visitors had not yet begun, but they might expect a greater increase of visitors over the numbers of the last five years. He enclosed the sum of £1 19s 2d, being boat and donation box (8s 2d) receipts for the month.

The question of allowing the boats to ply for hire on Sundays was deferred until next meeting.

SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS.

Mr. A. H. Kenall, health inspector, wrote, stating that he had received several complaints about the inadequacy of

the sanitary arrangements in connection with the sports ground and especially when any public function was in progress. It was also alleged that the convenience for this portion of the Park was anything but in keeping with the general excellence of the grounds.

The chairman pointed out that quite recently the board had erected new accommodation and said that the present conveniences were of concrete and compared more than favourably with any such building in town.

It was decided to reply informing the inspector of what the board had done in this respect.

FINANCE.

The chairman submitted a statement showing the financial position of the board. There was a credit of £153 1s 10d, but in this was included the £150 of Mr. Burgess' honorarium, and which was earmarked for the erection of the tea kiosk. Mr. Bellringer pointed out that certain small sums were due to the board, but it would probably be necessary to arrange for some function with the object of raising funds to enable the board to carry on until the end of the year.

Suggestions for holding a park day and arranging for a number of evening concerts with the object of raising funds were discussed at length, and ultimately it was decided that the matter be referred to a committee consisting of Mrs. Burgess, Messrs. Bellringer, Brooker, Weston and the secretary.

TEA KIOSK.

The chairman reported that the board met Mr. and Mrs. Burgess in the Park on Monday afternoon, and that Mrs. Burgess had pointed out the site she desired for the tea kiosk, and the board had agreed the building should be erected in front of the present kiosk, so that it would overlook the lake. It would be necessary to remove the bathing shed. He pointed out that it would be necessary to confirm the decision and formally moved "That the site chosen by Mr. and Mrs. Burgess for the tea kiosk to be erected by them, and presented to the people of New Plymouth, be approved."

Mr. Brooker seconded and the motion was carried.

It was further resolved that the bathing shed be removed and re-erected near the shed at present in the sports ground.

It was further agreed that on the plans being prepared the board should hold a special meeting for the purpose of approving same, and that the work during the erection of the building shall be under the sole control of Mr. and Mrs. Burgess.

GENERAL.

Mr. R. Cock was appointed overseer for the month.

Other business of a routine nature was dealt with.

TH, DECEMBER 3, 1919 PLANT STEALING RIFE

I regret to state that flower stealing is rife at present. It is almost impossible to keep a single rose in the bed at present." Extract from report of Mr. W. W. Smith, curator of Pukekura Park, to the board on Tuesday night.

TH, DECEMBER 3, 1919 VOGELTOWN ENTRANCE

At a meeting of the Pukekura Park Board on Tuesday evening Mr. H. Ford stated when suitable gates would be erected at the Vogeltown entrance to the park. At present the entrance was right open for cattle to get in and considerable damage might be done to the grounds. Plans for entrance gates were prepared some months ago. Several members of the board expressed the opinion that the day of gates and fences around public reserves was passing away. In the larger centres fences had already been removed and the effect was a decided improvement. "But they are educated in those places," said Mr. Ford.

TH, DECEMBER 19, 1919 CHRISTMAS BAND RECITAL

CHRISTMAS BAND RECITAL.

The close atmosphere throughout Thursday, the recital in Pukekura Park, and an ideal evening, were temptations which warranted the very large crowd present to listen to the excellent programme provided. The result was that £20 was available for the annual Christmas fund for members. It was announced that donations would be received up to Monday, when the fund would definitely cease.

Features of the programme were the items by the New Plymouth Male Choir and the fancy dances by twelve of Mr. J. Hoskin's pupils. The former sang a stirring number entitled "The Song of the Northmen," and a piece in lighter vein, "The Three Chafers," the "xum-zum" of the chafers by the voice accompaniment being made due use of.

The band numbers were well selected. Special interest attached to "A Day in the Cotton Field." The assistance of the Male Choir was hero enlisted. The approach of the river steamer, the humming melodies of the darkies and their step-dancing on board, the excitement when the steamer whistle sounds the signal for the return home, together with the singing of the darkies (Male Choir situated on one of the adjacent hills) at work, were all given prominence, the effect evoking an enthusiastic round of applause. The prize-winning quartette gave their selection, "Ireland," evidencing careful preparation.

Archdeacon Evans (president) thanked the public for their loyal support of the band at all times; the Male Choir, and Mr. Hoskin's clever children for their assistance that night. Mr. McLeod explained the object of the recent competitions, after which the president presented the medals supplied by the Citizens' Committee to the successful competitors, particulars of which were published last week.

1920

A major loss to the Park was that of the curator W. W. Smith. It appears that the secretary of the Board, P. E. Stainton, was not happy with some of the time Smith was spending outside the Park, helping other people and organisations. The way this dissatisfaction was relayed was not ideal. The outcome was that Smith resigned, threatening to take Stainton to court for slander.

Another sad loss for the Board was that of W. A. Collis who passed away. Collis first sat on the Board as one of the Borough Council's representatives in 1904. He was a professional photographer and a lot of the old photos of the Park were taken by him.

A plan that caused a lot of consternation was the Council's proposal to run a new tram route to Vogeltown via the Park. The proposed route was for the tram to come up Liardet Street from town, turn right at the Park gates on to Fillis Street, enter the Park, run across to where the Children's Playground is today, take a left turn before reaching Hughes Walk heading south, cross Hughes Walk near where the Waterfall is today, and there have a tram stop, continue on the west side of Hughes Walk gradually rising up the side of the hill coming out on to Brooklands Road just after the Vogeltown entrance, opposite Shortland Street. (see map p. 147).

The Park had its first royal visit, that of Edward, Prince of Wales. The initial itinerary had the Prince arriving at the railway station at 8.55am and departing at 11am, giving him two hours in New Plymouth. After a reception at the Park, he was to be driven through the Park to the Boys' High School, with the Racecourse Walk being widened in support. Unfortunately, a few days before the visit, the town was informed that the time had been shortened to one hour, arriving at 10am and leaving at 11am. This meant it was no longer practical to go to the Boys' High School. The visit was still a huge success, the motorcade entering the park through the Gilbert Street entrance.

Pine cone sales were a bonus money earner for the Park, with 194 sacks being reported for sale in January.

Over thirty pine trees were cut down during the year and sold as firewood. Significantly, half a dozen were removed near the western terrace of the Sports Ground. The cricketing fraternity had wanted these cut down for many years. They threw large shadows across the pitch in the afternoon and detrimentally affected the light, sometimes causing play to be called off early.

A new Sports Ground Committee was formed to try and resurrect the Sports Ground to its former glory and to make further improvements. A. L. Humphries was again at the helm. The committee was granted three years rent to give it time to pay off old debts.

The fish rearing ponds on the Hatchery Lawn that had been abandoned and filled in in 1912 were reinstated, with the intention to also construct a hatchery building.

Donations included:

Mr. Martin of Pukearuhe, a Shetland pony; from Christchurch City Council in response to representations made by Mr. G. King of New Plymouth, a pair of white swans.

Plant Donations:

Mr. G.W. Booth, of Carterton, narcissi; Mr. Hildred, Senior, Tariki, flowering shrubs, azaleas, etc; Mr. Clement L. Wragge, of Auckland, a quantity of new plant seeds; unknown donor from Whangamomona, native plant seeds; Mr. Mitchinson, a collection of trees and a hundred young fan palms; Mrs. C. H. Burgess, a dozen hydrangeas; Mr. S. Brooks, some valuable plants; Mrs. (Dr) McLelland, some bulbs and dahlia tubers; David L. Nathan, of Manuwera, a sack of bulbs.

Summary of significant events

- Richard Cock resigned from the Board. He became a trustee in 1889
- A new Sports Ground Committee was set up to manage and improve the Sports Ground
- The council proposed to run a tram to Vogeltown through the Park
- Mrs Burgess came up with a bold fundraiser. £1000 Pukekura Park Fund
- Royal visit, Edward Prince of Wales (future King, Edward VIII)
- The Acclimatisation Society fish rearing ponds resurrected in the Park
- More than thirty pine trees cut down during the year
- W. W. Smith resigned his position as curator
- W. A. Collis passed away.



Lily pond with proposed Hatchery at the rear. (Private collection, Alan Metcalfe)

TH, JANUARY 19, 1920
BAND CONCERT

In pleasant contrast to the preceding few days, Sunday was a day of sunshine and warmth, and the beaches and other outdoor resorts were thronged throughout the day. Pukekura Park was visited by several thousands of people during the afternoon, the attraction, apart from the beauty of the grounds, being a concert by the Citizen's Band. An enjoyable programme was rendered by the band, and one item in particular, "A Night in Switzerland," excited expressions of appreciation. Deputy-Bandmaster R. Taylor, who conducted very ably in the absence of Mr. McLeod, had placed a cornetist on one of the deeply-wooded hilltops, and an echo which occurred in the music was thus obtained in a very realistic manner. The large attendance of the public at this concert served to draw attention to the fact that at other times Pukekura Park is not frequented to anything like the extent which its natural attractions warrant. A collection was taken up on Sunday and realised £14, which will be divided between the band and the Park Board.

TH, FEBRUARY 4, 1920
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening at the Soldiers' Club, Mr. C. E. Bellringer (chairman) presiding. There were also present: Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs. H. Ford, W. C. Weston, R. C. Hughes, and the secretary (Mr. P. Stainton). An apology was received from Mr. R. Cock.

Mr. W. W. Smith (curator) reported that during the months of December and January the general work of maintenance consisted of mowing, burning of dry rubbish, cleaning walks, and trimming overhanging trees where required. Three days in each month were devoted to the Sports Ground. It is impossible with our reduced staff to do much there. The long grass requires a good two-horse machine to do the work effectively. We have devoted a little time to the boats in fine weather when required. Most patrons prefer to row themselves. Previous to the heavy rains on the 4th and 11th the water in the lakes had lowered considerably, but have since remained normal with a good inflow from both streams. The general vegetation of the park is much improved by the recent heavy rains. The number of visitors is about equal to last year.

During a short discussion reference was made to the bad state of the Sports Ground, but it was pointed out that nothing more than was being done at present could be undertaken there until a separate committee was set up to control the grounds apart from the Park Board, and this was not possible at present.

It was reported that larrikins had recently broken the windows in the shed on the Sports Ground near the pergola.

A letter of thanks will be forwarded to Mr. G. W. Booth, of Carterton, for a donation of narcissi.

It was reported that 194 sacks of cones had been obtained from pine trees in the park and that there were still a few sacks available for sale.

Mr. H. Ford was appointed overseer for the month.

TDN, FEBRUARY 4, 1920
SPORTS GROUND UNKEMPT

The bad state of the Recreation Sports Ground was commented on at the meeting of the Pukekura Park Board. It was stated nothing could be done until a separate committee to control these grounds as apart from the Park Board, could be set up. This was not possible at present.

TDN, FEBRUARY 4, 1920
SKETCH OF PROPOSED NEW TEA HOUSE

An attractive general sketch of the new tea kiosk, presented to the town by Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Burgess, to be erected in Pukekura Park, was presented to the Park Board at its meeting last night.

TH, MARCH 3, 1920
PINE TREE REMOVAL TALKS

What is a vexed question so far as the Pukekura Park Board is concerned was again discussed at the meeting on Tuesday evening. It concerns the removal of some of the pinus insignis trees which have been considered by the curator and some members for a long time past to be an eyesore. When it was moved that four or five of these trees on the hill on the right of the Liardet Street entrance should be removed Mr. R. C. Hughes entered an emphatic protest against the denudation of the park. He said these trees had been growing for 40 or 50 years, and to knock them down would make the hill look like a bald-headed man or woman. Mr. W. C. Weston, who had moved in favour of the removal, replied that he could understand the objection if they were Native trees, but these pines had been planted as protection for Native trees during their growth. Mr. W. A. Collis observed that the pines on the hills beside the lake had to be regarded in a different light; they were an immense advantage, giving the hills an impressive appearance of height. The chairman (Mr. C. E. Bellringer) said he would oppose to the last any attempt to cut down those trees which added to the beauty of the grounds, but those under discussion had the appearance of helpless old derelict men who had lost a limb and whose backs were crooked. In their place it was proposed to plant something that would be ornamental and graceful. In deference to the wish of Mr. Hughes the board agreed to make an inspection before deciding which trees should be removed.

TH, MARCH 3, 1920
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met on Tuesday evening. Those present were: Mr. C. E. Bellringer (chairman), Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs. W. A. Collis, R. C. Hughes, W. C. Weston, A. S. Brooker, Harris Ford.

Mr. R. Cock wrote tendering his resignation as a member of the board, stating that he thought younger and more active men should control the park.—The resignation was accepted and a resolution was passed heartily thanking Mr. Cock for his long service on the board.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that the heavy rains and fresh winds of February had caused a large amount of extra work in maintaining the park. Six days had been devoted to cleaning and mowing parts of the sports ground. He again suggested that on completion of the important work of mowing grass and burning accumulations of rubbish, the old pine trees on the hill on the west of the entrance to the sports ground should be removed. There was also an overgrowth of wattle and alibissin on both sides of the hill which should be removed. He further suggested that the hill should be then planted with rapidly growing Native trees and shrubs which would impart a truly natural effect to the park. The work could be done in the months of April and May. Some of the bridges in the park had been repaired. A small sack of valuable bulbs had been received from Mr. David L. Nathan, of Manurewa, Auckland, and they were being planted in the beds and borders and on the banks as time permitted. The number of visitors to the park had diminished since the middle of January. After the dry weather in December the heavy rains and sultry weather of January and February had caused a rapid growth of general vegetation. The receipts for the month totalled £7 13s 6d.

MISCELLANEOUS.

With regard to the pines mentioned by the curator, and another one near one of the bridges considered dangerous, it was decided that the board should meet in the park and make an inspection before deciding which should be removed.

The chairman reported that a man had been engaged to work in the park under the curator in place of one who had left suddenly, resulting in the work getting behind for a month. The board decided that a second man should be employed for a month.

The overseer for the past month (Mr. Ford) reported that the upper end of the pond was filling up rapidly with silt coming from Mr. King's pond.—The chairman said that the weed had recently been cleaned out of Mr. King's pond, and the loosening of the bottom had resulted in the heavy rains bringing away a lot of silt.

A committee consisting of Messrs. Weston, Brooker and Stainton (hon. secretary) was appointed, with power to act, to draw up a scheme for the supervision of the gates on all occasions when the park is let to other bodies on a percentage basis.

TH, MARCH 3, 1920
MRS BURGESS FUNDRAISING SUGGESTION

PARK WEEK NEXT AUGUST

Mrs. C. H. Burgess proposed to the Pukekura Park Board at its meeting on Tuesday evening that in order to secure the large sum of money required for the proper upkeep and improvement of Pukekura Park, a more comprehensive scheme should be put in operation this year than has been undertaken in the past. She suggested a Park Week, culminating on a Saturday with stalls in the town and other money-making attractions. Various evening entertainments could be held throughout the week. She proposed that the board should decide on the week ending August 14, as advantage could then be taken of the daffodil season, several daffodil gardens being available for supplies. Mrs. Burgess

said she was prepared to undertake the women's organisation. The public should be shown that the board was going to be a live body. The park required a thoroughly good banking account, and why should it not have it? Kawaroa Park would have its day on Easter Monday and get £400 or £500. That was because the committee had ladies working for them. Why should not Pukekura Park also get the assistance of ladies and do likewise?

The board received the suggestion heartily and resolved that the proposal should be adopted, and every effort made to ensure success. The organising was left in the hands of Mrs. Burgess, it being understood that men's committees would be appointed when required.

TH, MARCH 3, 1920

NEW TEA HOUSE TOO EXPENSIVE

The soaring prices of building have apparently placed the prospects of having a modern tea kiosk in Pukekura Park beyond the reach of the controlling authorities for the time being. It is already well known that Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Burgess were prepared to make a considerable contribution towards such a project, and that plans had been approved for the proposed building. At last night's meeting of the Park Board, Mrs. Burgess said that no builder would look at the job for less than £750, and that price included only the bare building, without lighting, heating or any of the necessary equipment. In consequence of this the proposal is now "in the air."

When the question of popularising Pukekura Park was being considered by the Board last night, and the matter of allowing the boats to be had on hire on Sundays, one of the members of the Board, in advocating such a step, said: "The Park should not be regarded as a cemetery." It was urged that anything which would induce people to patronise the Park should be adopted, especially what would be revenue producing. Other members expressed the opinion that the using of the boats on Sundays would tend to rowdyism and disturb the peacefulness of the place. It was ultimately resolved to adhere, for the remainder of the season, to the previous decision, and not allow the boats out on Sundays.

TDN, MARCH 5, 1920

MRS BURGESS PROGRESSIVE IDEAS

The proposal made by Mrs. C. H. Burgess at the recent meeting of the Pukekura Park Board has all the appearance of inaugurating a new era in the administration of this splendid local and national scenic asset and recreation ground. For many years past the board has done the best it could with the funds at its disposal, but there has been a lack of initiative in raising funds, and possibly a too conservative view as to developing the natural beauty of the park. Fortunately the board obtained the services of Mr. W. W. Smith as

curator, and for that act alone it deserves the gratitude of the community. Had that action been systematically backed up by the exhibition of resourcefulness in raising ample funds for upkeep on the scale such an attractive asset needs, with a sufficient surplus for developing and further beautifying this public domain, Mr. Smith would have had full scope for his enthusiastic work, and the park by this time would have been a veritable wonderland to visitors. Money can always be raised in New Plymouth for all worthy objects if the right steps are taken, and confidence in its beneficial expenditure is felt. The need for a large expenditure is apparent to the most casual observer, and Mrs. Burgess has outlined to the Board how that money can be obtained. This progressive proposal may probably draw attention to what should have been done in the past, by emphasising the advantage of a policy of energy. In this connection the reason given by Mr. R. Cock for his resignation has a special significance, and demonstrates that he recognises not only that members of a board may remain too long in office, but also the trend of public opinion as to the need for making room for younger and more energetic members. While thoroughly appreciating the long and valuable services rendered by Mr. Cock and those with whom he has been associated in administering the affairs of the board for a lengthy period, his public spirit affords an excellent example of propriety and expediency that will be generally commended. We are living in a time of great changes, needing new methods, and, above all, sound and bold initiative, instead of, as Mrs. Burgess pointed out, "meeting once a month but doing nothing else." The recent meeting of the board contained incidents that pointed a moral on the divergence between old methods and new, and we are confident that the public will heartily welcome and support any new departure which will ensure a live policy and ample funds for the maintenance and beautifying of the park on lines approved by the curator, who is the foremost authority in the Dominion on such matters.

TH, MARCH 9, 1920

TRAM ROUTE THROUGH PARK

PARK ROUTE FAVOURED. BY COUNCIL.

The New Plymouth Borough Council discussed on Monday evening the representations of the deputation of Vogeltown residents which waited on the council last week in reference to tramway extensions.

In reply to the Mayor the tramways engineer and manager said it would be six weeks probably before a poll of ratepayers could be taken on the proposed Westown extensions, and he thought by this time matters could also be sufficiently advanced to enable a poll on the Vogeltown extension to be taken also. It would, however, only be an approximate estimate of cost the council would have before it, but this could be framed so that the council would be on the safe side.

The Mayor pointed out that the council had not yet decided to go to Vogeltown at all, but had merely authorised the engineer to prepare estimates of cost for alternative routes, one of which was via Liardet Street and through Pukekura Park, and the other direct by way of Carrington Road.

Councillor Griffiths moved that the council authorise the taking of a poll for extensions to Vogeltown via the Park, and that the poll be taken simultaneously with Westown.

The Mayor: Irrespective of cost, Councillor Griffiths?

Councillor Griffiths: I take it the first section of the Vogeltown trams would probably be the best paying section on the whole of the service, and further it can reasonably be assumed that the cost would be somewhere in the vicinity of the estimated cost for a similar distance to Westown.

The Mayor: You want to commit the council to a scheme without any knowledge whatever of the cost. Now, be reasonable. Would you yourself do anything of the kind if any member of the council brought down a scheme for any other purpose? It is not at all a business way of doing things. We must have some idea of the cost before we commit ourselves to any proposal.

Councillor Griffiths: We know what the estimated expenditure is to be over a given length of line, and surely it is reasonable to assume that the expenditure would not exceed that to any great extent.

Mr. Bartley pointed out that the first section of the Vogeltown route through the park would be more costly than Westown because of the difference there would be in the construction.

The town clerk said that all the council could do at this juncture was to determine the route of the Vogeltown extension, and if it was to be through the park, to seek the necessary permission from the Park Board. The estimates could then be prepared, and Councillor Griffiths asked that the poll on the Westown extension be deferred until these were available.

Councillor Short strongly supported Councillor Griffiths' motion, pointing out that it would not delay matters in regard to Westown, and if the council when it received the estimates considered the cost was beyond the borough at this juncture then it would have to turn the extension down. In the meantime Vogeltown had a right to have its position considered.

Eventually it was agreed to ask the sanction of the Park Board to carry the trams to Vogeltown through the park, and that a survey of the route be made and estimates of cost prepared.

TH, MARCH 24, 1920
FUNDRAISING

£1000 PUKEKURA PARK FUND.

The time has arrived when the position regarding the Pukekura Park has to be taken seriously by the citizens in general. During the past years the board has been hampered for finance, with the result that it has been impossible to give the caretaker (Mr. W. W. Smith) the support he needed and richly deserved. At the present time the outgoings considerably exceed the incomings, which are made up by the Borough Council subsidy and voluntary subscriptions.

This position cannot continue, and it therefore is imperative that money be raised immediately to provide sufficient funds not only for the necessary upkeep of the park, but also for development. With this object in view Mrs. Burgess has willingly consented to take charge of special efforts to raise £1000.

The proposal is to arrange a series of entertainments working up to a final effort in August, when a week's carnival will be run. The first of the entertainments is to be held on Anniversary Night (Wednesday, March 31) in the Empire Theatre. Mr. Fredric has kindly consented to arrange the programme, which includes the leading artists, and it behoves all interested in the welfare of the park and town in general to rally round and do their share towards the effort.

Tickets can be obtained from any members of the board or the secretary, Mr. P. E. Stainton.

TDN, MARCH 24, 1920
PREPARATION FOR ROYAL VISIT

It is likely the Prince of Wales will be the first person to motor right through Pukekura Park. At present this is impossible, but the suggestion has been made to the Park Committee which has to do with the arrangements for the Prince's visit, that the path to the racecourse should be widened, one or two pine trees removed, and a bend taken out in order to allow of a motor to make the through trip. The idea was favorably entertained by the Committee, which met on Monday, as was a suggestion that instead of entering by the main Lizard street gate, the Prince should be taken through the Gilbert street gate.

TH, MARCH 29, 1920
FUNDRAISING

GRAND CONCERT
FOR PUKEKURA PARK.
In Aid of Mrs. Burgess' £1000 Fund.

EMPIRE THEATRE.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1920.
At 7.50 p.m.

Programme:

Selection ... Mrs. Moverley's Orchestra
Song, "Youth" ... Mr. P. Fredric
Whistling Ragtime ... Mr. Booth
Song ... Mrs. Northern
Carnet Solo ... Mr. Taylor

Song ... Mr. R. L. Cooper
Song, "Laugh and Sing," Mrs. Wilkes
Recitation (selected), Mrs. Stewart Russell.

Violin Solo ... Mr. Roy Murphy
Song, "Angus Macdonald," Miss Leitch
Song, "The Ballad Monger," Mr. A. B. Macdonald.

Flute Solo, "Gems of England," Mr. Northern

Song, "Morning and You," Miss Cocker
Selection ... Mrs. Moverley's Orchestra
Song, "Under the Lanterns," Mrs. Wilkes.

Cornet Solo ... Mr. Taylor
Song, "June Music" ... Miss Leitch
Violin Solo ... Mr. R. Murphy
Few Minutes in the Farm-yard, Mr. Booth.

God Save the King.

Accompanists: Mrs. Fredric, L.A.B.,
L.C.T.L., and Mrs. Cooper, L.A.B.

Admission: 3s and 2s. Box Plan at
Collier's. b411

TDN, APRIL 7, 1920
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last night. Present: Messrs. C. E. Bellringer (chairman), Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs. H. Ford, R. C. Hughes, and P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary). Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. W. A. Collis and W. C. Weston.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that during the month the staff had been employed chiefly in mowing and clearing the terraces and oval of the sports grounds and renovating and repairing where required. The Sports Grounds being again under the Board's charge, it was imperative that the board should obtain a large lawn mower and horse if the work was to be perfectly done.

In reply to the Star Football Club's application for the use of the sports grounds at the Park, and for power to charge for admission to matches, a favorable reply will be sent, subject to the understanding that admission will be charged for club matches only, and that the Board makes its own arrangements in regard to larger matches.

Mrs. Burgess intimated that in connection with the £1000 effort, a children's function is being arranged for the afternoon following the Prince's visit. The Kawarua Park Committee are to be asked to co-operate with the Board so as to ensure a successful gathering.

A vote of thanks was accorded the Taranaki Amusements, Ltd., for a donation of the picture takings on Good Friday night. These amounted to £21 13s 6d. A vote of thanks was also passed to Mr. Fredericks and his fellow-workers who helped to ensure the success of the concert on March 31, by which £25 was raised.

It was pointed out that the present Borough grant of £150 still remained the same as for many years past, though the cost of procuring labor had increased tremendously.—It was decided to apply to the Council for an increase in the grant to £250.

Mr. Ford intimated that he had received information that a pair of white swans could be secured on application to the Mayor of Masterton. It was decided to make inquiries in this direction.

Mr. Short was appointed overseer for the month.

TDN, APRIL 7, 1920
PATH WIDENED FOR PRINCES VISIT

Reference to the widening of the path in Pukekura Park to the racecourse to enable the Prince of Wales to motor over it was made by the curator in his report to the Park Board last night. He stated the work was done without having to remove some fine pine trees near the path.

TDN, APRIL 7, 1920
TALK OF NEW SPORTS COMMITTEE

At the meeting of the Pukekura Park Board last evening the hon. secretary (Mr. P. E. Stainton) mentioned the desirability of forming a sub-committee to take control of the sports ground at the Park. He moved that an invitation be extended to the various athletic associations of the district to appoint a delegate to form such a sub-committee which would take charge of the sports ground and report to the Board from time to time. A delegate from this sub-committee would be entitled to be present at the Board meeting. The Board would, of course, exercise financial control. This motion was carried and Messrs. Weston and Stainton were appointed as the Board's delegates on the sub-committee.

TDN, APRIL 7, 1920
PARK BOARD ALLOW TRAM SURVEY

At the meeting of the Pukekura Park Board last night it was decided to allow the Borough Council to make a preliminary survey of the north-west corner of the Park in connection with the proposed tramway extension to Vogeltown. This, it was pointed out by the chairman, in no way bound the Board in the matter of actually allowing the route to pass through Pukekura Park.

TH, APRIL 13, 1920
PLANS FOR PRINCES VISIT

A meeting of the executive committee in connection with the visit of the Prince of Wales to New Plymouth was held on Monday evening. It was decided to declare the day of the visit (Friday, April 30) a whole holiday. The Minister of Internal Affairs is to be urged to have the train arrangements altered so that the Inglewood children may be brought to New Plymouth instead of to Stratford. A design for a pavilion to be erected near the northern end of the oval in Pukekura Park was approved. The Prince and his entourage will be practically the only persons admitted to the pavilion. Seats will be provided on the oval, and about 200 are to be reserved for the mothers of deceased soldiers. Tickets for admission to these seats will be obtainable at a time and place to be advertised later.

TDN, APRIL 24, 1920
PRINCE OF WALES FEATHERS

A rehearsal of the design of the Prince of Wales' feathers by the children of the town primary schools took place in Pukekura Park yesterday afternoon, and was said by those who witnessed it to be very successful and pleasingly effective. The design has been worked out to scale and will engage 1530 children in the formation of the feathers and 70 to form the words of the motto. Each child in the feathers will carry pampas plumes, the children holding as many as from two to seven heads each, and the effect will be very good. Near the root of the feathers, to represent the band and crown the plumes held by the children will be dyed fellow and red.

TH, APRIL 27, 1920
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING.

A special meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Monday night, Mr. C. E. Bellringer presiding. There was also present: Mrs. Burgess, Messrs. W. A. Collis, W. C. Weston, and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

Acting on the suggestion of Mrs. Burgess, it was decided to have an Apple Day Mart on May 8, the proceeds to be devoted to the £1000 Park Day.

A donation of a sheep from the Taranaki Farmers' Meat Co. for a guessing competition on the afternoon of the Prince of Wales' visit, was gratefully accepted.

A sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Stainton, Weston and Brooker brought down a report with reference to the proposed supervision of gates at all functions held in the Park, and this was adopted.

Messrs. Weston and Stainton were appointed a committee to go into the question of the use of the sports ground by Technical College students, and to interview the Advisory Board with a view to securing some contributions towards the cost of upkeep.

Regarding arrangements for the function which will take place in the Park on Friday after the visit of the Prince of Wales it was explained that lunch will be supplied to children at 11.30 and at 12 o'clock a counter lunch, consisting of pies, sandwiches, buns, etc., will be available to all at a reasonable charge.

In the afternoon there will be fancy dancing and waltzing competitions, coco-nut shies, flower stall, duck pond, boating, sheep guessing, and other competitions. The members of the Kawaroa Park ladies' committee will give their assistance. Tea will be provided at a nominal charge if visitors will bring their own jugs, and thanks to the generosity of the following the Park Board will be able to distribute free to the children over 30 cases of fruit:—Messrs. C. H. Burgess, A. Woollett, D. Graham, Nolan and Co., Webster Bros., J. McNeill, G. Yuka.

It was explained that Mrs. Burgess still requires coppers to ensure a plentiful supply of hot water always being available and also further donations of milk.

TH, APRIL 29, 1920

£1000 PUKEKURA PARK
FUND.
APPLE AND CHRYSANTHEMUM
DAY.
— SATURDAY, MAY 8. —
c145

TH, MAY 3, 1920
PRINCE OF WALES VISIT

For weeks past the people of New Plymouth and the surrounding districts have been looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to the visit of the Prince of Wales, and elaborate preparations were made to welcome his Royal Highness to the "Garden of New Zealand." Then came the railway strike, and it was feared that Taranaki would in all probability be denied the privilege of joining with other parts of the Dominion in showing its loyalty on such an historic occasion. However, news was received late on Saturday night that the railway strike had been settled and that the Prince would resume his tour, reaching New Plymouth at 10 a.m. to-day. The news spread quickly throughout the district, the veil of disappointment which had been so manifest everywhere was lifted, and gladness again reigned supreme. Preparations were resumed with renewed vigour and enthusiasm, and this morning the railway station and the line of route to Pukekura Park presented a very pretty and gay appearance. There were a number of triumphal arches all tastefully decorated, and the vivid green of the nikau palm, the tree fern, and other foliage, relieved with the white plumage of the toi-toi, blended happily with a liberal display of bunting, the general effect being particularly pleasing.

From an early hour people flocked into the town from all directions, and the line of route and the natural amphitheatre forming the sports ground at Pukekura Park were soon thronged with an excited and expectant crowd. New Plymouth has never experienced such a day. A special train carried hundreds of eager school children from down the line as far as Waiongona, and they were met at the East End Reserve, where they alighted, by members of local committees and served with light refreshments before proceeding to Pukekura Park to join in the festivities there. Children from schools along the coast were also conveyed to town, so that they too could take part in a gathering which will always live in their memory.

The Royal train arrived at New Plymouth just as the town clock chimed ten. His Royal Highness was accompanied by: Rear-Admiral Sir Lionel Halsey, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B., chief-of-staff; Lieut.-Col. E. W. M. Grigg, O.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., M.C., secretary; Sir Godfrey Thomas, Bart., M.V.O., personal secretary; Captain Dudley North, C.M.G., M.V.O., extra equerry; Captain Lord Claud N. Hamilton, D.S.O., M.V.O., equerry; Captain the Hon. Piers Legh, O.B.E., M.V.O., equerry; Captain T. Rhodes, attached for New Zealand tour; Sir William Fraser, Minister in charge of the tour. The Prince was met by Brigadier-General C. W. Melville, D.S.O., officer commanding the Wellington district, and the Royal Party at once proceeded to their cars and thence to Pukekura Park, which was entered from Gilbert Street, the cars slowly wending their way amidst the lovely scenery around the lower lake and then entering the oval sports ground.

The scene which now lay before the eyes of the Prince was a memorable one. Taranaki had never before witnessed such a crowd or such a spontaneous outburst of enthusiasm. On the eastern terrace the High School girls in blue formed the word "Welcome," to the south convent and Technical College girls, some dressed in blue and some in white, formed the letters "H.R.H.," and on the oval in front of the Royal stand some thousands of children attending the primary schools were grouped to form the Prince of Wales' feathers with white and coloured toi toi plumage. The effect was splendid, and reflects the greatest credit on the children themselves and the teachers responsible for the arrangement. Practically the whole of the remainder of the terraces, and in fact, every portion of the grounds which had not to be reserved for the occasion, were simply packed with people. As members of the Royal retinue remarked, a better spot for such a reception could hardly be found.

The Royal stand, which had been erected at the northern end of the oval near Fillis Street, and had been very tastefully decorated with flags and greenery, looked out over the whole grounds, with a most delightful glimpse of the beautiful Pukekura Park in the background.

Immediately his Royal Highness was seen entering the sports ground itself the great mass of people rose and cheered to the echo, and this was continued whilst the Prince drove slowly across the oval to the Royal stand. Then the assembled people, led by the band and a massed choir from the different churches under the conductorship of Mr. F. W. G. McLeod, joined in singing the national anthem which in turn was followed by the singing of "God Bless the Prince of Wales."

TDN, MAY 5, 1920
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held last night, there being present: Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs. W. A. Collis, R. C. Hughes, H. Ford, and P. Stainton (hon. secretary). Mr. Collis was voted to the chair.

The secretary reported that in connection with the £1000 fund, Mrs. Burgess has issued about 200 circulars to residents of all parts of the district, and a good response was being made.

Mrs. Burgess reported she had received a donation from Mr. P. J. Flanagan with accompanying letter in which he wished the scheme the success it deserved. He also remarked that it was time the Park "and several other things in New Plymouth were taken in hand by some live people." Mrs. Burgess also reported that she had received from the postmaster at New Plymouth (Mr. C. H. Burton) a cheque for £3 3s 6d as a contribution towards the fund, the amount having been collected among the staff of the New Plymouth office.

The condition of the Queen Victoria monument was referred to, and Mrs. Burgess, who is president of the Victoria League, said she thought the League would be prepared to undertake the care of the monument if it was put in proper order. This was agreed to provided the League accepted the responsibility.

The financial position of the Board was discussed, when Mr. Hughes referred to the fact that at present it took £600 per annum to pay the curator's salary and other wages. He questioned if a £1000 effort could be made every year.

The secretary remarked that the trouble in the past seemed to be that the Board had not been enterprising enough.

Mr. Collis said the proper attitude was that the park belonged to the people, and the Board should not hesitate to go to the public and ask for money for its upkeep.

The secretary stated that the present bank balance was £93 10s 11d, but the Board was indebted to Mr. Burgess to the extent of £300. That amount, which had been donated for the purpose of erection of a kiosk in the park, had been placed in the general account. That amount should therefore be refunded to the special account and held until such time as the building could be erected. The secretary stated also that the sum of £150 had been received from Mrs. Burgess in connection with the £1000 effort and paid into the bank to a separate account.

Eventually a committee, consisting of Mrs. Burgess and Messrs. Collis, Weston and Stainton was set up to consider the position.

New regulations were adopted for the control and supervision of gate receipts when the Recreation grounds were let for sports or other purposes.

TH, MAY 5, 1920

DRINKING FOUNTAIN IN SAD STATE

That the Queen Victoria monument in Pukekura Park is in an ill-kept condition was reported to the Pukekura Park Board on Tuesday evening by the secretary. Mrs. Burgess, who is president of the Victoria League, said she thought the league would be pleased to undertake the care of the monument. It was agreed that the Victoria League should undertake this task if prepared to do so.

TH, MAY 10, 1920

APPLE & CHRYSANTHEMUM DAY FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

Success which was most pleasing to those concerned attended Apple and Chrysanthemum Day held on Saturday in aid of the £1000 Pukekura Park Fund. At the close of the day's proceedings it was found that the sum of approximately £170 was in hand. The takings at the stalls were as follow, the amounts being subject to minor corrections:—Apples £50 3s 7d, meat £15 10s, vegetables, £12 6s 5d, flowers £8 7s 6d, miscellaneous £21, donations £30.

Competitions and some other amounts brought the total to about £170

The competitions were won as follows:—Dressing case, B. Boutell; brooch, "Simple Sam"; blouse, F. H. Jellyman; cake, V. Kearney; ham, F. Hodson. In a sheep weight-guessing competition T. Bates (Bell Block) and J. Devery (New Plymouth) tied with 140lb., and a draw resulted in Mr. Bates securing the prize.

Mrs. C. H. Burgess (the organiser), Mr. P. E. Stainton (secretary of the Pukekura Park Board), and the numerous and willing band of helpers must be congratulated upon the signal success which has marked the first big effort in the series to be made on behalf of Pukekura Park.

TH, MAY 15, 1920

FUNDRAISING

The total proceeds of the Mart Apple Day, which was held in aid of the Pukekura Park £1000 effort, amounted to £207 10s.

TH, MAY 22, 1920

FUNDRAISING

The High School Old Girls' street collection and house-to-house canvass in aid of the Pukekura Park £1000 Fund was being carried on energetically today. A cold wind and showers of rain made the task of the collectors anything but a joy.

TH, MAY 25, 1920

TRAM THROUGH THE PARK

TRAM ROUTE THROUGH PARK.

On the motion of Councillor Griffiths it was decided that the Pukekura Park Board should be approached for the necessary sanction to enable the tramway service to be extended through the park to Vogeltown, and that the members of the Council should inspect the proposed route in company with members of the Park Board. It was also decided that the electrical engineer should be instructed to have the route clearly marked out.

TDN, MAY 31, 1920

HELP OFFERED

(To the Editor.)

Sir.—Might I suggest to the Pukekura Park Board that there are many retired farmers and others living in New Plymouth quite capable of helping to keep the Park in good order? Scores of these would be better, and happier, with something useful to do, and might, with advantage to themselves and the town generally, give a portion of their time to improving our beautiful grounds, of which we are so justly proud. Should anything in the above direction be started, I, for one, shall be glad to help to the best of my ability, and feel confident many others would do the same. In these times of scarce and dear labor this seems to me the most practical way of assisting Mr. Smith in his strenuous efforts to keep in order and improve the beautiful grounds, under his able management.

JAMES BURGESS,

Fitzroy, May 28, 1920.

TH, JUNE 2, 1920

PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday evening. There were present: Mrs. Burgess, Messrs. W. A. Collis (acting-chairman), W. C. Weston, R. C. Hughes, A. S. Brooker, H. Ford, P. E. Stainton (secretary).

A letter was received from the Park Tennis Club asking the board's permission to extend their courts. This request was acceded to and it was decided that Mr. Collis and Mr. Stainton form a committee to meet the club, and endeavour to arrange some agreement with them as regards terms, as the club up till now had had the use of the ground free of rental.

A letter received from the Borough Council in connection with the proposed tram route which would pass over part of the grounds at the Carrington Road entrance was discussed. It was thought that before any definite action could be taken that the board should meet some representatives of the Borough Council in the Park and have the matter fully explained to them. To this effect the chairman moved "that this board is

quite willing to have a conference with the Borough Council and that the committee will meet them in the Park at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, June 15."—Carried.

The report of the finance committee was then read by Mr. Stainton. The expenses for 1918 including wages and incidentals amounted to £540 0s 3d; the donations and receipts for the same year £379 10s. In both these years Mr. Burgess' donations of £150, which had been intended for specific purposes had been included in the ordinary donations and had been used as such. The board was now faced with the problem of making up these deficits and also with producing the £750 which was required to run the Park every year. It was decided that all the campaigning should be put on a business basis and that each member of the board should take his share of the work.

Mrs. Burgess moved that in order to provide funds for necessary works and maintenance of the Pukekura Park that there be an annual effort made in May to be known as Apple Day, combined with a street collection, and also that this board take immediate action to increase its number of annual subscribers.—Carried unanimously.

It was decided to abandon the position of monthly overseer and that a grounds committee be formed to see that the work sanctioned by the board was carried out.

A motion that Mrs. Burgess, Messrs. Collis, Weston and Stainton form a grounds committee was carried.

Owing to the irregular attendance of the borough representatives on the board, it was decided to write to the council to the effect that, now the duties of the board were so onerous, that the council should appoint representatives from outside the council if the councillors could not attend more regularly.

Mr. Weston moved that it be brought up for discussion at the next meeting that the boat should ply for hire on Sunday afternoons during the summer months.

The curator's report stated that good progress had been made in tree pruning and general cleaning and repairs during the month of April, but owing to the bad weather extensive planting had not been proceeded with. A valuable collection of plants had been received through the secretary. Boat and firewood receipts amounted to £3 12s 8d. The donation box yielded 2s 7d.

The kind offer of Mrs. Burgess that the board should meet in future at her rooms over the H.B. was approved and a vote of thanks passed to her.

Accounts amounting to £57 5s 6d and wages amounting to £37 12s 8d were passed for payment.

TDN, JUNE 2, 1920

HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

KING'S BIRTHDAY TOURNAMENT.

An interesting series of hockey matches will be played on two fields to be specially marked out for the purpose in Pukekura Park to-morrow. The matches will commence at 12 sharp, and will be limited to 15 minutes. In this way it is hoped to play off the large entries. Teams are coming from as far as Hawera, Stratford, Eltham and Kaponga to take part.

TH, JUNE 16, 1920 PROPOSED TRAM ROUTE

On Tuesday afternoon the members of the Pukekura Park Board met on the ground a full meeting of the members of the Borough Council, Mr. F. T. Bellringer, the council's general manager, and Mr. R. H. Bartley, the tramways engineer, and went over the proposed route of the tramway extension to Vogelstown. This was the first occasion on which the Park Board had been over the route, and the meeting was arranged with the idea of getting the Park Board's approval before the engineer went more fully into plans and estimates.

As it may interest the public to know the proposed route, the following are the particulars: From the centre of the town the Vogelstown tram will run up Devon Street to the Lizardet Street corner, turn into Lizardet Street and run right up to the main entrance to the sports ground. From here it will turn sharply to the right into Fillis Street, run through the cutting, and cross the level that is now known as the new Gilbert Street entrance. Going on, the route will work to the left running alongside the path from the Carrington Road entrance, eventually crossing this just before the Glowworms' Cave. The track will then skirt the main lake and gradually rise up the siding until it comes out just to the left of the Carrington Road entrance to the grounds, alongside the Vogelstown Park tennis courts.

The suggestion is that by this route traffic for the sports ground and for the racecourse will be catered for. A stopping place and necessary siding will be provided at the main gate to the park, and a further stopping place with rustic station or shelter on the Carrington Road side of the grounds in a line with and almost on a level with the band rotunda. This latter stopping place will serve the racecourse, it being only a short walk to the side entrance to the racecourse reserve.

It is not proposed to fence the track through the grounds, but this is a detail which can be considered later on.

The Mayor pointed out that by taking the Lizardet Street route there will be a good deal of traffic to cater for, while if the route were taken via Currie Street and Carrington Road there would not be nearly the same short-distance traffic. Apart, too, from the possibility of securing a large share of the sports ground and racecourse traffic, the ride through the grounds would be a great attraction and quite the prettiest in New Zealand.

The members of the Park Board will take an early opportunity of considering the proposal, and a special meeting will probably be called for that purpose.

TH, JUNE 17, 1920 SHETLAND PONY DONATED

Amongst the most recent gifts to the Pukekura Park £1000 Fund being organised by Mrs. Burgess is that of a Shetland pony which was bred by Mr. J. W. H. Martin on his Pukearuhe farm. These little animals are very much prized by children and Mr. Martin hopes that as a result of his gift a large sum will be realised for the park.

TH, JULY 7, 1920 BOATING ON SUNDAYS

Boating will be permitted on the lake in Pukekura Park on Sunday afternoons next summer. At the meeting of the Park Board last night, Mr. W. C. Weston moved that the boats be available on Sunday afternoons during the summer period, as from October 1st. The mover said the idea was to endeavour to popularise the Park. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Stainton and carried.

TH, JULY 7, 1920 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday night, there being present Mr. W. A. Collis (acting-chairman), Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs. W. F. Short, A. S. Brooker, W. C. Weston, H. Ford, R. C. Hughes and P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary).

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that the staff had made good progress with the general work undertaken during the month. Gales and high winds had necessitated a good deal of clearing-up work. The transplanting of trees and tree-ferns to the edge of the upper lake was now in progress. The cutting down of the box hedge around the large lake will be completed in a few days. There has been and is, continued the report, much opposition to its removal by some of the citizens. It will, however, soon grow again into a neat hedge which can be trimmed compactly to any height. The curator stated that the matter of the removal of certain of the pinus insignis trees decided upon by the committee had received his attention. Several matters requiring attention were brought under the notice of the board, including the need of a new carriage for the gun known as "Dickey Barrett," and the painting of the boats. The curator also asked if the Board intended having the dais used at the Prince's visit re-erected in the park. Owing to the almost nightly removal of the smaller boards and scantlings the remaining material was removed to sheds for safety. Authority was asked for the purchase of new plants to replace those overgrown rose plants in the old rose bed. The curator also suggested that a few of the best varieties of flowering shrubs planted around the upper lake would greatly improve its general appearance. The receipts for the month were £3 3s 4d.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The secretary reported on the arrangements made by the chairman and himself with the Park Tennis Club for a rental for the grounds for the next two seasons, and the board confirmed the arrangement.

A letter was received from Mr. J. W. H. Martin, expressing appreciation of the effort being made for the benefit of the park, and enclosing a cheque for £5 5s towards the fund.

Mrs. Burgess also stated that Mr. Martin had donated a Shetland pony for competition in connection with the park fund effort.

Warm appreciation was expressed of Mr. Martin's generosity.

It was decided that as from the beginning of October next, the boats be made available to visitors on Sunday afternoons.

TH, JULY 10, 1920 PLANT DONATIONS

Sir,—A generous gift of flowering shrubs, azaleas, etc., has been donated to the Pukekura Park by Mr. Hildred, sen., Tariki. Will other kind friends do likewise so that splashes of color may be introduced on the grass slopes to relieve the monotony of the trees. The

upper lake edge is being cleared of its overgrowth, and if suitable foliage and floral plants are introduced the reflections alone would be most attractive. The park superintendent of Auckland sent me a collection of hydrangeas last year for our Park which, when in bloom, had many admirers. I am sure there are many lovers of gardens and nurserymen in this district who will be only too willing to help the Park Board in this matter.—I am, etc.,

ANN BURGESS.

New Plymouth, July 9, 1920.

TH, JULY 14, 1920 PINE TREES CULLED

The members of the Pukekura Park Board Committee met in the grounds on Tuesday afternoon and under the guidance of Mr. W. W. Smith, the curator, decided upon the felling of some thirty pinus insignis and a few other smaller trees which he had previously marked. This will allow of further planting and at the same time let in more light to the grounds, which of late have been becoming rather overgrown. Care has been taken to avoid spoiling plantations on the hill-sides on the Carrington Road side and at the back of the sports ground. The growth on the edge of the big lake has just been cut out, a work which visitors to the grounds should approve of.

When inspecting Pukekura Park on Tuesday, Mr. W. W. Smith pointed out to the members of the board the pinus insignis which he claims has the largest girth of any pine in New Zealand. This is on the left going out of the grounds into John Street. At the Carrington Road entrance there is too the highest pinus insignis in New Zealand. This measures about 190 feet. It is proposed to place name plates on both these trees so that they may be easily found by visitors to the grounds.

TH, AUGUST 3, 1920 FUNDRAISING - £100 FUND

FIVE DAYS

CONCENTRATED MERRIMENT.

COMMENCING TUESDAY NEXT.

CORONATION HALL NIGHTLY

CORONATION HALL NIGHTLY

Jazz Dancing and Fox Trots, etc.
Brass Band Recitals.

Children's Fairy Wonderland.
Paddy's Market.

BOOST YOUR OWN TOWN!!

All Proceeds go towards Beautifying Pukekura Park.

HELP THE £1000 FUND.

Gifts wanted now! Cash Donations accepted! Helpers in any direction will be welcomed.

PACK AWAY YOUR TROUBLES

And come into the Carnival for the week.

Stalls of every description. Gaiety Galore and Fun for Everybody.

WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

The monthly meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held on Tuesday evening. There were present: Mr. W. A. Collis (chairman), Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs. R. C. Hughes, W. C. Weston, H. Ford and F. E. Stainton (hon. secretary).

TROUT-REARING PONDS.

The president of the Taranaki Acclimatisation Society (Mr. G. G. Grover), on behalf of the council, asked the board to permit the society to resume the use of the old trout-rearing ponds in the park. Some years ago the society was permitted to make a series of concrete-lined ponds near the upper end of the lily pond. The writer was unaware why they were vacated. Since, they had been used as receptacles for rubbish. With very little labour they could be made as good as ever. The ponds would be a great convenience to the society and an attraction to the public. No structure which would in any way impair the beauty of the park would be erected.

On the motion of the chairman, permission was granted for the re-establishment of the ponds, subject to the approval of the ground committee of the board concerning details, and neither the board nor the curator to have responsibility.

REMOVAL OF TREES.

It was reported by the secretary that the board had met in the park and decided to have 38 trees (pinus insignis and macrocarpa) in various parts of the park removed.

Mr. Hughes commented on the report, and in reply to a protest from Mr. Stainton that time was being wasted, as a full meeting of the board had been called in the park, said that he was present and saw magnificent trees being doomed to destruction without reason, but his protests were disregarded. It was therefore quite unnecessary for him to remain present and he left.

It was stated that tree-ferns and other native trees would immediately be planted to fill the gaps.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that the weather during July having been very favourable, it had been possible to complete the extra work ordered by the board and also the routine work. The banks of the lakes had been cleared of unsightly vegetation and replanting with tree-ferns and flowering cherries was well in hand. The work of removing the half-dead cupressus macrocarpa and the trimming of the stems of all other large trees was proceeding. The cut-up limbs met with ready sale. The macrocarpa limbs were used as new stringers to strengthen the bridge at the upper end of the lake. The stack of timber presented to the board after the Prince's visit had been removed to a place of safety, as boards were disappearing. During the month Mr. C. L. Wragge (Auckland) had sent a quantity of new plant seeds to the park. Some unknown donor living in the Whangamomona district, had also sent a quantity of Native plant seeds, all of which were very acceptable.

OFFICIAL OPENING.

It is now definitely announced that the official opening of the Pukekura Park Carnival will take place on Tuesday next, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. His Worship the Mayor (Mr. James Clarke) will perform the opening ceremony. The great attractions for the opening sessions will be the exhibitions of fancy dancing by Mr. Tresize, of Wellington, who is coming specially for the occasion and bringing a lady partner, Miss Elodie Martmout, with him. On that afternoon a smart afternoon tea will be served, and there will be stalls for sweets, ice creams, soft drinks and flowers, and the canteen counter for suppers each evening. There will be orchestral music and jazz dancing, for which a special jazz band has been arranged. Preparations are being made for the jazz items, and Miss Bedford and Mr. Kirkby are holding rehearsals in the Roland Hall. Any enthusiasts who are willing to participate should immediately communicate with either of the directors of this part of the entertainment.

For the Tuesday's sessions, which open at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively, the charge for admission is to be 2s 6d. After that the admission will be 1s.

Further details of succeeding days' programmes will be given later.

The sale of flowers will commence on Saturday next. The Boy Scouts have arranged to parade the town with a trap to which a goat will be harnessed, and sell flowers from the vehicle, thus inaugurating Daffodil Week.

Gifts for the market should now be forwarded to Mrs. Burgess' rooms. Misses in boots, clothing, evening dress suits, dinner coats, etc., may all be sent along.

A supply of milk will be required for each day of the carnival and help in this direction is earnestly hoped for.

TDN, AUGUST 12, 1920 **CHARLES EDGEcombe DIES**

Mr. Charles Edgecombe, whose death took place at his residence, Shortland Street, Vogeltown, on Tuesday, was curator of Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, for ten years, having taken office about 1895 in succession to Mr. D. Coffey. The deceased was associated with the early settlers of the colony. His father was one of the assistants of the late Rev. John Whiteley in connection with the missionary work in the Wesley Church, and had charge of the mission building situated on the hill overlooking Whiteley township. The late Mr. Edgecombe married Miss Moyle, daughter of an Okato resident, and is survived by a grown-up family. He had a good knowledge of the Maori tongue and the Native trees and flowers. He saw service in the Maori war with the Bushrangers, and held medals for various campaigns. At the funeral, which takes place this afternoon at 3 o'clock, Taranaki veterans will assemble to pay their last respects to an old comrade.

CHILD'S VIVID DESCRIPTION.

This week Pukekura Park is being brought more forcibly than usual under public notice. The pupils of Standard VI. of the Central School were given the park as the subject for an essay, and that which follows (written by J. Mountjoy) is worthy of publication:—

In New Plymouth is situated the famous Pukekura Park. Its position is an excellent one as it is near the centre of the town. Access may be gained by several entrances, the chief of which are the Lizard Street gate and the one in Gilbert Street.

On entering by the Gilbert Street entrance a glorious panorama met our eyes. The ferns, tree-ferns and cactus gave the scene a tropical aspect. Proceeding down a by-path we burst unexpectedly upon a glittering cascade of unsurpassing beauty. A sharp contrast was formed by the gleaming waters of the cascade and the bright green foliage. As we proceeded all traces of human handiwork disappeared giving place to a panorama unsullied in beauty. The birds flitted, the gentle breeze rustled in the leaves and slowly swayed the tops of the tall trees that seemed to almost pierce the azure sky. On reaching the smaller lake we were amazed at the indescribable scene spread in front of us. The ferns and bright green tree-ferns on the opposite bank were reflected in the translucent waters of the lake, and, although the water was by no means deep, the whole scene from the ground to top was shown. It was indeed "Nature's Mirror." The water-lily pond exceeded our brightest expectations. The lilies were in bloom and the colours so wonderfully blended—green leaves, red and white lilies, bright green slopes, brown trunks and dark green leaves, with a background consisting of a sparkling cascade—as to excel all other sights. It was Nature's great living picture—one no human could paint, no, not even a Turner. We proceeded towards the large lake, postponing our visit to the glow-worm caves till our return journey when it would be darker and the full beauty would be visible. On arriving at the lake we were practically struck dumb with surprise, for, surrounded by hills, themselves covered with tall, proud trees which reared their mighty heads into the air, were the placid blue-green waters of the lake, while a white boat was passing under the bridge. So it was all that afternoon everything we saw was indescribably beautiful. Time will not allow a detailed description, but I must comment on the glow-worm caves. It was quite dark by the time we passed the glow-worm caves and the moon had risen. I will never forget the first sight I gained of the caves all brightly illuminated and the moonlight on the water forming a striking comparison with the trees which loomed dark in the half light. As we departed looking back at the mass of dark foliage I resolved to spend another pleasant afternoon at the Pukekura Park, or as it is often called the Recreation Grounds.

TH, AUGUST 16, 1920
CARNIVAL A HUGE SUCCESS
SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.
OVER £1500 RAISED.

The carnival week in connection with the Pukekura Park £1000 effort was brought to a successful conclusion at a late hour on Saturday night, when the total takings reached the magnificent sum of over £1500. This must be very gratifying to the citizens of New Plymouth and the residents of the surrounding districts, and also to the Park Board, all of whom must readily acknowledge the great debt they owe to Mrs. C. H. Burgess for initiating the effort, and to her band of zealous and devoted workers who stood in with her from the beginning to the last moment, and wrought so well in the endeavour to realise the object aimed at. The task of raising £1000 was no easy one, and looked almost impossible when first suggested, but skilful organisation, tactful appeal, and continuous work spread over several months, has resulted in the gathering in of the splendid sum mentioned, and no one will deny the workers the full measure of gratitude to which they are entitled for their self-sacrificing service in the interests of one of the Dominion's finest public parks.

Saturday morning saw the market opened at 10 o'clock. There were ample supplies of fresh goods, including meat, vegetables, and poultry as well as the large quantities of sundries which came in from several of the surrounding suburbs and some of the schools. One of the prominent features of the market was a large stall which had been contributed by the dry goods merchants from all parts of the Dominion. The tables were heavily stocked with many lines of every-day household commodities, which found a ready sale.

From the time of opening on the last day there was a continual stream of patrons which increased as the day advanced, until at night the hall was more crowded than at any other time during the carnival. Proceedings went along merrily, and visitors spent money freely. All the stalls turned in good returns, and the games, competitions, and dancing provided a full fare of amusement for all and sundry. At about 10 o'clock, all the goods on the miscellaneous stalls which had not been disposed of were submitted to auction. Mr. L. B. Webster, wielding the hammer in his inimitable and irresistible manner, and he effected the transformation of a somewhat heterogeneous heap of odds and ends into about £10 hard cash. All the refreshment provisions were finally cleared out, and though it was with a little difficulty that the willing patrons of the entertainment provided were persuaded to leave the hall as the midnight hour approached, the result of the final day's effort when totalled up gave the best return for the five days of the carnival, the sum approximating £235. It was a tired but triumphant band of workers who left the hall about midnight, and who incidentally, had to return to clear up the "wreckage" after such a carnival. They have, however, the satisfaction of knowing they have made possible a scheme of improvement to the town's finest asset, and their effort will remain testimony to the spirit and practical nature of their sense of citizenship, of which the community may well be proud, and might with profit emulate.

Amongst those who deserve thanks for assistance at the carnival none deserves more than Mrs. George and her orchestra, who gave up all other engagements in order to help, and their music kept the dancing going merrily every evening.

Following are the results of the remaining competitions: Silver vase, Miss Hardgreaves; kowpie, Dick Jenkins; doll, Jack Elms; engine, C. Tippins; table bowls, Mr. Governbeck; tin of tea, Mr. A. H. Sole; iced cake, Mrs. Doughty (Fitzroy); pair of shoes, Mr. Geo. Marsh (Egmont Village); ham, (Vogeltown), Mrs. Whittaker; blouse, Nurse M'Laren; crystal vase, Mr. Johnson; Mrs. Hill's cakes, Mrs. Lowry 1, Mrs. V. O. West 2; electric iron, Mrs. E. H. Rundle; camisole (guess number of hours in working—exact time 22hrs. 10min—nearest guess, 24 hours), Miss "Jones"; silver butter-dish, Mr. Baddeley; pen-painted cushion, Mrs. S. Ewing; silk cushion, Mr. Baddeley; books ("Life of Livingstone"), C. Stewart; whisky cakes (3), Grace M'Allum, Miss Kirtin, L. Phillips, Waitoitoi; hygienic cake, "Scottie"; crepe nightdress, Mr. Gleeson; ham (won by Mr. Whittle and re-donated), Mr. A. B. Hope; gold bracelet, Mr. Baddeley; manicure set, Miss Gibson; knitted golfer, V. Vickers, Omata. Unclaimed prize-money may be had on inquiry at Mrs. Burgess' rooms.

There are still the pony competition and the pair of goats and the cart to be disposed of. Owing to the weather the Scout boys were able to do very little, and the daffodils which had been promised were not able to be handled in the heavy rain and high winds which prevailed. In this respect, therefore, the effort will not be finally concluded until Saturday. Flowers will be on sale this week. The goods remaining over from the merchants' stall are still for disposal at the prices marked upon them on Saturday, and anyone can buy on applying to Mrs. Burgess. When the effort is finally completed arrangements have been made for any of these goods then remaining to be taken off the hands of the Park Committee.

The special thanks of Mrs. Burgess and her helpers are extended to Mr. Hoffmann for the use of piano, and to Mesdames Tanner and M'Kenzie, who voluntarily came and did the washing up of dishes until 10 o'clock every night.

TH, AUGUST 18, 1920
NEW SPORTS COMMITTEE FORMED

COMMITTEE OF CONTROL
APPOINTED.

A meeting was held on Tuesday evening for the purpose of appointing a committee to take control of the Sports Ground at Pukekura Park, the Park Board having agreed to a request on behalf of different sports bodies to lease the grounds on certain specified conditions. The meeting was well attended by representatives of different football and other athletic institutions. Mr. A. L. Humphries presided.

Mr. Humphries explained that the Park Board was prepared to lease the Sports Ground to a properly constituted committee. For the first three years the board was agreeable to grant a free lease, which would afford an opportunity of liquidating certain liabilities incurred by the old Sports Ground Committee amounting approximately to £160, and owing chiefly to the New Zealand Rugby Union. After this debt had been liquidated it was to be a condition that all moneys raised by the committee were to be spent in further improvements to the grounds. The Park Board, he was certain, would grant every reasonable facility to assist the committee, recognising that all improvements made would be to

the ultimate benefit of the park, the benefit of New Plymouth and Taranaki as a whole. He also mentioned that the board had appointed Messrs. W. C. Weston and P. E. Stainton to represent the board on the committee. He expressed the opinion that the time had arrived when all local sports bodies should combine together and formulate some scheme whereby money would be raised to place all the sports grounds in the town in order, and probably too such a committee would also be able to render in the course of a few years assistance to the respective beach committees for the improvement of those reserves.

Mr. Stainton (secretary of the Park Board) said those present could rest assured that so long as the committee carried out its functions on sound lines and proceeded to effect reasonable improvements as funds were received, the Park Board would grant extensive powers to the committee, although of course it must be clearly understood that certain conditions would have to be imposed, inasmuch as the park as a whole was vested in the board.

After a short discussion a committee consisting of Messrs. A. L. Humphries, L. B. Webster, W. H. Moyes, H. A. Stratford, E. Avery, F. J. Hill, J. Clarke, F. W. Sandford, A. T. Moore, E. Guthrie, L. Little, R. H. George, J. M'Leod, J. Garcia, and A. Roberts, with power to add to their number and with Messrs. Weston and Stainton representatives of the Park Board ex officio. Mr. A. L. Humphries was unanimously elected chairman, and the following were appointed a provisional executive: Messrs. L. B. Webster, E. Avery, R. G. George, F. J. Hill and J. Clarke, with the object of drafting a proposed lease, attending to other preliminary details, and with instructions to report to a further general meeting to be held on Tuesday evening next.

TDN, AUGUST 21, 1920
INTERVIEW WITH MRS BURGESS

Now that £1500 has been raised by the public for Pukekura Park, what is going to be done with the money?

A Daily News reporter yesterday put this question to Mrs. C. H. Burgess, organiser of the fund, and a member of the Park Board. Mrs. Burgess expressed the opinion that the money should be held in reserve to pay ordinary expenses, and make any small improvements that appear most necessary. Anything in the way of large expenditure was out of the question, unless substantially larger funds came to hand.

"Few people realise the expense involved in maintaining the Park," said Mrs. Burgess. "For instance, there is the item of £16 per week for wages alone, and even with the staff at present employed, the conditions within the Park are becoming desperate. There is hardly a seat in the Park the woodwork of which is not decayed, and they cannot be repaired because of the expense. In every direction there are signs of neglect and decay, for the want of funds to carry out the necessary work of maintenance." Mrs. Burgess deplores the wanton destruction wrought in the Park by a band of larrikins who systematically destroy, and disfigure what they cannot destroy, from sheer mischief. Some time ago Mrs. Burgess had donated a boiler to the

park, to be used by the public for the purpose of boiling water for making tea. This had only been once used by the ladies' committee, when it was broken by these vandals, who fail to recognise the generosity of the donors and the value of such conveniences to the public in general.

It was the intention of the committee to build a tea kiosk on a site selected in the park, but on enquiries as to the cost, it was found that even a shell of a kiosk, without even a window, and open on all sides in the form of a verandah, with a small kitchen in the centre, would cost £750. This expenditure, considering the state of the finances, Mrs. Burgess considered too high. A far better plan, she thought, would be to carefully conserve the funds on hand to prevent the decay that is so generally becoming apparent all over the park.

"This is the first occasion on which the park banking account has been in credit," remarked Mrs. Burgess. The strain of the carnival week was not enviable, Mrs. Burgess said, and she wishes to stress the necessity of the park administration being taken over by a body such as the Borough Council, as the strenuous work entailed in maintaining the funds of the Park are beyond her and her committee.

TH, AUGUST 25, 1920 PINE TREES FELLED AT SPORTS GROUND

Cricketers in North Taranaki will be pleased to hear that the pinus insignis which have for some years spoilt the light on the sports ground at Pukekura Park have at last been removed. Apart from cricket, their removal has quite improved the Liardet Street entrance.

TH, AUGUST 27, 1920 FISH PONDS BEING REINSTATED RE-OPENING OF FISH PONDS. ASSET TO PUKEKURA PARK.

It will be remembered that at the last annual meeting of the Taranaki Acclimatisation Society the question of resuming the business of rearing fish was very fully discussed and a motion was eventually carried recommending the incoming council to undertake this work. Accordingly the officers of the society have inspected numerous sites and after careful consideration of the merits and demerits of all of them it was determined, as a start, to apply to the Pukekura Park Board for permission to resume the old fish ponds situated at the head of the lily pond in the park.

The board having kindly given the necessary permission, the society are at present engaged in having the ponds cleaned out and put into first-class working order ready for the early reception of trout fry which will be held until they attain sufficient size for liberation in the rivers of the society's territory.

The work of re-establishing the ponds is being carried out under the direct supervision of Mr. W. W. Smith, curator of Pukekura Park, and, therefore, lovers of the park may rest assured that no unsightly work or work which is not in keeping with the beauties of the park, will be undertaken.

Indeed, it is the desire of the society, approved by the board, to make the fish ponds both an attraction to the public, whose interest it is most desirable to enlist, and an ornament to the park, and with these objects in view, it is understood, the question of beautifying the site has already been gone into.

During the war the Taranaki Acclimatisation Society lay practically dormant. Nearly all its members were at the front, in fact all who were able to go, and the society's income naturally dwindled. Now that happier times have come it is the general feeling that a determined effort must be made to place matters once more upon a satisfactory basis so that the rivers of North Taranaki may be re-stocked and that once more they may provide health-giving sport. The initial expense will of course be considerable, but once started it is believed that the income of the society will be sufficient to meet annual expenditure.

TH, SEPTEMBER 8, 1920 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Pukekura Park Board was held at Mrs. Burgess' office on Tuesday evening. Mr. W. A. Collis presided, and there were also present Mrs. Burgess, Messrs. R. C. Hughes, H. Ford, W. C. Weston, and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

A WELCOME GIFT.

Mrs. George King wrote that at her request her husband had communicated with the Christchurch City Council with a view to securing a pair of white swans for the park. She now had pleasure in reporting its favourable consideration and that the birds would shortly arrive. Mrs. King asked the board to accept the birds as a donation from the Christchurch City Council.

A letter of thanks will be forwarded to Mrs. King for the action she had taken, members remarking that the swans would be a decided addition to the park.

Mr. Stainton mentioned that he understood a kiwi was being presented to the park by another donor.

AN UNFORTUNATE POSITION.

Mr. C. H. Burgess wrote that the board would remember that when he retired from the office of Mayor the council voted two years' honorarium to the board with the stipulation that the money should be spent on work approved of by him and that he agreed to supplement the grant with a further £100 making £400 in all for the purpose of erecting a tea kiosk in the grounds. As the £300 had been spent on current expenses and was not available, he had to advise the board that his offer was now withdrawn. He was very disappointed at the action of the board, more especially as he had the assurance of the chairman that the money would not on any account be used for any purpose other than that for which it was donated.

Several members of the board expressed very sincere regret that this unfortunate position had arisen. They had certainly been under the impression that the money was available for the purpose for which Mr. Burgess had donated it, otherwise they would most assuredly have curtailed the expenditure out of the ordinary funds.

Eventually the board agreed: "That the board acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Burgess' letter and express its re-

gret that the amount of his two years' honorarium presented for the purpose of erecting a tea kiosk had been paid into the general account of the board with the bank and has been absorbed in its general expenditure. The board will take the earliest opportunity of providing for the erection of the tea kiosk an amount at least equal to the honorarium which he has been good enough to contribute."

THE CURATOR'S REPORT.

The curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) reported that, the weather during the month of August having been favourable, the staff was able to make good progress with the general work of the park. All the remaining gorse and other objectionable plants had been grubbed and much of the rubbish burned without injury to the trees and other vegetation in the park. The trees recommended by the works committee to be removed had been attended to, and the whole of the wood sold. There was great demand for firewood at the park. The mowing and cleaning of the hill near the racecourse and those on both sides of the sports ground valley had been completed. Many of the pines, oaks, and elms had had their superfluous limbs removed, which would vastly improve the growth form and value of the trees. They had finished replenishing and painting the two boats, which were now in good condition for the coming season. The five degrees of frost on the mornings of the early days of the month injured some of the mamaku tree-ferns severely, but they were all putting forth fresh vigorous fronds. They had removed the fences from the front of the tea rooms, which was a great improvement and convenience. Respecting the replenishing of the new block seats, they would require six planks 12ft 8in by 2in. Should they be able to procure the tar and paint they would complete the work to both in the fine weather as soon as possible.

During the month Mr. Mitchinson presented a good collection of trees and a hundred young fan palms to the park. They were very acceptable. Mrs. C. H. Burgess also presented a dozen hydrangeas, and Mr. S. Brookes sent some valuable plants, Mrs. (Dr.) McClelland some bulbs and dahlia tubers, all of which were gratefully accepted. Mr. Smith enclosed £6 14s 3d receipts of boat and firewood charges for the month.

Thanks were accorded the various donors.

GENERAL.

The draft lease submitted by the New Plymouth Sports Committee in connection with the sports ground was approved.

Accounts amounting to £58 7s 1d were passed for payment, including £53 wages for the past month.

TH, SEPTEMBER 8, 1920 MODIFICATION TO TEA HOUSE

The Pukekura Park Board intends carrying out very necessary repairs and alterations to the tea kiosk at the park, and at the board meeting on Tuesday evening Mrs. Burgess mentioned that Mr. T. H. Bates, architect, had very kindly promised to give any professional advice gratuitously. The board expressed its appreciation of Mr. Bates' generosity and accorded him a very hearty vote of thanks.

TDN, SEPTEMBER 10, 1920
TERRACES DAMAGED

As the result of the Pukekura Park Board's determination to take steps to prevent damage to the terraces on the Recreation Ground, ten persons were charged at the New Plymouth Magistrate's Court yesterday with a breach of the Park by-laws in jumping over the face of the turfed terraces. Seven defendants appeared, and all pleaded guilty. For the Board, Mr. R. H. Quilliam said a heavy penalty was not desired, but considerable trouble was gone to in keeping the terraces in proper order. At the football matches many persons went down on to the playing ground to kick the football, but instead of walking round slid over the terraces, which dug up the grass. A fine of 3s, with costs 7s, was imposed in each case, His Worship intimating that in future if any similar offences occurred, heavier fines would be made.

TDN, OCTOBER 6, 1920
PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met last evening. Present: Mr. W. C. Weston (in the chair), Mrs. C. H. Burgess, and Messrs. H. Ford, R. C. Hughes and P. E. Stainton (secretary).

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The Curator reported that the work directed to be done during the month of September had been completed, excepting the lowering of the tops of the oaks and sycamore trees at the head of the upper lake to enable visitors to view Mt. Egmont from the tea-rooms. Before proceeding with the work he suggested that the board make an inspection. Planting around the upper lake with ornamental trees and tree-ferns was finished, excepting for the adding of some flowering shrubs to the banks. The heavy rains during September caused further silting up of the upper lake. This matter would require to be dealt with by the board in the autumn.

GENERAL.

The application of the Workers' Council for the use of the sports ground for a Labor Day gathering was approved.

It was decided that in cases where the Curator's services are required by other bodies in New Plymouth for advice or assistance the permission of the chairman or secretary of the Board must first be secured.

The matter of securing an extra boat for the lake was left in the hands of Messrs Weston and Stainton.

Accounts for wages, £56 15s 8d, and sundries £4 6s, were passed for payment.

TH, OCTOBER 6, 1920
SALE OF TIMBER

The Pukekura Park Board received the statement of accounts at its meeting on Tuesday night in connection with the disposal of the five pine trees on the hill at the western side of the sports ground, and the result was considered very satisfactory, as the bulk of the timber was cut from rough limbs. The return showed that the trees had produced 3605 feet of timber and for this the board received the sum of £5 8s 2d.

TDN, OCTOBER 14, 1920
WHITE SWANS DONATED

A pair of white swans were recently liberated in Pukekura Park, having been secured as a donation from the Christchurch City Council for the Board through the efforts of a New Plymouth resident, Mr. G. King.

TH, OCTOBER 25, 1920
TROUT PONDS INTERFERED WITH

YOUNG TROUT LIBERATED.

AN ACT OF LARRIKINS.

Some time during Saturday last the Acclimatisation Society suffered the loss of 3000 young trout, which were recently placed in their pond in Pukekura Park through the act of some person or persons who apparently have a poor sense of humour and a poorer sense of honour. The discovery was made on Saturday afternoon, when the president of the society (Mr. G. G. Grover) in company with the park curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) paid a visit to the pond and found that the zinc trap at the pond had been opened and the fish liberated into the other ponds, where they would in all probability become the easy prey of the perch in those waters. It is not thought the act was one of mischievous boys, as the trap would be too heavy for boys to remove. In referring to the incident, Mr. Grover said:—

"After going to considerable expense and labour the first holding pond for young fish was completed on Monday last. Out of a consignment of 30,000 rainbow trout received from Rotorua five weeks ago, 3000 were kept back for the purpose of placing them in the park fish-ponds in the interests of the public, and to provide them with an additional attraction in the park. On Wednesday last these fish were placed in the completed pond in excellent condition. The Acclimatisation Society are now faced with the position whether it is worth while going on with the park project or not. They were prepared to spend a considerable sum of money in doing so, but it is felt that without the co-operation of the public such a course is impossible. This will be a loss to the park, the public and the community generally, but from a business point of view, which in the society's standpoint it will possibly be wiser to make the first loss the last loss.

TDN, OCTOBER 25, 1920
SALE OF TIMBER

CURATOR'S RESIGNATION.

WHAT ARE THE REASONS?

STATEMENTS BY BOTH SIDES

The announcement of the resignation of Mr. W. W. Smith as curator of Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, came as a distinct surprise to the general public, and it was the subject of much discussion during the week-end. Mr. Smith has forwarded us a statement setting out his side of the case, and in the absence of the chairman of the Park Board a statement giving the Board's viewpoint was made last night by Mr. R. C. Hughes, a member of the Board.

Mr. Smith says: "In Saturday's issue of the Daily News it is stated that I had resigned the curatorship of Pukekura Park. On receipt of what I considered to be an insulting letter from the hon. secretary to the Park Board I called at his office and informed him that I intended to resign. The letter then seemed to me to be a no-confidence motion. Later in the day he called at the park, when we fully discussed the matter. After his showing a little penitence I agreed to leave the issue till the end of the month, when I intended to confer with the Park Board. Unknown to me, he called a meeting of the Board, at which I should have been present. What he may have said at the meeting respecting me I know not, but I heard or knew nothing further until I read the announcement of my resignation.

"Imagine a public board deciding an issue of this class on the simple statement of the secretary. During a previous conversation I remarked to him that quite a number of distinguished ladies and gentlemen from other countries had visited Pukekura Park and requested me to accompany them for a few hours to assist in procuring required scientific specimens. Some time ago I went for half a day with a visiting professor to assist in a survey of the geology and botany of Paritutu. To the secretary this work seems to be 'lost and wasted hours.' Recently when Mr. Bates, the Government meteorologist, visited New Plymouth he requested me to proceed to Waitara with him to assist in some important new meteorological work. I was absent three hours. In my absence the triumvirate now ruling Pukekura Park called on an official inspection. I had not been advised of their coming, otherwise I would have been about when they came. This seems to have been the keynote to tune me up in the insulting letter referred to.

"On taking charge of Pukekura Park 12 years and 8 months ago the terms of my agreement were every alternate Saturday free and a fortnight's annual holiday. During the first three years I had no holiday, and have never once taken a Saturday. For years I have assisted at the boats during long hours on all statutory holidays, with highly profitable results to the Park Board. I have spent £34 of private money on plants, seeds, fowl food, garden tools

and accessories required at the cottage. I have also handed to the secretaries the sum of £29 6s as anonymous donations. These sums ranged from 1s received from country school children for naming collections of plants and insects to £10 received from visitors for similar assistance. I intend to recoup the Board further at next meeting, and hope that the secretary will be ready with a statement of the time he has against me."

THE BOARD'S VIEWPOINT.

Speaking on behalf of the Board, Mr. Hughes stated that the Board, at the last meeting, decided to communicate with Mr. Smith asking him to attend the meetings of the Board in future, and also informing him that the Board had resolved that all applications by other bodies for his services should be sent to the Board, and would then be referred back to him. The terms of the resolutions were conveyed to Mr. Smith by the secretary (Mr. P. E. Stainton) in a letter with some explanatory remarks. Upon receipt of this, Mr. Smith saw the secretary and said he intended to resign, and would leave that night. The secretary afterwards called upon Mr. Smith, urging that his decision be deferred, and this he agreed to do, remaining in charge till the end of the current month.

At a meeting of the Board on the 15th inst., when all the members were present, including the Borough Council representatives, the secretary reported what had taken place, and also that Mr. Smith had said he had been informed that it was the intention of the Board to get rid of him. He was assured on this occasion by the secretary that this was not so.

When the above was reported to the Board they reiterated that they had no intention of dispensing with his services. The matter was fully discussed, and it was proposed that the resignation be accepted. An amendment was proposed and seconded that Mr. Smith be given leave of absence to the end of the year on full pay, his resignation then to come into force. The amendment was lost, and the motion in the above terms was carried. A resolution was also added expressing regret at Mr. Smith's severance from the work, and appreciation of his services for the past twelve years.

Mr. Hughes said the Board had no desire to depreciate Mr. Smith's work. Personally, he was sorry that the resignation had come about, as it would be a loss to the Board and mean a break in the work in the Park.

FORMER CHAIRMAN'S VIEW.

Mr. S. Percy Smith, who has been connected with the development of Pukekura Park for many years, and at one time held the position of chairman, stated, when asked his views on the resignation: "It would be a loss to the Park and to the town generally if Mr. Smith left. In addition to his botanical knowledge, he is one of the leading authorities on entomology. Further, the Park has never been in more beautiful order than at the present time."

TDN, NOVEMBER 4, 1920 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

Pukekura Park Board met on Tuesday night. Present: Mr. V. Griffiths (in the chair), Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs. A. S. Brooker, W. F. Short, R. C. Hughes, and P. E. Stainton (secretary). Messrs. W. A. Collis and W. C. Weston were absent through illness.

CURATOR'S REPORT.

The monthly report presented by the Curator (Mr. W. W. Smith) stated that the lowering and trimming of the trees obstructing the view of the mountain from parts of the lakeside were completed. The work of clearing the lakesides and islands was also carried out. The painting of the seats was done as far as time permitted and repairs to the bridges were attended to. All the large trees of the Japanese cherries recently transplanted to the sides of the upper lake were well established and had bloomed luxuriantly. The large mamaku and ngatimaru tree ferns also transplanted to the lakeside were all growing strongly.

GENERAL.

The Board received intimation to the effect that a permit had been granted for carrying out alterations to the kiosk.

TH, NOVEMBER 4, 1920 WHITE SWANS GO WALKABOUT

Two white swans which were recently brought from Christchurch to Pukekura Park evidently have a taste for adventure and new scenes. On a recent morning they forsook the waters of the lakes, proceeded out of the main gates of the park, and, with all the grace of swans on land, set off on an exploring expedition along Lizardet Street. Though the hour was early they fortunately were seen and recognised by a resident, and, with a little persuasion, accepted an invitation to inspect his premises. The swans were no doubt somewhat offended on finding themselves shut in the stable and subsequently returned to the park, but decided to let bygones be bygones on receiving their regular morning repast of half a loaf of brown bread. Swans have a tendency to make for the sea when dissatisfied, and, in the case of these two, expert opinion is that a diet of bread, preferably brown, is necessary in place of a certain weed on which they fed their former home on the Avon River, but which does not grow in the park lakes.

TDN, NOVEMBER 5, 1920 CURATOR LETTER—RESIGNATION

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—I hope that you will permit me to reply briefly to the extremely prolix statement submitted by the secretary (Mr. P. E. Stainton) to the Park Board at the meeting held on Tuesday night. For verbose remarks respecting myself the statement is probably unequalled by any report submitted to a public body

Therein I am credited with receiving two letters from the acting chairman. Whoever Mr. Collis entrusted with posting or delivering the letters they were not received by me. I saw them for the first time in the Daily News on Wednesday afternoon. It would be futile for me to attempt to convince the Board—on at least, some of its members, that the whole statement is more or less incorrect. As a plain and humble man I have invariably conceived truth to be a noble quality in our lives, though it is frequently flouted by petty souled men. No such words as "libellous" and "slandrous" were used by me to the secretary. We had a plain conversation for a few minutes without any semblance of irritation or contempt on my part. For innate plausibility and appeal to the Board for sympathy and approval the statement has no precedent nor peer. I have never shirked duty, and will stand to arms in defence of honor, justice and truth for all men at all times.—I am, etc.,

W. W. SMITH.

[We have taken the liberty to excise certain words from the above letter.—Ed.]

TH, DECEMBER 8, 1920 FISH HATCHERY PROPOSED

SITE IN PUKEKURA PARK. AN ATTRACTIVE PROPOSAL.

The Taranaki Acclimatisation Society intends to proceed with the establishment of a trout hatchery and ponds in Pukekura Park, subject to satisfactory arrangements being made, with the Park Board. Some time ago the society was given permission to establish ponds. One was completed and stocked, but a few weeks ago the fish were released, apparently by some mischievous person. It is now believed that the loss of the fish was due to an accident, coupled with an excess of zeal on the part of some person who thought he would assist the society by cleaning out the pond. Apparently, when the water and the fish rushed out of the pond, he became frightened at the result of his interference.

Mr. G. G. Grover and Mr. E. J. Guthrie waited on the Pukekura Park Board on Tuesday evening on behalf of the council of the society. Mr. Grover said that the second pond was to be completed when cement was more easily obtainable. The society now wished to go further than was first proposed and rear from the eggs that was to establish a hatchery. After investigating, they had been unable to find any other site within suitable distance where an adequate supply of water could be obtained. However, they would not use a great deal of the water in the park lakes and the time when it would be required would be from July to September, or October, when there was plenty of water. If the board gave permission for the hatchery to be established in the park, it was proposed to put up a building which would not detract from the general beauty of the lily pond and its surroundings, the suggested site being beneath the bank at the head of the pond. The building might be made a replica of a Maori whare. The members of the Council of the Acclimatisation

tion Society were all lovers of the park and were of opinion that a fish hatchery would be an attraction to the public and would have an educational value for children, as the process of rearing trout would be shown from the hatching of the eggs to the time when the fish were liberated in the streams of the district.

The board received the suggestion cordially and it was agreed that the society should obtain further information regarding the nature and size of the building required, preparatory to meeting the board at Pukekura Park on a date to be arranged.

TDN, DECEMBER 8, 1920 PUKEKURA PARK BOARD MEETING

The Pukekura Park Board met on Tuesday evening. There were present: Mrs. C. H. Burgess, Messrs. W. C. Weston, H. Ford and P. E. Stainton (hon. secretary). Apologies were received for the absence of the acting-chairman (Mr. W. A. Collis), and Messrs. A. S. Brooker and R. C. Hughes. Mr. Weston was voted to the chair.

In connection with the status of the Borough Council representatives on the board, it was resolved that the board welcome the borough representatives to its meetings and wished them to exercise the same voting powers as the other members.

Fourteen applications were received for the position of overseer. They were considered, but it was decided to make further inquiries before deciding on an appointment.

Mrs. Burgess gave notice to move at the next meeting that the constitution of the board be considered with a view to the control of the park being vested in the borough. Mrs. Burgess stated that the present position was very unsatisfactory, the members being appointed and having to be responsible for the carrying on of the park with financial resources that were not assured.

It was decided to call tenders for the privilege of running the tea kiosk and the boats.

TDN, DECEMBER 15, 1920 ENTERTAINMENT

XMAS BANDSMEN'S BENEFIT.

PUKEKURA PARK.

THURSDAY NEXT, DECEMBER 16.

GRAND XMAS MUSIC RECITAL

by the

NEW PLYMOUTH CITIZENS' BAND.

Come and hear "The Village Blacksmith," with effects. Splendid music, introducing for the first time OUR TUBULAR BELLS.

Make the Collection a Record.

H. R. CATTLEY,

Secretary.

TH, DECEMBER 16, 1920 W. A. COLLIS - OBITUARY

WILLIAM A. COLLIS.

The many friends and acquaintances of Mr. William Andrew Collis and the community of New Plymouth and surrounding districts, will regret to learn of his death, which took place at his residence, Vivian Street, on Wednesday evening. Mr. Collis was one of the best known and most highly respected public men in New Plymouth, and his death is a distinct loss to the town. For some little time past his health has been somewhat indifferent, but it was only a comparatively short time ago that his condition became such as to cause his relatives any serious anxiety. He had, however, spent himself in the public interests and left himself little reserve energy and strength with which to enjoy the retirement from public life which he had contemplated. In consequence of his failing health he was unable, a week or two ago, to accept nomination for the Mayoral office, rendered vacant by the lamentable death of Mr. James Clarke—an honour which the council and citizens felt Mr. Collis was justly entitled to. When he resigned from the council steps were immediately taken to recognise his public services and an address of appreciation was prepared and presented on Tuesday afternoon last, regret being expressed that owing to the state of his health a more public presentation could not have been made.

The late Mr. Collis was born in Fiji in 1853 and was therefore 67 years of age at the time of his death. He came to New Zealand with his parents at an early age and settled in Auckland, receiving his education at Wesley College. The family came to New Plymouth in 1869, the late Mr. Collis taking up the profession of a photographer with Mr. Hartley Webster. He afterwards became manager for Messrs. Williamson and Co., and subsequently entered into business for himself in 1875.

Mr. Collis took a keen interest in public affairs. He possessed the true civic spirit, and understood the real meaning of citizenship, accepting his full share of civic responsibility. He was a member and chairman of the New Plymouth school committee in the days before there were several schools in the town. He was first elected to the Borough Council in 1889 and has served almost continuously up to a week or two ago. His services in this capacity were particularly valuable, as he knew the town as very few residents know it, and he had strong confidence in its future prospects and sought to promote its best welfare. For many years he has acted as Deputy-Mayor.

In no direction did Mr. Collis serve the public more devotedly and valuably than in connection with the preservation of scenic and historic spots. With the late Mr. C. W. Govett, Mr. W. H. Skinner and one or two other enthusiasts, he helped to found the old Scenery Preservation Society, one of the first, if not actually the first society of its nature in New Zealand, and to the very end of his active life he jealously guarded, as far as lay in his power, the public's rights and interests in these matters. As chairman of the reserves committee of the Borough Council he was invaluable and it will be difficult to find anyone able and willing to devote as much time and attention to the duties as he did. He was a member of the Egmont National Park Board, and the Pukekura Park Board, being acting-chairman of the latter during the absence of Mr. C. E. Bellringer. He was to a great extent responsible for the preservation of much of the scenic beauty of North Taranaki and

to him was largely due the vesting in the Borough of the Rotokare and Rata-pihipihi reserves. He was a member of the North Egmont Hostelry Committee and the Tourist and Expansion League, being secretary to the latter for the past six years, and did a great deal to assist in popularising the mountain as a holiday resort.

Being the son of a missionary it was natural that he should show a keen interest in the religious life of the community. The late Mr. Collis had been identified with the Methodist Church practically all his life, and was a prominent member of the Whiteley Church and a regular attendant at its services. He held office in the church and was a trustee of some of its properties at the time of his death. He was also one of the oldest members of the Court Waireka, A.O.F., and at a meeting of the officers and members of the court on Wednesday evening was elected a Past Chief Ranger in recognition of his services to the Court. He had held the office of trustee for twenty years.

Mr. Collis was married in 1877 to a daughter of the late Mr. W. R. King, of New Plymouth, and had four daughters and two sons. He is survived by his widow, and daughters and one son. The daughters are Mrs. J. W. Ryan (Auckland), Mrs. J. Gray (Napier), Mrs. A. C. Lawrey and Miss K. Collis (New Plymouth), and the son Mr. S. W. Collis (Auckland). Rifleman Douglas Collis was killed on the Somme in 1916.



Proposed Tram route based on the description in the *Taranaki Herald*, JUNE 16, 1920.

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